

A FOREST OF CONFLICT

The Rainforest, Warfare, and Relational Archaeology at Tzunun, Chiapas, Mexico

A Presentation by Christopher Hernandez, Ph.D.

Sponsored by the South Suburban Archaeological Society, a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization; labor donated



Tzunun is a Late Postclassic/Early Spanish Colonial Period (AD 1200-1697) fortified Maya community that has been under collaborative investigation as part of the Mensabak Archaeological Project. This project partners with contemporary Mayas to understand social life at Tzunun and within the broader region. The research demonstrates the Hach Winik (aka

Lacandon Maya) concept of *k'ax* – a relational conception of the cosmos that includes the rainforest– is key to understanding processes of fortification and war-making among the ancient Maya. A diversity of actors and persons, including the forest itself, were involved in the conduct of war. *K'ax* both complements and challenges contemporary archaeological concepts, and questions both the primacy of Western ways of knowing and common assumptions about the cosmos.

Christopher Hernandez is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Anthropology at Loyola University Chicago. As an anthropological archaeologist his research focuses on issues of archaeological ethics, the application of community-based methods, relational philosophy, and understanding social conflict in long-term perspective. He investigates how the process of making war shaped landscapes in the Mensabak region of Chiapas, Mexico.



Christopher Hernandez

Thursday, May 16, 2024, at 7:30 PM

Marie Irwin Community Center* • 18120 Highland Avenue, Homewood, Illinois

For more information call 773-268-6705 or visit <http://southsuburbanarchsociety.weebly.com>

*ADA-accessible

All are invited to attend this free lecture