

The Anthropology Graduate Student Organization Presents:

Conflict and Community in a West African Shatter Zone

February 27, 2020
4:00 pm-5:00 pm
Hall of Languages 500

Global entanglements of the past millennium have given rise to numerous “shatter zones” in which small-scale societies fought, fled, and/or fell in with the predatory political economies of neighboring states and mercantile networks. But how did these strategies shape social life within and between the local communities adopting them? Recent research by the Bandafassi Regional Archaeology Project aims to answer this question by mapping long-term change and continuity in two historic villages—Itato and Ethiowar—set within a shatter zone on the upper Gambia River. Informed by oral histories, the archaeological landscapes of these villages, including their settlement dynamics, craft (pottery) traditions, and trade relations, suggests that local responses to regional states and global markets were more than mere political strategies: they were key processes in the ongoing production of ethnic, clan, and village communities.



Dr. Cameron Gokee
Appalachian State University
Department of Anthropology

Maxwell
Syracuse University

AG
SO Anthropology Graduate
Student Organization

If you have any questions or require accommodations, please contact Julia McDaniel-Bouley at jumcdani@syr.edu by 02/14.