

Christa M. Beranek

Fiske Center for Archaeological Research
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Research Interests

Historical and anthropological archaeology of the Atlantic World, vernacular architecture and the social use of space, personal identity and the history of the individual.

EDUCATION

- Ph.D. Department of Archaeology, Boston University, Boston, MA, January 2007
Dissertation: Merchants, Gentry, Farmers, and Brokers: Archaeology of the Complex Identities of the Tyng Family of Dunstable, Massachusetts, in the Eighteenth Century.
- B.A. Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, 1998
Concentration: Egypt and the Ancient Near East; Minor: History of Art

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Fiske Center for Archaeological Research, University of Massachusetts Boston
Research Archaeologist, June 2008–present

***Journal of Field Archaeology*, Boston University, Boston, MA**
Interim Managing Editor, August 2007–May 2008; Fellow and Demi-Fellow, 2003–2006

Massachusetts Historical Commission, Boston, MA
GIS Intern, 2002–2003; Archaeological Collections Assistant, 2000–2002

PRIMARY RESEARCH PROJECTS

Project 400: The Plymouth Colony Archaeological Survey

With Dr. David B. Landon, Project Director. A program of site survey, excavation, collections analysis, and public outreach focused on bringing a scholarly perspective to the 400th anniversary of New England's first permanent English settlement in 1620, the founding of Plymouth Colony. Grant support from the Massachusetts Historical Commission, the University of Massachusetts Boston, and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Survey and Excavation at Gore Place, Waltham, Massachusetts

Multiple seasons of survey and excavation at the historic estate of Christopher and Rebecca Gore to interpret the property's agricultural and formal landscape and the role of agriculture and horticulture in the Gores' self presentation, including extensive excavations of the 1806 greenhouse and surrounding enclosure. Sponsored by the Gore Place Society.

Research at Household Sites in New England

In addition to the long-term projects described above, I carry out targeted research at historic houses in New England, usually in partnership with a historical society that preserves and interprets the house. These projects involve preservation planning, public interpretation, site-based research, and archaeological mitigation.

Resulting products have included technical reports, published articles, M.A. theses, material for visitor interpretation, and a museum exhibit. Sample project partners: The Lexington Historical Society, Historic Newton, Columbia County Historical Society.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Massachusetts Boston, Department of Anthropology, Boston, MA
Summer 2013, 2014, 2015

ANTH485/685 Field Research in Archaeology, co-instructor with David Landon.
Excavation and geophysical survey on Burial Hill, Plymouth, Massachusetts.

Summer 2012

ANTH 685 Field Research in Archaeology, co-instructor with David Landon.
Excavation and geophysical survey at Gore Place, Waltham, Massachusetts.

Fall 2011, 2014; Spring 2016 (scheduled)

ANTH 635 Material Life in New England; a graduate seminar covering material culture and vernacular architecture in New England from the early 17th to mid-19th century.

Boston University, College of Arts and Sciences Writing Program, Boston, MA

Lecturer, Spring and Fall 2007; Graduate Writing Fellow, Fall 2006

Taught interdisciplinary research and writing seminars using texts from archaeology, history, and cultural geography.

Boston University, Department of Archaeology, Boston, MA

Instructor, Summer 2005 and 2006

Course: Great Discoveries in Archaeology; an archaeological survey covering human evolution, the origins of agriculture, and the development of complex societies and empires in the Old and New Worlds.

GRADUATE ADVISING

Member of the Graduate Committee for the M.A. Program in Historical Archaeology, Anthropology Department, 2010-present

Committee Chair for 5 completed M.A. theses; **Committee Member** for 13 completed M.A. theses.

PUBLICATIONS

2012 "Ethnicity, Masculinity, and Lineage: The Cultural Biography of a Colonial Massachusetts Parcel of Land," *Historical Archaeology* 46 (2): 75–90. (peer reviewed)

2011 "Planting Pots from Gore Place, Waltham, Massachusetts," in Robert Hunter, ed., *Ceramics in America*. Hanover: Chipstone Foundation/ University Press of New England, 180-184. Christa M. Beranek and Rita A. DeForest.

2011 *Dwelling: Transforming Narratives at Historic House Museums*. Thematic issue of the *International Journal of Heritage Studies* 17 (2), Christina J. Hodge and Christa M. Beranek, guest editors.

- 2011 “Dwelling: Transforming Narratives at Historic House Museums,” *International Journal of Heritage Studies* 17 (2): 97–101. Christina J. Hodge and Christa M. Beranek. (peer reviewed)
- 2011 “Founding Narratives: Revolutionary Stories at Historic Houses,” *International Journal of Heritage Studies* 17 (2): 102–115. (peer reviewed)
- 2009 “Growing Things ‘Rare, Foreign, and Tender’: The Early 19th-Century Greenhouse at Gore Place, Waltham, Massachusetts,” *Northeast Historical Archaeology* 38: 70-99. Christa M. Beranek, J. N. Leith Smith, John M. Steinberg, and Michelle G. S. Garman. (peer reviewed; published in 2012)
- 2009 “Beyond Consumption: Social Relationships, Material Culture, and Identity,” in Carolyn L. White, ed., *The Materiality of Individuality: Archaeological Studies of Individual Lives*. New York: Springer, 163–183.
- 2004 “The Social and Material Lives of the Agricultural Elite: The 18th-Century Tyngs of Dunstable, Massachusetts,” *Northeast Historical Archaeology* 33: 1–12. (peer reviewed)
- 2001 “African Americans in Early Boston,” in *Highway to the Past: The Archaeology of Boston’s Big Dig*, ed. by Ann-Eliza H. Lewis. Published by William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth, MA.

REPORTS

- 2015 Beranek, Christa M., Justin Warrenfeltz, Richie Roy, and David B. Landon. Project 400: The Plymouth Colony Archaeological Survey, Report on the 2014 Field Season, Burial Hill, Plymouth, Massachusetts. Andrew Fiske Memorial Center for Archaeological Research Cultural Resource Management Study No. 70.
- 2014 Landon, David B., and Christa M. Beranek, editors. Plymouth Colony Archaeological Reconnaissance Survey. Andrew Fiske Memorial Center for Archaeological Research Cultural Resource Management Study No. 67.
- 2014 Romo, Sean, and Christa Beranek. The 1806 Greenhouse at Gore Place, Waltham, Massachusetts. Andrew Fiske Memorial Center for Archaeological Research Cultural Resource Management Study No. 66.
- 2014 Beranek, Christa M., Hannah Desmarais, Tyler Kyrola, and David Landon. Spring Street Archaeological Survey, Plymouth, Massachusetts. Andrew Fiske Memorial Center for Archaeological Research Cultural Resource Management Study No. 65.
- 2013 Beranek, Christa M. Site Examination of the Durant-Kenrick House, Newton, Massachusetts. Andrew Fiske Memorial Center for Archaeological Research Cultural Resource Management Study No. 63.
- 2013 Santoro, Linda, and Christa M. Beranek. Archaeological Investigations of the Rear Ell and Terrace at the Munroe Tavern, Lexington, Massachusetts. Andrew Fiske Memorial Center for Archaeological Research Cultural Resource Management Study No. 55.

- 2012 Beranek, Christa M., and John M. Steinberg. Archaeological and Geophysical Investigations at the James Vanderpoel House, Kinderhook, New York. Andrew Fiske Memorial Center for Archaeological Research Cultural Resource Management Study No. 48.
- 2011 Beranek, Christa M., J. N. Leith Smith, and John M. Steinberg. Data Recovery for the Carriage House, Greenhouse, and Greenhouse/Carriage House Well at Gore Place, Waltham, Massachusetts. Andrew Fiske Memorial Center for Archaeological Research Cultural Resource Management Study No. 45.
- 2010 Steinberg, John, Christa M. Beranek, John Schoenfelder, and Kathryn A. Catlin. Loring-Greenough House North Yard Archaeogeophysics, Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts. Andrew Fiske Memorial Center for Archaeological Research Cultural Resource Management Study No. 40.
- 2010 Johnson, Katharine M., and Christa M. Beranek. Documentary Research and Archaeological Investigations at the Waite-Kirby-Potter Site, Westport, Massachusetts. Andrew Fiske Memorial Center for Archaeological Research Cultural Resource Management Study No. 37.
- 2010 Smith, Leith, Christa M. Beranek, and John Steinberg. Archaeological Site Examination of the Field East of the Grapery/Greenhouse, Drive Circle, Straight Walk, and South Lawn at Gore Place, Waltham, Massachusetts. Andrew Fiske Memorial Center for Archaeological Research Cultural Resource Management Study No. 36.
- 2009 Beranek, Christa M., and Katie L. Kosack, with contributions by Sarah Stephens. Collections Inventory of the Roland Robbins Archaeological Collections from the Hancock-Clarke House, Lexington, Massachusetts. Andrew Fiske Memorial Center for Archaeological Research, Cultural Resource Management Study No. 34.
- 2008 Beranek, Christa M., with contributions by Thomas P. Mailhot. Site Examination of the Col. James Barrett Farm Property, Concord, Massachusetts. Andrew Fiske Memorial Center for Archaeological Research, Cultural Resource Management Study No. 25b.

RECENT CONFERENCE PAPERS AND ACTIVITIES

- 2014 Beranek, Christa M., John M. Steinberg, Karin J. Goldstein, Kellie Bowers, Jerry S. Warner, and David B. Landon. "Project 400: Plymouth Colony Archaeological Survey." Poster presented at the Society for Historical Archaeology Conference, Quebec City, Canada.
- 2012 Beranek, Christa M. and Katie Kosack. "Masculinity, Profession, and Gentility: The Rev. John Hancock and his Construction of Self." Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Council for Northeast Historical Archaeology, St. John's (Newfoundland), Canada.
- 2012 "Oranges and Lemons in Perfection: Scientific and Social Aspects of the Gore Place Greenhouse in Early 19th-Century Massachusetts." Presented at the Society for Historical Archaeology Conference, Baltimore, MD.

- 2011 “Crossing the Threshold: Public Narratives from Personal Sites.” Presented at the Contemporary and Historical Archaeology in Theory (CHAT) Conference, Boston, MA.
- 2010 Beranek, Christa M., and J. N. Leith Smith. “Growing ‘things rare, foreign, and tender’: The Early 19th-Century Greenhouse at Gore Place, Waltham, Massachusetts.” Presented at the Society for Historical Archaeology Conference, Amelia Island, FL.
- 2009 Steinberg, John M., Christa M. Beranek, and J. N. Leith Smith, “Recursive Use of GPR, Excavation, and Historical Maps at Gore Place, Waltham, Massachusetts.” Poster presented at the Annual Meeting of the Council for Northeast Historical Archaeology, Quebec City, Canada.
- 2009 Smith, J. N. Leith, and Christa M. Beranek, “My Farm and Garden Look as Well as They Ever Did”: Scientific Agriculture and Landscape Transformation at the Estate of Christopher and Rebecca Gore, Waltham, Massachusetts. Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Council for Northeast Historical Archaeology, Quebec City, Canada.
- 2009 “Founding Narratives: Revolutionary Stories at Historic Houses.” Presented at the Theoretical Archaeology Group Meeting, Stanford, CA.
- 2009 Co-chair of the session “Theorized Dwelling: Archaeology at Historic Homes,” Theoretical Archaeology Group Meeting, Stanford, CA, with Christina J. Hodge.
- 2008 Hodge, Christina J., and Christa M. Beranek, “Public Archaeology at Historic House Sites.” Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Council for Northeast Historical Archaeology, St. Mary’s City, MD.
- 2006 “Personal Devotions, Atlantic Contexts: Interpreting Catholic Religious Artifacts from 17th-Century St. Mary’s City, Maryland.” Presented at the International Seminar on the History of the Atlantic World, 1500–1825, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

2011-present Book review editor, *Northeast Historical Archaeology*.

2009-present Board Member, Council for Northeast Historical Archaeology.