

1 ¿Qué aportes hace la zooarqueología a la arqueología de Sudamérica?

*I believe that zooarchaeology has already established certain facts about the great antiquity of the late Pleistocene human occupation of the Southern Cone, by definitively identifying the marks of human processing on the bones of Ice Age fauna in Patagonia and Tierra del Fuego. Moreover, zooarchaeology has made great advanced recently in understanding the ecological basis of the first stages of domestication of the camelids.*

2. ¿Por qué en su curso toma aspectos de género y lo relaciona con la zooarqueología?

*I have raised the problem of gender bias in our foci of investigations, especially in the case of the avoidance of considering the importance of culinary processing European and North American zooarchaeology and archaeology in general.*

*Although this may in fact stem from some other sources as well, I am convinced that the fact that our Euro-American cultures associate food preparation with women and give it less prestige than, for example, hunting, is the basis for a considerable amount of this historic avoidance of the topic. I am pleased to see how many Argentine zooarchaeologists are taking up the challenge of analyzing culinary practices from their materials.*

*At the same time, I believe that we archaeologists must be very careful not to essentialize gender roles and presume that one task or the other was always accomplished by a given gender. This requires that we understand discussions in feminist theory in general and those in archaeology in particular, to find a way to study gender in the past that is empirically based and defensible.*

3. ¿Que impresión se lleva de nuestra Facultad y en especial del programa de Doctorado en Arqueología?

*The level of preparation and the seriousness of the students in the doctoral program in archaeology appears to be very high. The faculty is giving an impressive number of new students an excellent level of training in archaeology.*

4. ¿Qué opina de los investigadores argentinos y latinoamericanos respecto de su nivel académico e intereses, en relación a los de su país?

*Thank you for allowing me to comment on these matters! I believe that most Argentine archaeologists are truly world-class, with an average level of theoretical and methodological sophistication that surpasses that of archaeologists in my own country, where many do not receive more than a training in pragmatics of archaeology. Moreover, they are providing advanced training to persons from other parts of the Americas. Thus, I believe that Argentina is truly a "center of excellence" in archaeological practice in Latin America and will have great influence in the future, from several centers of training.*

5. Es su primera visita a la Argentina: Quisiéramos saber cómo se la imaginaba y qué opinión se lleva ahora de regreso a su país.

*I am glad to see that apparently the economic situation has improved somewhat for Argentine people, although I understand that many are still suffering from the recent and long-term economic problems that the nation has suffered. I am also impressed by the amount of support at the federal level is given to education and research, as well as to preservational efforts, in archaeology. This presents a favorable contrasts with these in my own country, where archaeological education, research and preservation are generally not well supported, either financially or in the general sense of viewing archaeological sites as part of the national patrimony.*

*Well, because I have been mainly involved in the intensive teaching process, I have not seen too much of the country, but I am looking forward very much to excursions being arranged for me in the pampas and also in Patagonia, which are truly amazing areas.*

*In any case, I will remember for the rest of my life the opportunity to meet with my many Argentine colleagues friends of long standing in their "native habitats," as well as the warm welcome and care given to me by new friends, colleagues, and students. This is thus a memorable for me in many ways, and I am very grateful for the opportunity provided by the Facultad de Ciencias Sociales and the Fulbright Foundation/CIES to be here.*

Dra. Diane Gifford Gonzalez