

## Archaeology Seminar Series 2021

### A chronology to the initial peopling of the Americas

Lorena Becerra-Valdivia  
*Oxford Radiocarbon Accelerator Unit*



The peopling of the Americas marks one of the last steps in the expansion of humans across the planet. With many questions associated to this dispersal yet unanswered, my research aimed to build a robust chronological framework using radiocarbon dating and Bayesian age modelling. In this talk, I discuss the methods, results and implications of this research. These include the successful application of single-amino-acid dating on Anzick-1, the only known Clovis individual, and the role of human expansion in the extinction of megafauna across North America.

#### SPEAKER BIO

Dr Lorena Becerra-Valdivia is an archaeological scientist and radiocarbon dating expert, with a PhD from the University of Oxford. Her research involves the construction of reliable, high-resolution chronologies using radiocarbon dating and Bayesian age modelling techniques, and focuses on the interface between past human occupations, ecology, and climate. Past projects include the establishment of timelines for hominin (modern humans and Neanderthals) dynamics during the Middle to Upper Palaeolithic Transition in the Zagros Mountains, and the initial arrival of humans to the Americas around the Last Glacial Maximum. Having just finished a postdoctoral position at Chronos 14Carbon Cycle (UNSW), Lorena is currently a researcher at the Oxford Radiocarbon Accelerator Unit, investigating human-environment relationships in pre-Columbian Amazonia with the 'Human-Environment Relationships in pre-Columbian Amazonia' (HERCA) project.

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#### TIME & DATE

Zoom Webinar, Thursday  
8:30 pm, Australian Eastern  
Daylight Time, Melbourne,  
Australia (Meeting  
registration in advance  
required).

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