

2023 Colorado Archaeological Society Annual Conference

Keynote Speaker



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Ancient Cities and LiDAR: Angamuco and the Development of Empire

At the time of European contact Mesoamerica was dominated by two Empires – the Aztec centered in the Basin of Mexico, and the Purépecha based within the Lake Pátzcuaro Basin, Michoacán, Mexico. In 2009, with the aid of airborne LiDAR technology I documented an archaeologically unknown city which we now called Angamuco that predated the formation of the Purépecha Empire. LiDAR, survey, and excavation at Angamuco has significantly changed perspectives on the development of complex polities in the region. In this talk I will be outlining major discoveries at Angamuco and discussing new models for the development of Empire in this critical region. I will also update developments on the Lost City of the Monkey God, William Shatner and curses, and the Earth Archive.

Dr. Christopher T. Fisher is an archaeologist, a professor of anthropology at Colorado State University, and the founder of the Earth Archive, which is focused on building a three-dimensional record of the entire planet. Dr. Fisher's research has centered on unraveling the complex set of social and environmental variables that resulted in the formation of the Purépecha Empire in Michoacán, Mexico. He and his team were the first to document the ancient city now called Angamuco and at a settlement in the Mosquitia region of Honduras in 2015, now called the City of the Jaguar, discovered a cache of artifacts - an expedition covered in a 2015 issue of National Geographic and the book *The Lost City of the Monkey God: A True Story*. His work appears in many edited volumes, such as *The Archaeology of Environmental Change*, journals such as the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* and the *American Anthropologist* and popular publications such as the *New Yorker*. Dr. Fisher has conducted fieldwork and directed projects in the United States, Mexico, Honduras, Portugal and Albania. In 2007, Dr. Fisher received the Gordon R. Willey Prize from the American Anthropological Association. He earned a BA from Michigan State University and an MA and PhD from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

