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# Kathryn E. L. Denning

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Citizenship: Canadian and British

## Current Position

2006 - Assistant Professor (Social Archaeology), in Anthropology Department, York University, Canada

## Education

Ph.D. 1999 Archaeology and Prehistory, University of Sheffield, England  
Dissertation: *On Archaeology and Alterity*

M.A. 1994 Anthropology, McMaster University, Canada  
Thesis: *On the Study of Health in Prehistory*

Hons B.A. (1<sup>st</sup>) 1992 Anthropology, McMaster University, Canada  
Specialized in archaeology and physical anthropology

## Awards, Research Grants and Post-Graduate Scholarships (major awards in bold)

2006 Faculty of Arts Dean's Award for Outstanding Teaching, York University

2006 Start-up grant with appointment. Dean's Office, Faculty of Arts, York University

2006 York University Conference Travel Grant (*to Valencia, Spain*)

2005 York University Conference Travel Grant (*to Fukuoka, Japan - unused*)

2005 York University Faculty of Arts Small Research Grant, *for the project "Anticipating the Alien: Concepts of the Other in the Scientific SETI Community"*.

2005 York University / SSHRCC Small Grant, *for the project "To see the night and Others in it: Telescopes as cultural lenses and monuments in the landscape"*

2005 Reimers Foundation Grant (*with Archaeology of Zoos Network*)

2001 - 2004 British Academy Network Grant (*with Archaeology of Zoos Network*)

2003 Arts Research Board Travel Grant, McMaster University

2001 - 2003 **Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada Post-Doctoral Research Fellowship and Research Grant**

2002 Arts Research Board Travel Grant, McMaster University

1994 - 1998 **Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada Doctoral Fellowship**

1994 - 1997 **Commonwealth Doctoral Scholarship, United Kingdom**

1992 - 1994 **Ontario Graduate Scholarship**

1992 Centennial Scholarship, and Richard Slobodin Prize for Anthropology

## Previous Research and Teaching Positions

- 2003 - 2006      **Special Assistant Professor** (contractually limited appointment)  
Anthropology, York University, Canada
- 2001 - 2003      **Postdoctoral Research Fellow, and Postdoctoral Teaching Fellow**  
Interdisciplinary Studies / Anthropology, McMaster University, Canada
- 1999-2001      **Sessional Lecturer in Anthropology**  
McMaster University (2001 summer), York University (2000-2001), University of Northern British Columbia, (2000 Jan - Apr), George Brown College (1999)
- 2000 - 2001      **Instructor/ Consultant**, BelEsprit Training and Education, Toronto, Canada  
Taught learning strategies and developed distance courses for adults.
- 1999              **Research Associate**, Centre for Instructional Technology Development, U. of Toronto (Scarborough).  
Created online multimedia educational materials for secondary students on the history of immigration, human rights, and cultural diversity in Canada. Partner: Multicultural History Society of Ontario.
- 1992 - 1994      **Teaching Assistant**, Anthropology, McMaster University, Canada  
Courses: Primate Behaviour, The Anthropology of the Past, Plagues and Peoples, and Informal Logic.

## Other Academic and Anthropological Work

- 2006              **Training Advisor** on a forensic archaeology education project run by Dr. Andrew Tyrrell of the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command Central Identification Laboratory, for the US Department of Justice International Criminal Investigation Training Assistance Program.
- 1997 - 2001      **Freelance Academic Editor**  
Projects included S. Tarlow, *Bereavement and Commemoration: An Archaeology of Mortality* (Blackwell 1999), and A. Herring and A. Swedlund (eds.), *Human Biologists in the Archives* (Cambridge 2003).
- 1993 - 1994      **Research Assistant**, Belleville Project, Anthropology, McMaster University  
Researched in archives, and created database for an interdisciplinary study of health and demography.
- 1992              **Group Leader**, Moscow State University, Russia  
Coordinated students during 5-week course, *Social and Political History of Russia and the U.S.S.R.*
- 1991, 1992      **Field Archaeologist**, Canadian Parks Service, Dept. of Environment, Cornwall, Ontario  
Assisted in excavation and analysis of protected Ontario heritage sites, managed databases, researched historical background, produced internal reports, guided public tours, and instructed programs for children.
- 1991 - 1992      **Research Assistant**, Dept. of Anthropology, McMaster University  
Researched St. Etienne Cathedral (Toulouse), analyzed dental X-rays, designed osteological database
- 1990              **Archaeologist**, Sainte-Marie among the Hurons, Midland, Ontario  
Excavated C17 Jesuit mission / Huron village, supervised volunteers, and interpreted for the visiting public.
- 1990              **Archaeologist**, Ontario Ministry of Transportation, Downsview, Ontario  
Survey, and salvage excavation of precontact Iroquoian and Middle Woodland sites, artifact processing.

## Academic Service: Committees, Examinations, Editing, Coordination

- 2005 - SETI Permanent Study Group of the International Academy of Astronautics, chaired by Seth Shostak (SETI Institute, USA). Within the SETI-PSG, member of the Interstellar Message Composition Working Group, chaired by Douglas Vakoch (SETI Institute, USA).
- 2004 - Space Heritage Task Force of the World Archaeological Congress, chaired by Alice Gorman and John Campbell (James Cook University, Australia)
- 2005 - Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, Department of Anthropology, York University  
Recruitment, Retention, and Recognition Committee, York University Faculty of Arts
- 2004 - 06 Thesis examiner  
\* Samantha Arnold, PhD in Political Science, York University. 2004  
\* Lisa Stewart, MA in Anthropology, Trent University. May 2005  
\* Laura McRae, MA in Anthropology, Trent University, October 2006
- 2003 on Internet and Global Communications Task Force of the World Archaeological Congress, chaired by Michael Ashley Lopez (Berkeley)
- 2002-03 Conference Program Coordinator (with Andrew Martindale) for *Canadian Archaeological Association* meetings, May 2003, McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario.
- 2002-2003 Session coordinator (with Cornelius Holtorf) for "Archaeology of Zoos" session, part of the Theme called "Landscapes, Gardens and Dreamscapes", coordinated by Mark Leone and Felipe Criado Boado. *World Archaeological Congress*, June 2003, Washington D.C. Seminar coordinator for *Archaeology of Zoos Network Seminar 2*, London, UK, August 17, 2002
- 2003 Session coordinator for "Rethinking Artifact Curation: Current Perspectives and Future Options" at Canadian Archaeological Association meetings, May 2003, McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario.
- 1995 - 1999 Journal Editor, *Assemblage*, an online journal of archaeology, [www.shef.ac.uk/assem/](http://www.shef.ac.uk/assem/)  
Co-founded journal in 1995, defined concept, structure, policies, recruited editorial team. General Editor 1995 - 1996, Advisory Editor 1997 - 1999. A pioneering e-journal, *Assemblage* has trained dozens of graduate students in editorial roles, and received international acclaim.
- 1996 - 1997 Session coordinator for Applied Metaarchaeology session, *Theoretical Archaeology Group* conference, Bournemouth University, England. December. Seminar coordinator for Intersociety Seminar Series in Archaeology (Southampton, Sheffield, Lampeter, UK).

## Teaching

I teach undergraduate courses which range through several subfields of anthropology — archaeology and material culture, socio-cultural anthropology, and biological anthropology — and courses in general social science, and learning skills. I have taught at York University, McMaster University, the University of Northern British Columbia, George Brown College, and in the School of Continuing Studies at the University of Toronto. Since 1999, I have taught over 20 classes, comprising 16 different courses, most of which I have developed or completely redesigned. I have also supervised many undergraduate independent studies. My classes have ranged in size from five students to 200, and have ranged in level from first year to fourth year undergraduate with MA cross-listing. I frequently supervise teams of three or four teaching assistants.

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## Publications

### *Peer-reviewed books, journal articles, book chapters*

- n.d. *The Archaeology of Zoos*. Coauthored book with The Archaeology of Zoos Network ((Cornelius Holtorf, David Van Reybrouck, Sofia Åkerberg, Tony Axelsson, Sarah Cross, Koen Margodt, Oscar Ortman, Christina Wessely, and me). In progress for University of Virginia Press.
- n.d. "Regarding the Zoo: On the Deployment of a Metaphor". Submitted spring 2006 for special "Archaeology of Zoos" issue of *International Journal of Heritage Studies*.
- n.d. "L' on Earth". Submitted for book, *Culture in the Cosmos: Extraterrestrial Life and Society*, eds. Douglas Vakoch and Albert Harrison. Berghahn Press.
- n.d. "Learning to read: Interstellar message decipherment from an anthropological perspective." Chapter for the book *Archaeology, Anthropology, and Interstellar Communication*. Editors: Douglas Vakoch and Steve Dick. Publisher: NASA.
- 2004 " 'The Storm of Progress' and Archaeology for an online public." In *Internet Archaeology 15*, a special issue entitled *Archaeological Informatics: Beyond Technology*. Jeremy Huggett and Seamus Ross, eds. [http://intarch.ac.uk/journal/issue15/denning\\_index.html](http://intarch.ac.uk/journal/issue15/denning_index.html)
- 2000 "Fuller's Social Epistemology: Applied Philosophy for Archaeologists?" Chapter in *Philosophy and Archaeological Practice*, C. Holtorf and H. Karlsson, eds. Göteborg: Bricoleur Press. pp 203-221.
- 2000 "On Feyerabend's 'Democratic Relativism' and Archaeology: A Response to Holtorf." Comment in *Philosophy and Archaeological Practice*, C. Holtorf and H. Karlsson, eds. Göteborg: Bricoleur Press. pp 247-255.
- 1999 "Apocalypse past/future: Archaeology and folklore, writ large." Chapter in *Archaeology and Folklore, A*. Gazin-Schwartz and C. Holtorf, eds. London: Routledge. pp 90-105.

### *Short comments, book reviews, editorials, interviews, and reports*

- 2004 Review of *Thinking from Things: Essays in the Philosophy of Archaeology* by Alison Wylie (University of California Press 2002). Invited contribution for the *European Journal of Archaeology* 6(2).
- 2000 "Philosophy from the Ground Up: An Interview With Alison Wylie" for *Assemblage* Volume 5. [www.shef.ac.uk/assem/5/wylie.html](http://www.shef.ac.uk/assem/5/wylie.html). 18 pp.
- 1998 "True Confessions of a Micrological Monster." Writing Centre Newsletter, April 3 1998, pp 4-6. Student Development Centre, University of Western Ontario.
- 1997 Review of *Research in Geomancy 1990-1994* by Jeremy Harte. *At the Edge (Exploring New Interpretations of Past and Place in Archaeology, Folklore, and Mythology)* 8:44.
- 1997 Review of *Dinosaur in a Haystack* by Stephen Jay Gould. Volume 2 of *Assemblage, the Sheffield Graduate Journal of Archaeology*, [www.shef.ac.uk/assem/2/2denni3.html](http://www.shef.ac.uk/assem/2/2denni3.html).
- 1997 "I link? or ink? therefore I am: More ruminations about electronic publishing and archaeology." Volume 3 of *Assemblage, the Sheffield Graduate Journal of Archaeology*, [www.shef.ac.uk/assem/3/3kdrumin.htm](http://www.shef.ac.uk/assem/3/3kdrumin.htm). 5 pp.
- 1996 "Editorial" and "Ruminations about electronic publication in archaeology." Volume 1 of *Assemblage, the Sheffield Graduate Journal of Archaeology*, [www.shef.ac.uk/assem/1/main.html](http://www.shef.ac.uk/assem/1/main.html) 4 pp.
- 1996 "On orthodox archaeology, earth mysteries and the sacrifice of sacred cows." *The Ley Hunter* 125:9.
- 1993 "Disease and Demography in the Americas - the subject as seen through the book." *Nexus, the Canadian Student Journal of Anthropology*, 11:93-101.
- 1990 *The Johnston Collection: A Preliminary Report*. Lambton Heritage Museum, Grand Bend, Ont.

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## Conference Presentations

- 2006 "Theorizing Civilization through the Ultimate Others". For session "Culture, Anthropology, and the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence (SETI)". Organizer: Douglas Vakoch. American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting. November 17, San Jose, California.
- 2006 "Ten Thousand Revolutions: Conjectures about Civilizations". Paper for session "SETI II: Interdisciplinary Aspects", International Astronautical Congress, Valencia, Spain, October 2006.
- 2006 "Becoming EveryHuman". Paper for Panel, *Unbecoming: Dehumanizing Projects*. Chair. David A.B. Murray. For CASCA (Canadian Anthropology Society) conference, Montreal, May 2006.
- 2006 "The Adjacent Possibility of Music" at *CONTACT: Cultures of the Imagination*. NASA Ames, Mountain View, California. Organizer: Jim Funaro (Cabrillo). March 2006.
- 2005 " 'L' on Earth." Invited for session "SETI II: Interdisciplinary Aspects". *International Academy of Astronautics Congress*. Fukuoka, Japan, October 2005. Abbreviated version read in my absence by chair, S. Shostak.
- 2005 "Historical consciousness and sustainable futures." with Christopher B. Jones. 19<sup>th</sup> World Futures Studies Federation conference, Budapest, 21-24 August 2005. Presented by Jones.
- 2005 "Unearthing Contact." at *CONTACT: Cultures of the Imagination*. March 18-20, 2005. NASA Ames, Mountain View, California. Organizer: Jim Funaro (Cabrillo).
- 2004 "Archaeology, SETI, and the Inalienable." Invited for session "Anthropology, Archaeology, and Interstellar Communication: Science and the Knowledge of Distant Worlds". Session organizer: Douglas Vakoch (SETI/UC Davis). American Anthropological Association meeting, Atlanta, Georgia, December 2004. Paper read in my absence by Douglas Vakoch.
- 2003 "What's Real and What is Not? Irreducible Complexity and Singularity, Respectively" Invited for session "What is Real and What is Not. Reconciling conflicting ideas about the ancient past", Adam Stout, organizer. *Theoretical Archaeology Group*, Univ. of Wales, Lampeter, December. Read by Sarah Cross.
- 2003 "Introduction" and "Drawing the Dark: The Evolution of Captivity", in the session "The Archaeology of Zoos", organized by me and Cornelius Holtorf. *World Archaeological Congress*, Washington D.C., June.
- 2003 Introduction to my workshop session, "Rethinking Artifact Curation: Current Perspectives and Future Options", *Canadian Archaeological Association*, Hamilton, Ontario, May. Not refereed.
- 2002 "To Catch a Quiddity." Invited paper for Archaeology of Zoos session, David van Reybrouck and Sarah Cross, organizers. *Animal Arenas* conference, *Intl. Society of Anthrozoology*, London, England, August.
- 2002 "Local Pasts in a Global Present." Invited paper for Archaeology and Community session, Christophe Rivet, organizer. *Canadian Archaeological Association*, Ottawa, May.
- 2001 "Riders on a Listing Ark." Invited paper for The Archaeology of Zoos session, Cornelius Holtorf and David van Reybrouck, organizers. *Theoretical Archaeology Group*, University College Dublin, December.
- 2001 " 'The Storm of Progress': What Most of Us Don't Yet Know About Writing Archaeology for an Online Audience." Invited contribution to round table symposium, *Archaeological Informatics: Beyond Technology*. Jeremy Huggett and Seamus Ross, organizers. Glasgow University September 13-15.
- 2001 "Sites of Learning: Getting Dirty in the Computer Lab." Invited paper for session, Beyond the Bells and Whistles: A Critical Look at Content and Meaning on Archaeological Web Sites, Carol McDavid, organizer. *Society for Historical Archaeology* meetings, Long Beach, California.
- 2000 " 'Alternative' Archaeology and the Ratings Game." Invited paper for Presidential Symposium, Consuming Anthropology: Anthropology & Popular Culture, Marcia-Anne Dobres and Robin Sewell, organizers. *American Anthropological Association* meetings, San Francisco.
- 1999 "Archaeology and Alterity." Invited paper for Archaeological Method and Theory 2000 session, Todd and Christine VanPool, organizers. *Society for American Archaeology* meeting, Chicago.

- 1997 "Introduction - What's Metaarchaeology?" and "From alienation to alien nations: archaeology and alterity at the end of the millennium." In Applied Metaarchaeology session (also session organizer), *Theoretical Archaeology Group* conference, Bournemouth University, England.
- 1997 "Meeting in the middle of nowhere: sharing archaeology with an audience in cyberspace." Invited paper for Archaeology and the Public session, Jenny Moore, coordinator. *Theoretical Archaeology Group* conference, Bournemouth University, England. December. Multimedia presentation with J. Winters and G. McElearney.
- 1997 "The flexible strength of stone: On hewing personal understandings of past and present from prehistoric monuments in modern Britain." Invited paper for Tangible Histories session, Kurtis Lesick, coordinator. Chacmool conference (*The Entangled Past: Integrating History and Archaeology*). University of Calgary.
- 1997 "http://perplexity ->http://www.shef.ac.uk/~assem/ Or, how we started an electronic journal in six months without experience or a clue." Invited multimedia presentation with Judith Winters, in *Academic Publishing and New Models of Scholarly Communication in the Electronic Age* Conference, Leslie Chan, organizer. University of Toronto. (*Not refereed.*)
- 1997 "On narrativity." Invited paper for Archaeology and Language session, John C. Barrett, organizer. Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Archaeology in Britain* conference, Manchester, England.
- 1996 "Apocalypse past/future: Archaeology, destiny, and revealed wisdom." Invited paper for Archaeology and Folklore session, Cornelius Holtorf and Amy Gazin-Schwartz, organizers. *Theoretical Archaeology Group* conference, Liverpool, England.
- 1995 "From Mu to You." Archaeology & Pseudoscience session, Chacmool conference (*Public or Perish*), University of Calgary.
- 1995 "Ghostly remnants: Victorian spiritualism's legacy to modern archaeologies." *Victorian Supernatural Conference*, University of North London, England.
- 1995 "Lines on the Map, Lines in the Sand." *Explorations of Past and Place* conference, London, England. (*Not refereed.*)
- 1993 "Diseases of the American Bottom in prehistory: Social complexity, scales of analysis, and variations in health." Chacmool conference (*Debating Complexity*), University of Calgary.
- 1993 "Deboning, debunking, and diseases of the American Bottom in prehistory: Non-osteological approaches to studying health at Cahokia." *Canadian Association of Physical Anthropologists* conference, St. John's, Newfoundland.

## Guest Lectures and Seminars

- 2006 "Humanity's stuff in space: save, ignore, delete?" Guest lecture at National Radio Astronomy Observatory, Green Bank, West Virginia. June 2006.
- 2005 "Drawing the Dark: The Evolution of Captivity". Lund University, Sweden.
- 2005 Participant in Interstellar Message Composition round table at the Society for Cross-Cultural Research meeting, Santa Fe, New Mexico.
- 2004 "Archaeology, SETI, and the Inalienable." SETI Institute, Mountain View, California.
- 2003 "The Writing on the Wall: Encounters with the Past in the Present." Guest lecture, Dept. of Anthropology, York University, Ontario.
- 2003 "Encounters with the Past in the Present." Guest lecture, Dept. of Anthropology, Trent University, Ontario.
- 2003 "Global Heritage." McMaster Anthropology Society Symposium: *Ethics and Anthropology*.
- 2002 "Four-Field Anthropology and the Power of Names." Short comment to (*Sub*)*Versions of Anthropology* symposium, McMaster Anthropology Graduate Seminar Series.
- 2002 "Primates, So Near and So Far: 'The ape in the Middle Ages and the Renaissance', human-nature relatedness, and iconography in early human reconstructions." Presentation to *Archaeology of Zoos* Network Seminar 2, London (UK).
- 2002 "Archaeology and the Public, from Atlantis to Zeugma." Guest lecture for McMaster Anthropology Society Symposium: *The Anthropology of Public Issues*. McMaster University.
- 1998 "Archaeology and apocalypse." Guest lecture to Anthropology Department, University of Winnipeg.

- 1997 "X-Rated archaeology: Unnatural acts of discourse with the Other." Archaeology Society Lecture Series, St. David's University College, University of Wales (Lampeter).
- 1997 "Archaeology, alterity, apocalypse." Seminar for Archaeology Department, St. David's University College, University of Wales (Lampeter).
- 1997 "Challenging the Darwinian consensus." Seminar for Department of Archaeology Theory Group, University of Sheffield.
- 1997 "The orthodox-alternative divide in the study of the past." London Earth Mysteries Group, London, England.
- 1996 "Archaeology and the Apocalypse." Sheffield Archaeology Society lecture series, University of Sheffield.
- 1996 "Archaeology on the fringe." Intersarsity Seminar Series in Archaeology, St. David's University College, University of Wales (Lampeter).
- 1996 "Dead philosophers: What good are they?" Seminar for Archaeology Theory Group, University of Sheffield.
- 1996 "Archaeology's X-Files: Is the truth out there?" Lunchtime lecture, Dept. of Archaeology, University of Sheffield.
- 1996 "Scrutinizing Archaeology." Seminar for Dept. of Archaeology Theory Group, University of Sheffield.

## General Public Lectures and Media Appearances

- 2006 Presenter, "Real Vampires", a two-hour television documentary on the natural history, anthropology, and folklore of the vampire. Airing on Discovery Channel Canada/Europe in 2007.
- 2005 Member of public panel discussion on the ethics of displaying human remains, in conjunction with the Body Worlds exhibition of plastinated human bodies. Ontario Science Centre, Toronto, 30 November 2005. Panelists: Dr. Gunther von Hagens, Father Patrick O'Hara, Rabbi Dow Marmur, Imam Hai Patel.
- 2005 Guest speaker at Café Scientifique, hosted by the Ontario Science Centre in Toronto. Topic: "Human remains on display: Science, Art or Freak Show?" Discussion about the Body Worlds exhibition of plastinated human bodies, with Roberta Shaw (Royal Ontario Museum), and Dennis Patrick O'Hara (University of Toronto). Sept 17, 2005.
- 2005 Guest speaker at Café Scientifique, hosted by the Ontario Science Centre in Toronto. Topic: "Why do we explore?" July 2005.
- 2005 Guest on the SETI Institute's general science radio show, "Are We Alone?" Episode: "Walk this Way". Topic: the evolution of bipedalism. May 15, 2005. Archived online at [www.seti.org](http://www.seti.org)
- 2005 Discovery Channel Canada, Daily Planet television show. Guest on special feature, "Calling All Aliens", concerning the content of a message being transmitted to the star 37 Geminorum. April 2005.