

Dear Colleagues:

I hope this finds you in good health and spirits.

It is a pleasure to announce the online posting of a set of videos that present research on the topics of personhood and soul-like essences as conceived by pre- and post-contact Indians of the Eastern Woodlands and as used ritually and strategically by them in their lives.

The videos include nine researchers' and two discussants' presentations written for a symposium for the 85<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, Austin, Texas, April 23, 2019. When the meetings were canceled, we constructed the videos as an alternative means of sharing our ideas with the profession.

The contents of the symposium videos and contact information for the participants are summarized below.

The videos have applicability to subjects beyond Eastern Woodland Indians archaeology and ethnography. They will be of interest to those who study the archaeology and ethnography of New World indigenous peoples, the archaeology of religion, mortuary archaeology, bioarchaeology, identity, folklore, performance, comparative religion, and the "ontological turn" movement in archaeology.

The videos can be viewed at:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLq8AGDwGZC7qHiXWIE3mTXpt52D9fxDLP>

Feel free to show all or any of the videos for teaching purposes in your college and/or professional classes.

Please pass on this email to colleagues of yours who might have an interest in it for their research or teaching. Thank you.

Wishing you the best,

*Chris Carr*

**Christopher Carr**  
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**Symposium Title:**

Notions and Strategic Uses of Personhood and Souls-Like Essences among Early Woodland, Middle Woodland, and Postcontact Indians of the Eastern Woodlands

**Abstract:**

Inspired by the work of ethnologist A. Irving Hallowell and more recent developments in the study of non-Western peoples' ontologies, we document precontact and postcontact Woodland Indians' ideas about the constituents and characteristics of a "person". We explore how these notions were expressed in mortuary rituals, were a foundation for intergroup interactions, and were sometimes used strategically to create productive intergroup relations. Major themes that crosscut the presentations are: (1) the central place of ideas about soul-like essences in concepts of the person; (2) the inclusion of other-than-human beings in the cultural category of person; and (3) the implications of these two facets of personhood for intercommunity alliance formation, place-making, and issues of "territoriality".

**Symposium Organizer and Chair:**

Christopher Carr, Professor Emeritus, Arizona State University.

**Presenters and Titles of Papers:**

Christopher Carr, Professor Emeritus

Introduction: Conceptual and Historical Perspective

William Rex Weeks, Ph.D.

Come as Strangers, Leave as Friends: An Invitation to A. Irving Hallowell's Essay on "Ojibwa Ontology, Behavior, and Worldview" for Soul-Searching Archaeologists.

Mary Kupsch, M.A.

Soul Concepts of Postcolonial Woodland and Plains Indians, I: A Systematic Survey of Specific Ideas in Oral Narratives as a Foundation for an Archaeology of Souls.

Brianna Rafidi, B.A.

Soul Concepts of Postcolonial Woodland and Plains Indians, II: A Systematic Survey of Concept Meta-Themes, Intercorrelations, and Regional Traditions.

Heather Smyth, M.A. and Christopher Carr, Prof. Emeritus

Scioto Hopewell Ideas about Multiple Soul-Like Essences in Humans: Mortuary Expression in View of Postcolonial Woodland and Plains Indians' Soul Concepts.

Christopher Caseldine, Ph.D.

Soul Journeys to Afterlives: A Systematic Survey of Postcolonial Woodland and Plains Native American Ideas in Oral Narratives as a Foundation for Precolonial Mortuary Studies.

Anna C. Novotny, Assistant Professor

Souls in Flight: A Scioto Hopewell Ritual Drama about the Journey of Souls of the Deceased to an Afterlife.

Mark McConaughy, Ph.D.

Bird Effigies at Sugar Run Mound, Pennsylvania and North Benton Mound, Ohio.  
Christopher Carr, Professor Emeritus

Scioto Hopewell Souls and Intercommunity Alliance-Making: Three World-View  
Metaphors that Scioto Hopewell Peoples Lived.

Andrew Seidel, Ph.D.

Persons and Places: Ontology and Landscape Use among Kentucky Adena Groups

Discussant: Kelley Hays-Gilpin, Professor

Discussant: Christine S. VanPool, Associate Professor

### **Video Production and Audio Engineering:**

Brianna Rafidi, Christopher Carr

### **Email Contact Information for the Participants**

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