Stanford



Barbara L. Voss

Professor of Anthropology

Curriculum Vitae available Online

Bio

BIO

Dr. Barbara L. Voss is a Professor of Anthropology at Stanford University, where she is also affiliated with the Stanford Archaeology Center, the Center for Comparative Studies of Race and Ethnicity, the Program on Asian American Studies, the Program on Urban Studies, and the Program on Gender and Sexuality Studies.

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- Professor, Anthropology

ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS

- Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology, Stanford University, (2009- present)
- Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology, Stanford University, (2001-2009)
- Fellow, National Science Foundation, (1996-2001)
- Fellowship, William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, (1996-1999)

HONORS AND AWARDS

- California Preservation Foundation Design Award, California Preservation Foundation (2019)
- Paul E. Buchanan Award for Excellence in Field Work, Interpretation, and Public Service, Vernacular Architecture Forum (2018)
- Heinlein Award for Promotion and Preservation of Chinese American Culture, Chinese Historical and Cultural Project (2016)
- Faculty Research Fellow, Institute for Research in the Social Sciences (2016)
- Faculty Research Fellow, Stanford Humanities Center (2014-2015)
- Richard E. Guggenhime Faculty Scholar, Richard E. Guggenhime (2010-2013)
- Ruth Benedict Prize for The Archaeology of Ethnogenesis, University of California Press (2008)
- Gordon R. Willey prize for the best archaeological paper published in American Anthropologist, Gordon R. Willey (2008)
- Hellman Faculty Scholar, Stanford University Program on Urban Studies (2007)
- Robert Heizer Prize for Excellence in the Study of California Archaeology, Robert Heizer (2002)
- Ruth Benedict Prize for Archaeologies of Sexuality, Ruth Benedict (2000)
- Michelle Rosaldo Prize for Research in Feminist Anthropology, Stanford University (1987)
- Presidential Award for Academic Excellence, Stanford University (1986-1987)
- Boothe Prize for Outstanding Writing, Stanford University (1986)
- Office of Technology Licensing Research Incentive Awards, Technology Licensing Research (2003)

BOARDS, ADVISORY COMMITTEES, PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

- Associate Editor, University of Arizona, Archaeology of Colonialisms series (2015 - present)
- Editorial board member, International Journal of Historical Archaeology (2015 - present)
- Editorial Board Member, Journal of Community Archaeology and Heritage (2014 - present)
- Editorial board member, American Antiquity (2011 - 2018)
- Scholar's Panel, AAPI Heritage Theme Study, National Historic Landmarks Program, US Department of the Interior (2013 - 2018)
- Founding editorial board member, California Archaeology (2009 - present)
- Reviewer, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered, and Queer Heritage Theme Study, National Historic Landmarks Program, US Department of the Interior (2014 - 2018)
- Member, Association for Asian American Studies (2015 - present)
- Member, Society for California Archaeology (1992 - present)
- Member, Society for Historical Archaeology (1997 - present)
- Member, Society for American Archaeology (1992 - present)
- Member, American Anthropological Association (1995 - present)

PROGRAM AFFILIATIONS

- Center for Comparative Studies in Race and Ethnicity (CCSRE)
- Center for East Asian Studies
- Feminist, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

- Ph.D., University of California, Berkeley , Anthropology, with a Designated Emphasis in Women, Gender, and Sexuality (2002)
- M.A., University of California, Berkeley , Anthropology (1997)
- B.A., Stanford University , Anthropology (1988)

LINKS

- Market Street Chinatown Archaeology Project: http://marketstreet.stanford.edu/
- Chinese Railroad Workers in North America Project: http://web.stanford.edu/group/chineserailroad/cgi-bin/wordpress/
- Cangdong Village Project: https://cangdong.stanford.edu/
- Arboretum Chinese Labor Quarters Project: http://chineselaborquarters.stanford.edu/

Research & Scholarship

CURRENT RESEARCH AND SCHOLARLY INTERESTS

I am a historical archaeologist who studies the dynamics and outcomes of transnational cultural encounters: How did diverse groups of people, who previously had little knowledge of each other, navigate the challenges and opportunities of abrupt and sustained interactions caused by colonialism, conflict, and migration? I approach this question through fine-grained, site-specific investigations coupled with broad-scale comparative and collaborative research programs. My earlier work investigated Spanish colonization of the Americas, an area of research that I continue to be involved in. My current research focuses on 19th century migration from southern China, which I am investigating through four interrelated projects: (1) the Market Street Chinatown Archaeology Project (2002-present), a community-based research program developed to study and interpret the history and archaeology of San Jose’s first Chinese community; (2) the interdisciplinary Chinese Railroad Workers of North America Project (2012-present), for which I serve as Director of Archaeology; and (3) Research Cooperation on Home Cultures of 19th Century Overseas Chinese (2015-present), a collaboration with Wuyi

University to develop ethnohistoric and archaeological research on qiaoxiang (home villages) in Kaiping County, Guangdong; and (4) the Arboretum Chinese Labor Quarters Project (2018-present), a study of historic Chinese workers' residences on Stanford campus lands. Throughout, my research is guided by a deep commitment to public archaeology and collaborative research. Additionally, I continue to work to generate a productive dialogue between queer studies and archaeology, and to develop rigorous methodologies that support the study of sexuality and gender through archaeological evidence.

PROJECTS

- Historical and Archaeological Research on Qiaoxiang (Home Villages) of 19th Century Transpacific Migrants in the Kaiping Diaolou World Heritage Site, Guangdong, China - Stanford University
- Chinese Railroad Workers in North America Project - Stanford University
- Market Street Chinatown Archaeology Project - Stanford University
- Arboretum Chinese Labor Quaters Project - Stanford University

Teaching

COURSES

2026-27

- Archaeology of Colonialism/Postcolonialisms: ANTHRO 374 (Spr)
- Introduction to Archaeological Thought: ANTHRO 303 (Aut)

2025-26

- Archaeological Methods: ANTHRO 307 (Spr)
- Archaeologies of Hope: ANTHRO 329 (Aut)

2024-25

- Archaeological Methods: ANTHRO 307 (Spr)
- Archaeology of Colonialism/Postcolonialisms: ANTHRO 374 (Aut)
- Archaeology of Gender and Sexuality: ANTHRO 111, ARCHLGY 129, FEMGEN 119 (Win)

STANFORD ADVISEES

Doctoral Dissertation Reader (AC)

Gabriella Armstrong

Orals Chair

William Parish

Doctoral Dissertation Co-Advisor (AC)

Mercedes Martinez Milantchi

Doctoral (Program)

Jocelyn Lee, Mercedes Martinez Milantchi, Cecelia Morrow

Publications

PUBLICATIONS

- **Race and Racism in Archaeologies of Chinese American Communities** *ANNUAL REVIEW OF ANTHROPOLOGY*
  Fong, K. N., Ng, L. W., Lee, J., Peterson, V. L., Voss, B. L.
  2022; 51: 233-250

- **Disrupting Cultures of Harassment in Archaeology: Social-Environmental and Trauma-Informed Approaches to Disciplinary Transformation** *American Antiquity*
  Voss, B. L.
  2021: 1-18
- **THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF HOME: QIAOXIANG AND NONSTATE ACTORS IN THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE CHINESE DIASPORA** *AMERICAN ANTIQUITY*
  Voss, B. L., Kennedy, J., Tan, J., Ng, L. W.
  2018; 83 (3): 407–26
- **The Archaeology of Precarious Lives Chinese Railroad Workers in Nineteenth-Century North America** *CURRENT ANTHROPOLOGY*
  Voss, B. L.
  2018; 59 (3): 287–313
- **Pots across the Pacific: Tracing Transnational Chinese Migrant Foodways from Guangdong to California** *AMERICAN ANTIQUITY*
  Wang, J., Ng, L. W., Voss, B. L., Tan, J.
  2026
- **Against cultures of bullying in archaeology: Socio-environmental and trauma-informed approaches to disciplinary transformation** *LATIN AMERICAN ANTIQUITY*
  Voss, B. L.
  2022; 33 (1): 1-19
- **Documentation of harassment cultures in archaeology: Review and analysis of quantitative and qualitative research studies** *LATIN AMERICAN ANTIQUITY*
  Voss, B. L.
  2021; 32 (4): 671-688
- **Documenting Cultures of Harassment in Archaeology: A Review and Analysis of Quantitative and Qualitative Research Studies** *American Antiquity*
  Voss, B. L.
  2021: 1-17
- **Interethnic Relationships in 19th-Century Chinatowns: New Perspectives from Archaeological Research and Missionary Women's Writings** *Chinese Diaspora Archaeology in North America*
  edited by Kennedy, J. R., Rose, C.
  University Press of Florida.2020: 109–138
- **THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF SERIOUS GAMES: PLAY AND PRAGMATISM IN VICTORIAN-ERA DINING** *AMERICAN ANTIQUITY*
  Voss, B. L.
  2019; 84 (1): 26–47
- **Living between Misery and Triumph: The Material Practices of Chinese Railroad Workers in North America** *The Chinese and the Iron Road: Building the Transcontinental Railroad*
  edited by Chang, G. H., Fishkin, S. F.
  Stanford University Press.2019: 110–125
- **Archaeological Contributions to Interdisciplinary Research on Chinese Railroad Workers in North America** *The Chinese and the Iron Road: Building the Transcontinental Railroad*
  edited by Chang, G. H., Fishkin, S. F.
  Stanford University Press.2019: 103–109
- **Archaeology Is Not Enough: Witnessing the Labor of Heritage Stakeholders** *American Anthropologist*
  Voss, B. L.
  2018; 120 (3): 539–540
- **Interview with Barbara Voss, Gender Issues/Barbara Voss Interview to Specialists in Gender Archaeology in Brazil** *Habitus*
  Voss, B. L.
  2018; 16 (1): 187-223

- **'Every Element of Womanhood with which to Make Life a Curse or Blessing': Missionary Women's Accounts of Chinese American Women's Lives in Nineteenth-Century Pre-Exclusion California** *Journal of Asian American Studies*
  Voss, B. L.
  2018; 21 (1): 105-134
- **Commentary on Hauser, "A Political Ecology of Water and Enslavement"** *Current Anthropology*
  Voss, B. L.
  2017; 58 (2): 250
- **Archaeological Contributions to Interdisciplinary Research on Chinese Railroad Workers in North America** *Representing Chinese Railroad Workers in North America*
  Voss, B. L.
  Bookman.2017: 97–128
- **Native Californians at the Presidio of San Francisco: Analysis of Lithic Specimens from El Polin Spring** *INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGY*
  Hull, K. L., Voss, B. L.
  2016; 20 (2): 264-288
- **Towards a Transpacific Archaeology of the Modern World** *INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGY*
  Voss, B. L.
  2016; 20 (1): 146-174
- **WHAT'S NEW? RETHINKING ETHNOGENESIS IN THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF COLONIALISM** *AMERICAN ANTIQUITY*
  Voss, B. L.
  2015; 80 (4): 655-670
- **Carving Chopsticks, Building Home: Wood Artifacts from the Market Street Chinatown in San Jose, California** *INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGY*
  Seiter, J. I., Worthington, M. J., Voss, B. L., Kane, M. S.
  2015; 19 (3): 664-685
- **Stone Drugs and Calamine Lotion: Chemical Analysis of Residue in Nineteenth-Century Glass Bottles, Market Street Chinatown, San Jose, California** *CALIFORNIA ARCHAEOLOGY*
  Voss, B. L., von Wandruszka, R., Fink, A., Summer, T., Harman, S., Shapovalov, A., Kane, M. S., De Loney, M., Acebo, N.
  2015; 7 (1): 93–118
- **The Historical Experience of Labor: Archaeological Contributions to Interdisciplinary Research on Chinese Railroad Workers** *HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGY*
  Voss, B. L.
  2015; 49 (1): 4–23
- **Narratives of Colonialism, Grand and Not So Grand: A Critical Reflection on the Archaeology of the Spanish and Portuguese Americas** *Archaeology of Culture Contact and Colonialism in Spanish and Portuguese America*
  Voss, B. L.
  Springer, Cham.2015
- **The Archaeology of Ethnogenesis: Race and Sexuality in Colonial San Francisco**
  Voss, B. L.
  University Press of Florida.2015
- **Review of There Was a Chinatown Here: Objects and Stories from Downtown San Jose** *Journal of Community Archaeology and Heritage*
  Voss, B. L.
  2015; 2 (1): 80-81
- **Fan and Tsai: Intracommunity Variation in Plant-Based Food Consumption at the Market Street Chinatown, San Jose, California** *HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGY*
  Cummings, L. S., Voss, B. L., Yu, C. Y., Kovacik, P., Puseman, K., Yost, C., Kennedy, R., Kane, M. S.
  2014; 48 (2): 143-172

- **Losa Surtida: Historical and Archaeological Perspectives on Imported Ceramics in Alta California** *Recovering a Legacy: The Ceramics of Alta California*
  Voss, B. L.
  University Press of Florida.2014: 283–300
- **The Archaeology of Chinese Railroad Workers in North America** *International Symposium on the North American Chinese Laborers and Guangdong Qiaoxiang Society*
  Voss, B. L.
  2014
- **Lightfoot, Kent G.** *Encyclopedia of Global Archaeology*
  Voss, B. L.
  Springer Reference.2014: 4510–4513
- **Market Street Chinatown Archaeology Project** *Chinese America: History & Perspectives*
  Voss, B. L., Wong Kwock, A., Young Yu, C., Gong-Guy, L., Bray, A., Kane, M. S.
  2013: 63-74
- **Curation as research. A case study in orphaned and underreported archaeological collections** *ARCHAEOLOGICAL DIALOGUES*
  Voss, B. L.
  2012; 19 (2): 145-169
- **Status and Ceramics in Spanish Colonial Archaeology** *HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGY*
  Voss, B. L.
  2012; 46 (2): 39-54
- **A Land of Ethnogenesis: Material Culture, Power, and Identity**
  Voss, B. L.
  edited by Jones, T. L., Perry, J. E.
  ROUTLEDGE.2012: 303-318
- **Intimate encounters: an archaeology of sexualities within colonial worlds** *The Archaeology of Colonialism: Intimate Encounters and Sexual Effects*
  Voss, B. L.
  edited by Casella, E. C.
  Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.2012: 1–10
- **Sexual effects: postcolonial and queer perspectives on the archaeology of sexuality and empire** *The Archaeology of Colonialism: Intimate Encounters and Sexual Effects*
  Voss, B. L.
  Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.2012: 11–30
- **The scale of the intimate: imperial policies and sexual practices in San Francisco.** *The Archaeology of Colonialism: Intimate Encounters and Sexual Effects*
  edited by Voss, B. L.
  Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.2012: 173–193
- **A land of ethnogenesis: material culture, power, and identity** *Contemporary Issues in California Archaeology*
  Voss, B. L.
  edited by Jones, T. L., Perry , J. E.
  Left Coast Press, Walnut Creek CA.2012: 303–318
- **Re-establishing context for orphaned collections: a case study from the Market Street Chinatown, San Jose, California** *Collections: A Journal for Museum and Archives Professionals*
  Voss, B. L., Kane, M. S.
  2012; 8 (2): 87-112
- **The Archaeology of Colonialism: Intimate Encounters and Sexual Effects**
  edited by Voss, B. L., Casella, E. C.

Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.2012

- **The Seneca Restoration, 1715-1754: An Iroquois Local Political Economy. (Book Review)** *ETHNOHISTORY*
  Book Review Authored by: Voss, B. L.
  2010; 57 (3): 485-486

- **Matter Out of Time: The Paradox of the "Contemporary Past"** *ARCHAEOLOGIES-JOURNAL OF THE WORLD ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONGRESS*
  Voss, B. L.
  2010; 6 (1): 181-192

- **Domesticating imperialism: sexual politics and the archaeology of empire** *In Contemporary Archaeology in Theory*
  Voss, B. L.
  edited by Preucel, R. W., Mrozowski, S. A.
  Wiley-Blackwell, Oxford.2010: 191–203

- **Guide to ceramic MNV calculation quantitative and quantitative analysis** *Technical Briefs in Historical Archaeology*
  Voss, B. L., Allen, R.
  2010; 5: 1-9

- **The archaeology of indigenous heritage at Spanish-colonial military settlements** *Enduring Conquests: Rethinking the Archaeology of Resistance to Spanish Colonialism in the Americas*
  Voss, B. L.
  edited by Leibmann, M., Murphy, M. S.
  School for Advanced Research, Santa Fe, NM..2010: 243–265

- **Ancient Bodies, Ancient Lives: Sex, Gender, and Archaeology (Book Review)** *AMERICAN ANTIQUITY*
  Book Review Authored by: Voss, B. L.
  2009; 74 (3): 583-584

- **Looking for gender, finding sexuality: a queer politic of archaeology, fifteen years later** *In Que(e)rying Archaeology: Proceedings of the 37th Annual Chacmool Archaeological Conference*
  Voss, B. L.
  edited by Terendy, S., Lyons, N., Janse-Smekal, M.
  2009: 29–39

- **Presidio de San Francisco Park, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, San Francisco, California: Native, Spanish, and Mexican period archaeology** *Archaeology in American: An Encyclopedia*
  Blind, E. B., Osborn, S. K., Voss, B. L., Clevenger, L. N.
  edited by Lightfoot, K. G.
  Greenwood Publishing Corp, Westport, Connecticut.2009

- **Gender, Race, and Labor in the Archaeology of the Spanish Colonial Americas** *CURRENT ANTHROPOLOGY*
  Voss, B. L.
  2008; 49 (5): 861-893

- **'Poor people in silk shirts' - Dress and ethnogenesis in Spanish-colonial San Francisco** *JOURNAL OF SOCIAL ARCHAEOLOGY*
  Voss, B. L.
  2008; 8 (3): 404-432

- **Domesticating imperialism: Sexual politics and the archaeology of empire** *AMERICAN ANTHROPOLOGIST*
  Voss, B. L.
  2008; 110 (2): 191-203

- **Sexuality Studies in Archaeology** *ANNUAL REVIEW OF ANTHROPOLOGY*
  Voss, B. L.
  2008; 37: 317-336

- **The archaeology of Chinese immigrant and Chinese American communities** *HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGY*
  Williams, B., Voss, B. L.

2008; 42 (3): 1-4

- **The Archaeology of Ethnogenesis: Race and Sexuality in Colonial San Francisco**
  Voss, B. L.
  University of California Press, Berkeley.2008
- **Las politicas sexuales de imperio en las Americas Espafiolas: perspectivas arqueol6gicas del San Francisco colonial** *Cuadernos de Arqueologia Mediterranea*
  Voss, B. L.
  2008; 17: 31-52
- **The archaeology of Chinese immigrant and Chinese American communities** *Thematic issue of Historical Archaeology*
  Voss, B. L., Williams, B.
  2008; 42 (3)
- **Overseas Chinese archaeology: Historical foundations, current reflections, and new directions** *HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGY*
  Voss, B. L., Allen, R.
  2008; 42 (3): 5-28
- **Between the household and the world system: Social collectivity and community agency in Overseas Chinese archaeology** *HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGY*
  Voss, B. L.
  2008; 42 (3): 37-52
- **Image, text, object: Interpreting documents and artifacts as 'labors of representation'** *HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGY*
  Voss, B. L.
  2007; 41 (4): 147-171
- **Sexuality in archaeology** *Identity and Subsistence: Gender Strategies for Archaeology*
  Voss, B. L.
  edited by Nelson, S. M.
  AltaMira Press, Lanham MD.2007: 33–68
- **Feminisms, queer theories, and the archaeological study of past sexualities** *In The Archaeology of Identities*
  Voss, B. L.
  edited by Insoll, T.
  Routledge, London..2007: 124–136
- **Sexuality in archaeology** *The Handbook of Gender in Archaeology*
  Voss, B. L.
  edited by Nelson, S. M.
  AltaMira Press, Lanham MD.2006: 365–400
- **Engendered archaeology: men, women, and others** *Historical Archaeology*
  Voss, B. L.
  edited by Hall, M., Silliman, S.
  Blackwell Publishing, London.2006: 107–127
- **The archaeology of Overseas Chinese communities** *WORLD ARCHAEOLOGY*
  VOSS, B. L.
  2005; 37 (3): 424-439
- **From Casta to Californio: Social identity and the archaeology of culture contact** *AMERICAN ANTHROPOLOGIST*
  VOSS, B. L.
  2005; 107 (3): 461-474
- **Feminisms, queer theories, and the archaeological study of past sexualities** *In Same Sex Cultures and Sexualities: An Anthropological Reader*
  Voss, B. L.
  edited by Robertson, J.
  Blackwell Publishing.2005: 48–59

- **Sexual Subjects Identity and Taxonomy in Archaeological Research** *ARCHAEOLOGY OF PLURAL AND CHANGING IDENTITIES: BEYOND INDENTIFICATION*
  Voss, B. L.
  edited by Casella, E. C., Fowler, C.
  2005: 55-77
- **Sexual subjects: identity and taxonomy in archaeological research** *The Archaeology of Plural and Changing Identities*
  Voss, B. L.
  edited by Casella, E. C., Fowler, C.
  Kulwer Academic/Plenum Publishers, New York.2005: 55–78
- **El Presidio de San Francisco: At the edge of empire** *Symposium on Presidios of the North American Spanish Borderlands held at the Annual Conference of the Society-for-Historical-Archaeology*
  Blind, E. B., VOSS, B. L., Osborn, S. K., Barker, L. R.
  SOC HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGY.2004: 135–49
- **The Market Street Chinatown Archaeological Project: applied research in the university classroom**
  Voss, B. L.
  2004: 209–12
- **Culture contact at El Presidio de San Francisco: The Tennessee Hollow Watershed Archaeology Project** *Society for California Archaeology Newsletter*
  Voss, B. L.
  2004; 38 (1): 29-33
- **Culture contact and colonial practices: archaeological traces of daily life in early San Francisco** *Boletin: The Journal of the California Mission Studies Association*
  Voss, B. L.
  2003; 20 (1): 63-77
- **Documenting life at the edge of the Spanish empire** *Noticias de Anza*
  Voss, B. L.
  2003; 22: 1-3
- **Feminisms, queer theories, and the archaeological study of past sexualities** *WORLD ARCHAEOLOGY*
  VOSS, B. L.
  2000; 32 (2): 180-192
- **Colonial Sex: Archaeology, Structured Space, and Sexuality in Alta California's Spanish-Colonial Missions** *Archaeologies of Sexuality*
  edited by Voss, B. L., Schmidt, R. A.
  2000: 35–61
- **Archaeologies of Sexuality**
  edited by Schmidt, R. A., Voss, B. L.
  Routledge, London.2000
- **Archaeologies of Sexuality: An Introduction** *Archaeologies of Sexualit*
  edited by Voss, B. L., Schmidt, R. A.
  2000: 1–32
- **History, the family, and household archaeologies** *Proceedings of the 30th Annual Chacmool Archaelogical Conference*
  Voss, B. L.
  edited by Boyd, M., Erwin, J. C., Hendrickson, M.
  2000: 292–301
- **Geophysical remote sensing of Spanish-colonial archaeological remains: Presidio de San Francisco**
  Cross, G., Voss, B. L.
  1996: 330–36

- **From presidio to post: recent archaeological discoveries of the Spanish, Mexican, and American periods at the Presidio of San Francisco**
  Voss, B. L.
  1996: 278–83