

Kjersti E. Emerson

409 W. Broadway
kemerson@illinois.edu
(217) 714-7782

Education

December 2007 M.A. in Anthropology, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, Illinois (Dr. R. Barry Lewis, Advisor)
MA Thesis "*Examining the Place of Ceramics in Mortuary Context: Evidence from the Fisher Site, Will County, Illinois*"

May 2002 B.S. in Sociology, minor in Anthropology Illinois State University, Normal, Illinois

Professional Appointments

Illinois State Archaeological Survey (formerly Illinois Transportation Archaeological Research Program), Special Projects Division

2012-present	<i>Ceramic Analyst</i>
Nov. 2006 – 2012	<i>Cultural Resource Archaeologist</i>
Feb. 2003 - Nov. 2006	<i>Archaeological Assistant</i>
June 1996 – Feb. 2003	<i>Extra help/lab & field assistant</i>

Ceramic Analyst (2012-Present)

Continue duties of ceramic analysis and report preparation (below), as well as:

- Act as co-editor on site reports, gathering and organizing files from multiple authors, reviewing their contributions, and preparing manuscripts for submission to production office
- Designing and executing plans for conducting ceramic attribute analyses
- Authoring or coauthoring additional chapters in reports as needed to move projects forward
- Selection of ceramic collections analyzed: Hoxie Farm (11-Ck-4), Lawrence (11-Ls-2), Fisher (11-Wi-5), Oak Forest (11-Ck-53), Zimmerman (11-Ls-13), Griesmer (12-La-3), Oakwood Mound (11-Wi-1), Huber (11-Ck-1), Orendorf Settlement D (11-F-1284), Buffalo Chip (11-Mg-162), Illinois State Museum Illinois River Survey, Early Woodland Black Sand and Morton components; Dillinger site (11J2), as well as a number of private Upper Mississippian collections from northwestern Indiana

Cultural Resource Archaeologist (2006-2012)

Ceramic analysis

- Identifying, recording, and analyzing ceramic artifacts from recent large-scale IDOT excavations and various collections curated at ISAS, other institutions, and private collectors
- Recording quantitative and qualitative data as necessary from ceramic artifacts
- Creating and recording ceramic graphic attributes including rim profiles and artifact sketches
- Photographing ceramic collections for publication, research purposes and records
- Aid in the training and supervision of individuals assisting in ceramic analyses
- Reconstructing ceramic vessels
- Selection of ceramic collections analyzed: Hoxie Farm (11-Ck-4), Lawrence (11-Ls-2), Fisher (11-Wi-5), Oak Forest (11-Ck-53), Zimmerman (11-Ls-13), Griesmer (12-La-3), Oakwood Mound (11-Wi-1), Huber (11-Ck-1), Orendorf Settlement D (11-F-1284), Buffalo Chip (11-Mg-162), Illinois State Museum Illinois River Survey, Early Woodland Black Sand and Morton components; Dillinger site (11J2), as well as a number of private Upper Mississippian collections from northwestern Indiana

Report preparation

- Analyzed and interpreted Fisher site Fisher phase component ceramics as part of thesis research
- Author ceramic reports and prepare tables and figures using MS Excel, SPSS, Adobe Photoshop and Adobe Illustrator
- Coordinate with editors and coauthors as needed to move projects forward

Extra help/Lab & Field assistant (1996-2003)

Laboratory duties

- Processed incoming materials from IDOT excavations, involving washing, sorting, labeling, and preparing artifacts for curation
- Identified, sorted, and inventoried artifact collections to create individual box inventories
- Cleaned and prepared human skeletal material for analysis
- Processed historical materials from the Canaday historical cemetery site and assisted in artifact identification
- Reorganized various site collections for curation

Field technician duties

- Assisted in the Phase I Danville Beltline Project (01014) over the course of three years totaling about 24 weeks in all

- Participated for a total of roughly 10 weeks in various other survey projects (including projects 02032, 02073, 04073) for the Statewide, Northern, and Western Divisions of ISAS
- Took part in Phase II and Phase III excavations at various Woodland, Upper Mississippian, and Historic component sites (11-St-331; 11-Mg-162; 11-Bu-2 and 11-Bu-5; 11-V-58; 11-Mc-71; 11-Ha-938; 11-Ck-284; 11-Le-72, 73, 74; and 11-Ch-579)

Publications and Reports

Book Chapters

Emerson, Thomas E., Kristin M. Hedman, Matthew A. Fort, and **Kjersti E. Emerson** (2022) Late Precolumbian Subsistence Change, Socio-Political Transformation, and Ethnogenesis in the Upper Illinois River Valley In *Following the Mississippian Spread*, edited by Robert Cook and Aaron Comstock. Springer.

Journal Articles

Emerson, Thomas E., **Kjersti E. Emerson**, Kristin M. Hedman, and Matthew A. Fort (2019) Mortuary Practices, Cultural Context, Bayesian Chronology, and Maize Consumption among Terminal Late Woodland Societies in Northeastern Illinois. *Midcontinental Journal of Archaeology* 44(2):149-180.

Emerson, Kjersti E. (2017) Spatial and Temporal Variation in Fisher Phase Ceramics. *Illinois Archaeology* 29:253-286.

Emerson, Kjersti E. and Thomas E. Emerson (2008) The 1940 Fisher Site Excavations, Will County, Illinois. *Illinois Antiquity* 43 (3):13-15.

Research and Technical Reports

Emerson, Kjersti E., Thomas E. Emerson, and M. Brent Lansdell, eds. (n.d) The Dillinger Phase in Southern Illinois: At the Dillinger and Davies #1 sites. Illinois State Archaeological Survey Research Report No. __, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, Illinois. (*In production*).

Meinkoth, Michael C. and **Kjersti E. Emerson**, eds. (2022) *The Tree Row Site and the Early Woodland in West-Central Illinois*. Illinois State Archaeological Survey Research Report No. 51, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, Illinois. (*In production*).

Esarey, Duane E. and **Kjersti E. Emerson**, eds. (2021) *The Palos Site: An Early Seventeenth-Century Ancestral Ho-Chunk Occupation in the Chicago Area*. Illinois State Archaeological Survey Studies in Archaeology No. 14, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, Illinois.

Conrad, Lawrence A., **Kjersti E. Emerson**, Thomas E. Emerson, and Duane E. Esarey, eds. (2019) *Orendorf Settlement D: A Burned Fortified Mississippian Town in the Central Illinois River Valley*. Illinois State Archaeological Survey Research Report No. 50, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, Illinois.

Emerson, Kjersti E. and Thomas E. Emerson (2017) Ceramics. In *The Hoxie Farm Site Main Occupation Area: Late Fisher and Huber Phase Components in South Chicago* edited by Douglas K. Jackson, pp. 101-204. Illinois State Archaeological Survey, Research Report No. 40, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, Illinois.

Emerson, Kjersti E. and Madeleine G. Evans (2015) Late Prehistory at the Zimmerman Site: The Huber occupation of Grid B. In *Protohistory at the Grand Village of the Kaskaskia: The Illinois country on the eve of colony*, edited by Robert F. Mazrim, pp. 103-114. Illinois State Archaeological Survey Studies in Archaeology No. 10, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, Illinois.

Richard L. Fishel and **Kjersti E. Emerson**, eds. (2013) *Archaeological Investigations at Buffalo Chip: Woodland Habitations on the Frontier of Morgan County, Illinois*. Illinois State Archaeological Survey Technical Reports 150, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, Illinois.

Emerson, Thomas E. and **Kjersti E. Emerson** (2013) Late Fisher Phase Ceramics at the Hoxie Farm Fortified Village. In *The Hoxie Farm Site Fortified Village: Late Fisher Phase Occupation and Fortification in South Chicago*, edited by Douglas K. Jackson and Thomas. Emerson, pp. 245-326. Illinois State Archaeological Survey Research Report No. 27. Champaign, IL.

Professional Presentations

Conference papers

Emerson, Thomas E., **Kjersti E. Emerson**, and Kristin M. Hedman (2019) Disentangling the Late Pre-Contact Native History of Northern Illinois: Ongoing Research in the Legacy Collections of the Fisher Mound and Village Site, Will County, Illinois. Paper presented at 65th Midwest Archaeological Conference, Mankato, Minnesota.

- Emerson, Kjersti E.** and Thomas E. Emerson (2018) Huber in the Protohistoric Shadowlands. Paper presented at 64th annual Midwest Archaeological Conference, South Bend, Indiana.
- Emerson, Kjersti E.** (2016) The Hoxie Farm site: An Updated Understanding of Upper Mississippian Ceramics. Paper presented at 62nd annual Midwest Archaeological Conference, Iowa City, Iowa.
- Emerson, Thomas E., **Kjersti E. Emerson**, and Kristin M. Hedman (2016) Fisher Mound 5: The cultural context, chronology, and isotopic analysis of a Terminal Late Woodland mortuary mound in northeastern Illinois. Paper presented at 62nd annual Midwest Archaeological Conference, Iowa City, Iowa.
- Emerson, Kjersti E.** and Thomas E. Emerson (2015) Ethnic Identity and Interaction in Late Prehistoric Northeastern Illinois. Paper presented at 61st annual Midwest Archaeological Conference, Milwaukee, Illinois.
- Emerson, Kjersti E.** and Thomas E. Emerson (2014) Dismantling the Fisher-Huber Evolutionary Continuum. Paper presented at 60th annual Midwest Archaeological Conference, Champaign, Illinois.
- Zelin, Alexey, Madeleine G. Evans, **Kjersti E. Emerson**, and Brenda Beck (2013) Captured in Time: An examination of material culture patterns and activities represented on the burned structure floors of Orendorf Settlement D. Paper presented at the 59th annual Midwest Archaeological Conference, Columbus, Ohio.
- Emerson, Kjersti E.** (2011) The Huber Phase Component at the Hoxie Farm Site: Broadening our understanding of Huber phase ceramics. Paper presented at the 57th annual Midwest Archaeological Conference, LaCrosse, Wisconsin.
- Emerson, Kjersti E.** (2008) The Fisher Site: The legacy of the W.P.A in northern Illinois. Paper presented at the 54th annual meeting of the Illinois Archaeological Survey, Collinsville/Edwardsville, Illinois.
- Emerson, Kjersti E.** and Kristin M. Hedman (2007) Late Prehistoric Mortuary Behavior in Northeastern Illinois. Paper presented at the 53rd annual Midwest Archaeological Conference, Notre Dame, Indiana.
- Emerson, Kjersti E.** (2006) Preliminary Observations on Continuity and Variation in Fisher Component Ceramics. Paper presented at the 52nd annual Midwest Archaeological Conference, Champaign-Urbana, Illinois.
- Emerson, Thomas E., Amy Wilkerson, and **Kjersti E. Emerson** (2005) Conceptualizing a Late Fisher Phase Ceramic Assemblage: The Evidence from

the Hoxie Farm Fortified Village. Paper presented at the 51st annual Midwest Archaeological Conference, Dayton, Ohio.

Emerson, Thomas E., Amy Wilkerson, and **Kjersti E. Emerson** (2003) A Preliminary Review of the Late Prehistoric Hoxie Farm Ceramic Assemblage. Paper presented at the 49th annual Midwest Archaeological Conference, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Conference Workshops

- 2014 Co-organized (with Dr. Melissa Baltus) ceramics workshop, “Border Crossings: A Ceramic-focused exploration of late pre-contact regional interactions ca. A.D. 1000- ca. A.D. 1500”, held at the 60th annual Midwest Archaeological Conference, Champaign-Urbana, Illinois.
- 2012 Attended two day workshop, *Conservation and Mending of Low-Fired Objects*, at the Indiana State Museum. Trained in reversible pottery reconstruction techniques for implementation in our ceramics lab at ISAS.
- 2006 Assisted in organization and participated in Ceramics Workshop held at the 52nd annual Midwest Archaeological Conference, Champaign-Urbana, Illinois.

Public Outreach

- July 2018 Demonstrated/discussed prehistoric pottery making with visitors at the Orpheum Children’s Museum for “Archaeology Day”, Champaign, Illinois.
- July 2017 Demonstrated/discussed prehistoric pottery making with visitors at the Orpheum Children’s Museum for “Archaeology Day”, Champaign, Illinois.
- Nov 2016 Demonstrated/discussed prehistoric pottery making with visitors at the ECIAS Open House at Museum of the Grand Prairie, Mahomet, Illinois.
- Sep 2016 Demonstrated/discussed prehistoric pottery making with visitors at the “Prairie Stories” annual event at Museum of the Grand Prairie, Mahomet, Illinois.
- Sep 2015 Demonstrated/discussed prehistoric pottery making with visitors at the Forest Preserve District of Cook County’s Volunteer Picnic and their “100 Years 100 Events” weekend, in which ISAS took part.
- Apr 2015 Co-organizer and volunteer for the ISAS events at the “Naturally Illinois” Expo.

- Jan 2015 “An Archaeological Perspective on Pottery.” Presentation given to CU Pottery Club, Urbana Free Library, Illinois.
- Mar 2013 Volunteer at “Naturally Illinois” Expo for ISAS events.
- Dec 2005 “Ceramic Analysis: The Basics.” Presentation and demonstration given to local chapter of the ECIAS, Urbana Free Library, Illinois.

Selected Archaeological Analysis

Ceramic Analyses

- Upper Mississippian site assemblages include the Hoxie Farm site (11-Ck-4), the Fisher Mounds and Village site (11-Wi-5), Oak Forest (11-Ck-53), Zimmerman (11-Ls-13), Griesmer (12-La-3), Oakwood Mound (11-Wi-1), Huber (11-Ck-1), Palos (11-Ck-21), and the Lawrence site (11-Ls-2).
- Woodland assemblages from various sites, including the Early Woodland Black Sand phase and Middle Woodland Morton phase components from numerous sites surveyed by the Illinois State Museum during as part of the Illinois River Survey; the Late Woodland Weaver phase Buffalo Chip site (11-Mg-162); and the Late Woodland Dillinger phase Dillinger site (11-J-2).
- Middle Mississippian Spoon River phase assemblage from the Orendorf site (11-F-1284), Settlement D.

Feature Analyses

- Pit feature assemblages from the Buffalo Chip site and Palos site
- Burned house floors at Orendorf, Settlement D

Professional Affiliations

Society for American Archaeology, member
 Midwest Archaeological Conference, member
 Illinois Archaeological Survey, member

Independent Research Projects

2018-2019 Late Woodland Des Plaines complex mortuary customs
 Research conducted with Thomas E. Emerson, Kristin M. Hedman, and Matthew A. Fort. My participation involved recreation of burial mound excavations, profiles, and artifact assemblages from the original

WPA/University of Chicago field notebooks, and analysis of those results. Results published in 2019 in the *Midcontinental Journal of Archaeology* 44(2):149-180.

2005-2017 Fisher phase ceramic variation

Expansion of master's thesis research. Involved the analysis of various Fisher phase ceramic assemblages located in multiple institutions, or in the hands of private collectors, in Illinois and Indiana. Research focused on temporal and regional variations within and between Fisher phase ceramic assemblages. Results summarized in 2017 in *Illinois Archaeology* 29:253-286.

2004-2007 Master's thesis research

Analysis of the entire Fisher Mounds and Village site ceramic assemblage, involving over 1,200 vessels and tens of thousands of sherds, focusing on the use of burial vessels. Collections located at ISAS in Champaign, IL; , the Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History in New Haven, CT; the University of Michigan Ceramic Repository in Ann Arbor; the Spurlock Museum in Urbana, IL.

Thesis completed December 2007.