

Who Writes about Archaeology?

An Intersectional Study of Authorship in American Anthropological Journals

Introduction

Feminist archaeology was born with critiques of the gendered division of labor within the discipline and the androcentrism of archaeological interpretation. Conkey and Spector (1986) pointed out that the past archaeologists wrote about seemed to be entirely populated by men, and Gero (1985) exposed the ways that women were relegated to the less prestigious aspects of archaeological labor, the parts that were most like housework.

These early feminist works opened the floodgates. The 1990s saw the publication of a wide variety of scholarship on gender in modern archaeology. Scholars showed that various subdisciplines of archaeology were troublingly male-dominated, often by gathering and analyzing statistics on publication rates of male and female authors (e.g., Claassen 1994, Nelson et al. 1994, Walde and Willows 1991). More recently, Hutson (2002) showed that even when women's work is published, it is cited less often than men's, and Bardolph (2014) proved that even thirty years after the first feminist archaeology articles, major journals continue to publish more articles by male authors. My research builds on all of these studies, updating them by focusing on the early 21st century and differing in two important ways:

1. Previous studies assigned binary genders to authors based on their first names. Instead, I use a survey, allowing authors with uncommon or gender-neutral names, or whose genders do not neatly fit into binary categories, to provide their self-identifications.
2. Previous studies focused exclusively on gender, while my study is intersectional, showing the ways that race and sexual orientation (as well as gender) affect publishing in archaeology.

This poster presents preliminary data from a quantitative survey study of the identities of archaeology journal authors in major journals, designed to investigate the intersecting effects of gender, race, and sexual orientation on the discipline. It is part of a larger dissertation project entitled *Diversity, Identity, and Oppression in the Production of Archaeological Knowledge*.

The Sample

The survey was sent to all authors of archaeology articles published in nine major scholarly journals in 2007–2016. These journals were selected because they are widely read by U.S.-based academic anthropological archaeologists.

All articles in:	Archaeology-focused articles in:
<i>Archeological Papers of the AAA</i>	<i>American Anthropologist</i>
<i>Journal of Anthropological Archaeology</i>	<i>Annual Review of Anthropology</i>
<i>Journal of Archaeological Method and Theory</i>	<i>Current Anthropology</i>
<i>Journal of Field Archaeology</i>	<i>Journal of Anthropological Research</i>
<i>Journal of Social Archaeology</i>	

	number	%	number	%	
surveyed	2419	89.5%	responded	561	23.2%
could not find	266	9.8%	did not respond	1858	76.8%
deceased	17	0.6%	total	2419	
total authors	2702				

- The survey was sent out to authors via: emails to email addresses listed in journals, emails to email addresses found via Google searches, using authors' names and "archaeology" as search terms, and Academia.edu private messages to authors who had profiles but whose email addresses could not be found.
- When no email address or Academia.edu page could be found, the author was marked as "could not find."
- When obituaries were found, the author was marked as "deceased."
- This data reflects responses received by November 19, 2017.

References

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 Conkey, Margaret W., and Janet D. Spector. 1984. "Archaeology and the Study of Gender." *Advances in Archaeological Method and Theory* 7 (1): 1–38.

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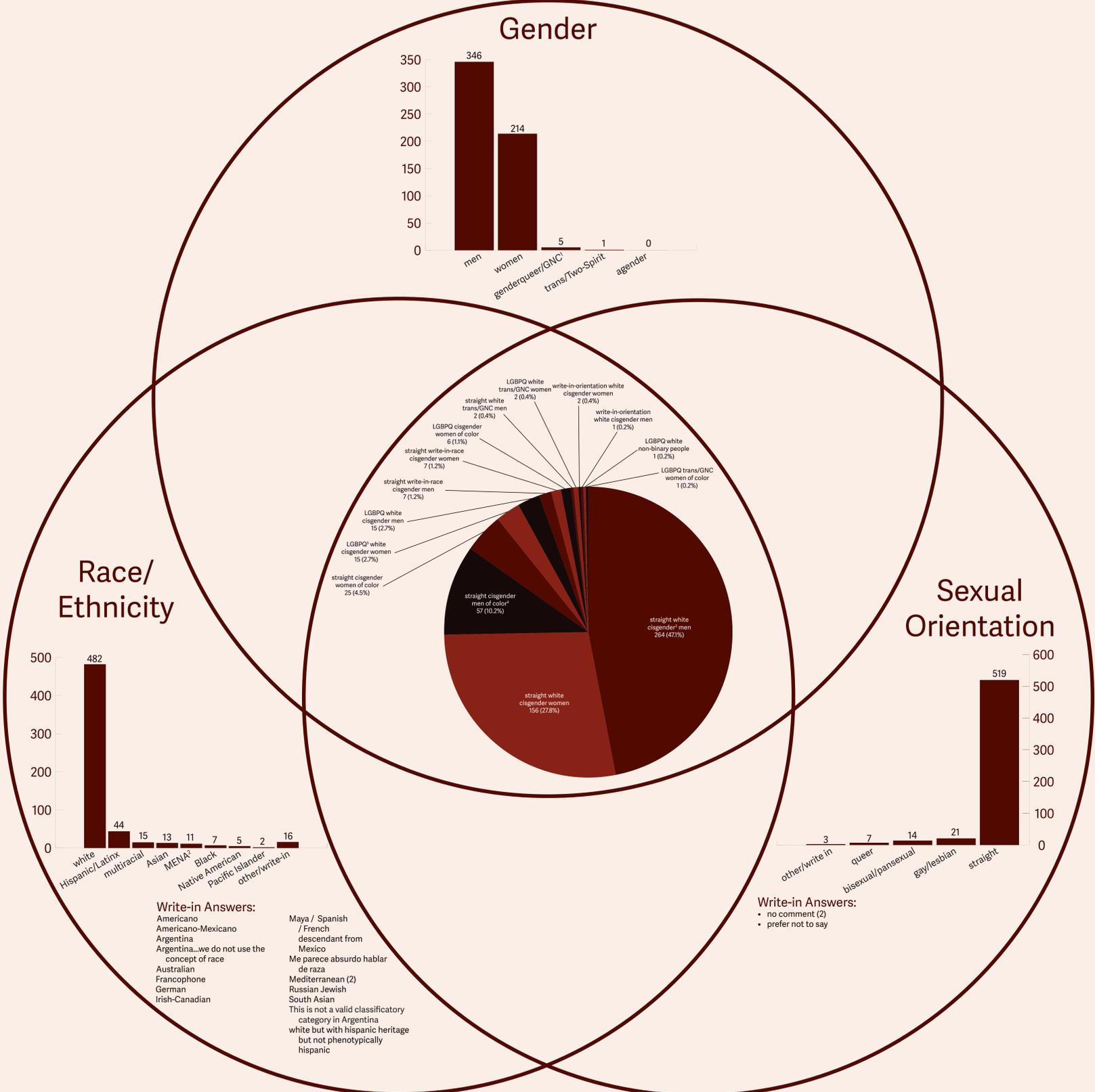
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The Survey

This survey was sent in the form of a Google Form. It was designed to be as inclusive as possible. Race/ethnicity categories were loosely based on the U.S. Census.

1. Name: _____
2. Gender (check all that apply):
 - Gender Nonconforming, Genderfluid, and/or Genderqueer
 - Woman
 - Transgender and/or Two-Spirit
 - Man
 - Agender
 - Other: _____
3. Race/Ethnicity (check all that apply):
 - Biracial and/or Multiracial
 - Native Hawaiian and/or Pacific Islander
 - Middle Eastern and/or North African
 - American Indian, Native American, First Nations, and/or Alaskan Native
 - Hispanic and/or Latinx
 - Asian
 - Black, African American, and/or Afro-Latinx
 - White and/or Caucasian
 - Other: _____
4. Sexual Orientation self-identification (check all that apply):
 - Queer
 - Bisexual and/or pansexual
 - Gay, lesbian, and/or homosexual
 - Straight and/or heterosexual
 - Other: _____
5. Nationality: _____



Conclusions

This data is preliminary, but allows me to draw some conclusions:

1. Archaeology is still male-dominated, although less so than it was in the 1980s, when feminist archaeology began. 61.7% of respondents were men.
2. Archaeology is extremely straight- and white-dominated.
3. Straight white cisgender men comprised almost half of respondents: people who are not marginalized by sexism, heterosexism, or racism are overrepresented in the field. People who faced only one of these forms of marginalization were more adequately represented than multiply-marginalized people.
4. Looking at archaeology journal authorship intersectionally makes the problems clearer than looking at gender alone, or at multiple axes of identity separately.

Next Steps

- Continuing the quantitative study, I plan to:
1. Expand the study to include more journals
 2. Code articles for their regional focus, methods used, and theoretical outlook. This will allow me to show gendered, racialized, and sexual-orientation-based divisions of labor in archaeology, following Gero (1985), and how they shape archaeological knowledge production.

I am also conducting a qualitative interview study of a diverse sample of archaeologists about their experiences of and perspectives on gender, race, and sexual orientation issues in archaeology, and how these may have shaped their research.

Notes

*GNC stands for "gender non-conforming."
 †MENA stands for "Middle Eastern/North African."
 *Respondents who did not check trans or GNC are listed as cisgender here.
 *Respondents who checked at least one box other than white are listed as people of color here.
 *Respondents who checked "queer," "bisexual and/or pansexual," and/or "gay, lesbian, and/or homosexual" are listed as "LGBPOQ" here.

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