

**Washington State University
Department of Anthropology
2009 Lipe Visiting Scholar**



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Legacies of Collaboration: Archaeology in Transition

Archaeology is a discipline in transition. There's nothing new about this, but at this juncture the major pressures for change arise from demands for accountability: to descendant communities, government agencies, and a growing range of public stakeholders who are largely external to archaeology. Debate about these challenges reflects deep-seated anxieties about the costs of response to them: research opportunities lost, credibility eroded, professional autonomy compromised by legal constraints and by intractable conflicts among stakeholders. I focus on what becomes possible, what is to be gained, when practice is reconceptualized as a form of intellectual and cultural collaboration. The archaeologists involved in these partnerships describe a number of ways in which their research has been enriched, empirically and conceptually, by extra-disciplinary collaborations. While moral and legal commitments are often the primary motivation for collaborative practice, I argue that the impact of and justification for such practice is as much epistemic as normative

WHEN: Friday November 13, 2009

TIME: 4:00 - 5:30pm

WHERE: Todd Hall, room 276