

## **Christa M. Beranek**

Fiske Center for Archaeological Research  
University of Massachusetts Boston  
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### **Research Interests**

Historical and anthropological archaeology of the Atlantic World, urban archaeology, vernacular architecture and the social use of space, legacy collections management and research, 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–Dec. 2016; Research Scientist, Jan. 2017–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**

#### **Sylvester Manor-UMass Boston Higher Education Partnership**

With the Sylvester Manor Educational Farm, Shelter Island, NY, funded by the Mellon Foundation. A larger group research and collections management project focusing on making the legacy collection data accessible and conducting new research to interpret three centuries of history at the Manor.

#### **Jeremiah Lee Mansion and Brick Kitchen Archaeological Survey**

With the Marblehead Museum. Geophysical survey (directed by John M. Steinberg) and archaeological excavations to uncover more information about the residents of this property, from the early 18<sup>th</sup> century onward, with a focus on learning more about the lives and experiences of the people enslaved by the Lee family.

#### **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 400<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Digitizing Plimoth Patuxet's 17<sup>th</sup>-Century Archaeology Collections**

With Plimoth Patuxet Museums. An initiative to create uniform and accessible digital catalogs for four 17<sup>th</sup>-century archaeological collections and the associated files. Grant support from 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. Sponsored by the Gore Place Society.

**Research at Household Sites in New England**

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. Products include technical reports, published articles, M.A. theses, museum exhibits, social media content, and material for visitor interpretation. Sample project partners: The Lexington Historical Society, Historic Newton, Columbia County (NY) Historical Society.

**PUBLICATIONS**

- in press "Reinterpreting the Early Settlement of the Plymouth Colony: The View from Burial Hill," *Northeast Historical Archaeology*. David B. Landon and Christa M. Beranek.
- 2025 "Recognizing Indigenous Persistence by Dating Extensive Low-density Indigenous Occupations across the AD 1480-1630 Radiocarbon Plateau in Wellfleet, Massachusetts," *American Antiquity* 90(2): 307-327. Christa M. Beranek, Stephen A. Mrozowski, John M. Steinberg, and Dennis V. Piechota.
- 2022 "Archeology at an Urban Scale," review essay. *Journal of Urban History* 49(4): 922-928. DOI: 10.1177/00961442221100745
- 2016 "Revisiting the Archaeology of the Pilgrims: The Plymouth Colony Archaeological Survey," *Mayflower Journal* 1 (1): 13-40. David B. Landon and Christa M. Beranek.
- 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 19<sup>th</sup>-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 18<sup>th</sup>-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

- 2025 Christa M. Beranek and John M. Steinberg. The Formal Garden and Fruit Wall: 2019, 2021, and 2022 Field Seasons at Gore Place, Waltham, Massachusetts. Andrew Fiske Memorial Center for Archaeological Research, University of Massachusetts Boston, Cultural Resource Management Study No. 94.
- 2024 Christa M. Beranek and David B. Landon, editors. Project 400: The Plymouth Colony Archaeological Survey, Report on the 2019 and 2021 Field Seasons, Burial Hill and Carver Street, Plymouth, Massachusetts. Andrew Fiske Memorial Center for Archaeological Research, University of Massachusetts Boston, Cultural Resource Management Study No. 92.
- 2024 Christa M. Beranek, John M. Steinberg, and Carolyn P. Mikowski. Geophysical Survey and Archaeological Investigations at the Jeremiah Lee Mansion and Brick Kitchen, 2022, Marblehead, Massachusetts. Andrew Fiske Memorial Center for Archaeological Research, University of Massachusetts Boston, Cultural Resource Management Study No. 91.
- 2024 Katherine Reinhart, Christa M. Beranek, and David B. Landon, eds. Report on 2021 Site Examination and Limited Data Recovery at Remembrance Park, Cole’s Hill, Plymouth, Massachusetts. Andrew Fiske Memorial Center for Archaeological Research, University of Massachusetts Boston, Cultural Resource Management Study No. 90.
- 2022 John M. Steinberg, Christa M. Beranek, Stephen A. Mrozowski, and Dennis V. Piechota. Inventorying and Monitoring Endangered Sites, Cape Cod National Seashore, Wellfleet, MA. Fiske Center for Archaeological Research, University of Massachusetts Boston, Cultural Resource Management Study No. 87.

- 2021 Elizabeth G. Tarulis and Christa M. Beranek. Documentary Research and Archaeological Investigations at the Turner House, Pembroke, Massachusetts. Fiske Center for Archaeological Research, University of Massachusetts Boston, Cultural Resource Management Study No. 86.
- 2020 Christa M. Beranek, Megan Sheehan, and Nicholas Zeitlin. Archaeological Investigations at the Old Manse, 2018-2019, Concord, Massachusetts. University of Massachusetts Boston, Andrew Fiske Memorial Center for Archaeological Research Cultural Resource Management Study No. 84.
- 2019 Christa M. Beranek, Elizabeth Tarulis, Erica Lang, Katherine Albert, and David B. Landon. Project 400: The Plymouth Colony Archaeological Survey, Report on the 2018 Field Season. Brewster Gardens and Burial Hill, Plymouth, Massachusetts. University of Massachusetts Boston, Andrew Fiske Memorial Center for Archaeological Research Cultural Resource Management Study No. 83.
- 2018 Christa M. Beranek, Alexandra Crowder, and David B. Landon, editors. Project 400: The Plymouth Colony Archaeological Survey Report on the 2017 Field Season. Mayflower Society Lot, Brewster Garden, and Burial Hill, Plymouth, Massachusetts. University of Massachusetts Boston Andrew Fiske Memorial Center for Archaeological Research Cultural Resource Management Study No. 82.
- 2018 Alexandra Crowder, John Steinberg, Brian Damiata, and Christa M. Beranek. Archaeological Investigations at The Old Manse, 2016-2017, Concord, Massachusetts. Andrew Fiske Memorial Center for Archaeological Research Cultural Resource Management Study No. 80.
- 2017 Christa M. Beranek, David B. Landon, John M. Steinberg, and Brian Damiata, editors, Project 400: The Plymouth Colony Archaeological Survey Report on the 2016 Field Season, Cole's Hill, Brewster Garden, and Burial Hill, Plymouth, Massachusetts. Andrew Fiske Memorial Center for Archaeological Research Cultural Resource Management Study No. 77.
- 2016 Christa M. Beranek, David B. Landon, John M. Steinberg, and Brian Damiata, editors, Project 400: The Plymouth Colony Archaeological Survey Report on the 2015 Field Season, Burial Hill, Plymouth, Massachusetts. Andrew Fiske Memorial Center for Archaeological Research Cultural Resource Management Study No. 75.
- 2016 Christa M. Beranek and Alexandra U. Crowder, Archaeological Investigations of the Drive Circle and West Hyphen at Gore Place, Waltham, Massachusetts. Andrew Fiske Memorial Center for Archaeological Research Cultural Resource Management Study No. 74
- 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.

#### **SPONSORED RESEARCH**

- 2024 Principal Investigator, Archaeology at the Babson-Alling House Outbuilding, Gloucester, MA. Cape Ann Museum. Total funding \$9724.
- 2023 Project member, Sylvester Manor Collections and Archaeology. Mellon Foundation through Sylvester Manor Educational Farm. Total funding: \$382,195.
- 2022 Principal Investigator, Jeremiah Lee Brick Kitchen Geophysical Survey and Test Excavations, Marblehead, MA. Marblehead Museum. Total funding \$40,274.
- 2019 Principal Investigator, Gore Place Formal Garden and Grapery Greenhouse, Waltham, MA. The Gore Place Society. Total funding (2 phases) \$76,293.
- 2019 Principal Investigator, Turner House Archaeological Survey, Pembroke, MA. Pembroke Historical Commission. Total funding \$18,862.
- 2018 Co-principal investigator, Digitizing Plimoth Plantation's 17<sup>th</sup>-Century Historical Archaeology Collections, Humanities Collections and Reference Resources, National Endowment for the Humanities. Total funding \$181,000.
- 2017 Stephen Mrozowski, Christa Beranek, John Steinberg, and Douglas Bolender. A proposal to Inventory and Monitor Endangered Archaeological Sites at Great Island and Great Beach Hill, Cape Cod National Seashore, Wellfleet, Massachusetts. National Parks Service. Total funding \$80,000.
- 2017 Principal Investigator, Orchard House Geothermal Corridor and Septic Leach Field, Concord, Massachusetts. Louisa May Alcott's Orchard House. Total funding \$20,172.
- 2016 Principal Investigator, Old Manse Geophysics and Archaeological Site Examination, Concord, Massachusetts. The Trustees of Reservations. Total funding \$22,792.
- 2015 Principal Investigator, An Archaeological Site Examination of the Drive Circle and West Hyphen at Gore Place, Waltham, Massachusetts. The Gore Place Society. Total funding \$13,024.
- 2012 Co-Principal Investigator with David Landon, Geophysical Survey and Excavation of the 1806 Greenhouse at Gore Place, Waltham, Massachusetts. The Gore Place Society. Total funding, \$61,644.
- 2011 Stephen Mrozowski and Christa Beranek, Fiske Center for Archaeological Research Application to Digital Antiquity, 2011 Digital Antiquity – tDAR Grant Program. Total funding \$1957.50.
- 2011 Principal Investigator, Site Examination of the Durant-Kenrick House and Grounds, Newton, MA. Historic Newton. Total funding \$24,671.

- 2010 Principal Investigator, Archaeological Excavations of the Rear Ell and Terrace at the Munroe Tavern, Lexington, MA. Lexington Historical Society. Total funding \$26,251.
- 2009 Co-Principal Investigator, Archaeological and Geophysical Investigations at the James Vanderpoel House, Kinderhook, NY. Columbia County Historical Society. Total funding \$19,849.
- 2009 Principal Investigator, Archaeological Survey at the Waite-Potter House, Westport, MA. Town of Westport Community Preservation Commission. Total funding \$8970.
- 2008 Principal Investigator, Collections Inventory, Hancock-Clarke House. Lexington Historical Society. Total funding \$3707.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

**University of Massachusetts Boston, Department of Anthropology, Boston, MA**  
 ANTH 485/685 Field Research in Archaeology. Graduate and undergraduate field school in excavation and geophysical survey at multiple sites in Massachusetts. (Co-instructor with David Landon, Summer 2012-2019, 2021; Instructor, Summer 2023, 2025; Assisted Heather Trigg, Summer 2024)

ANTH 615 Public Archaeology. Graduate seminar on archaeological ethics, CRM regulations, and community and collaborative archaeology. (Fall 2018, Spring 2020, Spring 2023, Fall 2025)

ANTH 635 Material Life in New England. Graduate seminar covering material culture and vernacular architecture in New England from the early 17<sup>th</sup> to mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. (Fall 2011, 2017, 2021, 2024, Spring 2016)

**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 18 completed M.A. theses; **Committee Member** for 28 completed M.A. theses.

## RECENT PUBLIC TALKS

- 2024 Christa M. Beranek, Growing things “rare, foreign, and tender”: Archaeological evidence of Gore’s greenhouse, fruit wall, and garden. Talk at the Gore Place Society Annual Meeting, Waltham, MA. September 2024.
- 2024 Christa M. Beranek and Laura Paisley, Archaeology at the Babson-Alling House. Talk at the Cape Ann Museum, Gloucester, MA. November 2024.

## RECENT CONFERENCE PAPERS AND ACTIVITIES

- 2024 David Landon and Christa Beranek. The Creation and Reimagining of the Memorialized Landscape of Plymouth, Massachusetts. Presented at the Council for Northeast Historical Archaeology Annual Meeting, New Haven, CT.
- 2024 Christa M. Beranek, Nedra K. Lee, John M. Steinberg, David B. Landon, and Stephen A. Mrozowski. The long-term landscape: renewed research at Sylvester Manor, Shelter Island, NY. Presented at the Council for Northeast Historical Archaeology Annual Meeting, New Haven, CT.
- 2024 Chiara M. Torrini, Laura A. Paisley, Samantha M. Side, Christa M. Beranek, and John M. Steinberg. *Improving Databases through Importing Legacy Collections*. Poster at the Council for Northeast Historical Archaeology Annual Meeting, New Haven, CT.
- 2024 Carolyn Mikowski, Mary Armstrong, and Christa Beranek. *Picture This: Fred Lichtman’s Photography and the Creation of Dual Memories in Marblehead, MA*. Poster at the Council for Northeast Historical Archaeology Annual Meeting, New Haven, CT.
- 2023 Carolyn Mikowski and Christa M. Beranek, Managing the Urban Household: Early 18<sup>th</sup>-Century Women at the Jeremiah Lee Mansion Site, Marblehead, Massachusetts. Presented at the Council for Northeast Historical Archaeology Annual Meeting, Montreal, Canada.
- 2022 Christa M. Beranek and David B. Landon, Re-Imagining the Early Plymouth Colony: The View from Burial Hill. Presented at the Council for Northeast Historical Archaeology Annual Meeting, Plymouth, MA
- 2022 David B. Landon and Christa M. Beranek, The Plymouth Colony Archaeological Survey: Results of 10 Years of Public, Urban Archaeology in Plymouth, MA. Presented at the Council for Northeast Historical Archaeology Annual Meeting, Plymouth, MA
- 2022 Kiara Montes, Carolyn Mikowski, Christa M. Beranek, and John M. Steinberg, Preliminary Results of the 2022 Excavations in the Brick Kitchen Yard at the Jeremiah Lee Mansion, Marblehead, MA. Poster at the Council for Northeast Historical Archaeology Annual Meeting, Plymouth, MA.
- 2021 Ana Opishinski and Christa M. Beranek, Deetz’s New England Legacy: Digitizing the Plimoth Patuxet Collections. DAACS Conversations with Collaborating Scholars, virtual.
- 2021 Christa M. Beranek, John M. Steinberg, Stephen A. Mrozowski, and Dennis V. Piechota, Identifying 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>-Century Indigenous Sites on Cape Cod,



- Massachusetts. Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Council for Northeast Historical Archaeology, virtual.
- 2020 Christa M. Beranek and David B. Landon, New Research on the “Old Colony”: Uncovering the 17<sup>th</sup>-Century English Settlement in Plymouth, Massachusetts. Presented at the Society for Historical Archaeology Conference, Boston, MA.
- 2020 Co-chair with David Landon of the symposium New Research on the “Old Colony”: Recent Approaches to Plymouth Archaeology. Society for Historical Archaeology Conference, Boston, MA.
- 2019 Landon, David B., and Christa Beranek. Archaeological Evidence for the Original Plymouth Colony Settlement: Results of the 2019 Excavations. Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Council for Northeast Historical Archaeology, Lake George, NY.
- 2018 Landon, David B., and Christa Beranek. Artifacts of Exchange Between the English and Wampanoag in the early Plymouth Colony Settlement. Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Council for Northeast Historical Archaeology, Halifax, NS, Canada.
- 2018 Landon, David B., and Christa Beranek. Material Interaction Between the Wampanoag and English in the Plymouth Colony Settlement: An Assessment from Excavations on Burial Hill. Presented at the Society for Historical Archaeology Conference, New Orleans, LA.
- 2017 Beranek, Christa M., and David Landon. “The First Features from the Plymouth Colony Settlement: An Overview of the Excavations on Burial Hill, Plymouth, MA.” Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Council for Northeast Historical Archaeology, Portsmouth, NH.

#### **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

- 2011-2016 Book review editor, *Northeast Historical Archaeology*.
- 2009-2018 Board Member, Council for Northeast Historical Archaeology.