**Elizabeth Cory Sills, PhD., RPA**

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Tyler, Texas 75799

**Education**

Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, PhD. Geography (Anthropology Concentration), May 2013, Title: Underwater Excavations of Two Ancient Maya Salt Works, Paynes Creek National Park, Belize

Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, M.A. Anthropology 2007, Title: The Architecture of Ancient Maya Saltmaking: Distribution and Analysis of Preserved Wooden Posts at the John Spang Site in Paynes Creek National Park, Belize

University of Texas at Austin, B.A. in Anthropology 1999

**Current Position**

Assistant Professor, Department of Social Science, The University of Texas at Tyler, Fall 2014-present

**Teaching Experience**

Assistant Professor and Visiting Assistant Professor at UT Tyler

Geography 1313: World Regional Geography face to face and online

Geography 3320: Physical Geography

Geography 3325: North American Geography

Geography 4330: Geographical Information Systems

Geography 4365: Topics in Geography—Latin American Geography

Geography 4365: Topics in Geography—Human Environment Interaction

Instructor at Louisiana State University

Anthropology 1003: Introduction to Cultural Anthropology

Anthropology 2015: Introduction to Archaeology

Anthropology 7108: Mesoamerican Archaeology Seminar (in charge of half of seminars) with Dr. McKillop

Geography 1003: Introduction to Human Geography Africa and Asia

Geography 1001: Introduction to Human Geography Americas and Europe

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (LSU): Ancient Maya Civilization

**Professional Experiences**

Visiting Assistant Professor of Geography, Department of Social Sciences, UT Tyler, 2013-2014

Instructor, Department of Geography & Anthropology, LSU, Summer 2013

Digital Imaging and Visualization Lab in Archaeology manager, LSU, supervised undergraduates for digital imaging and printing, Spring 2011-Spring 2013

Coastal Geomorphology Laboratory and Coastal Archaeology Laboratory, LSU, supervised undergraduates for loss-on Ignition, sediment sorting, and conservation of artifacts and water saturated wood, Fall 2007-Spring 2013

Project Graduate Assistant, “Ancient Maya Wooden Architecture and the Salt Industry,” NSF grant to McKillop, Spring 2011-2013

PhD. Teaching Assistantship, Department of Geography & Anthropology, LSU, Fall 2007-Spring 2010

Archaeologist I, State of Louisiana, Culture, Recreation, and Tourism, Division of Archaeology, Summer 2009

Contract Cartographer for Rural Roots of Jazz Project, directed by Joyce Jackson, Dept. of Geography & Anthropology, LSU, Summer 2007

Student Worker, State of Louisiana, Culture, Recreation, and Tourism, Division of Archaeology,

2005-2007

Field Technician Archaeologist, Post, Buckley, Schuh, and Jernigan Corporation, (now Atkins) 2001-2005

**Research Experience**

Lead investigator, Placencia Lagoon Salt Works, Stann Creek District, Belize, Fall 2014 to present

Project Collaborator, Underwater Maya Archaeological Project, Paynes Creek National Park, Belize, 2013-present

Collaborator, Digital Imaging and Visualization in Archaeology (DIVA) Lab, UT Tyler extension, ongiong

Project Member, “Ancient Maya Wooden Architecture and the Salt Industry,” NSF grant to McKillop, Spring 2011-2013

Project Member, Underwater Maya: Archaeological Tourism to Preserve Paynes Creek National Park Sites, Belize, 2012

Project Member, “Mapping Ancient Maya Wooden Architecture on the Sea Floor, Belize,” NSF grant to McKillop, 2005-2009

Graduate Research Assistant, Core and Particle Size Analysis for Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement Agreement, Award No. MO7AC13373 (PI=Patrick Hesp), Dept. of Geography & Anthropology, LSU, Fall 2010

Graduate Assistant, Department of Geography and Anthropology, LSU, 2007-2010.

**Publications (in progress)**

Sills, E. Cory

Under Review Extent of Brine Enrichment for Salt Production at the Ancient Maya Placencia Lagoon Salt Works, Belize. Research Reports in Belizean Archaeology 14.

Feathers, Valerie, Heather McKillop, **E. Cory Sills,** and Rachel Watson

Under Review Excavating the Underwater Shell Deposit at an Ancient Maya Salt Work in Belize: The Eleanor Betty Site. Research Reports in Belizean Archaeology 14.

**Publications**

McKillop, Heather, and **E. Cory Sills**

2017 “The Paynes Creek Salt Works, Belize: A Model for Ancient Maya Salt Production,” In The Value of Things: Commodities in the Maya Region from Prehistoric to Contemporary. Edited by Jennifer Matthews and Thomas Guderjan. University of Arizona Press.

Sills, E. Cory, Heather McKillop, and E. Christian Wells

2016 “Chemical signatures of ancient activities at Chan b’i – A submerged Maya salt works, Belize”. Journal of Archaeological Sciences: Reports 9:654–662.

Sills, E. Cory

2016 “Re-evaluating the ancient Maya salt works at Placencia Lagoon, Belize.” Mexicon XXXVIII(3):69–74.

McKillop, Heather, **E. Cory Sills**

July 2016 “Spatial Patterning of Salt Production and Wooden Buildings Evaluated by Underwater Excavations at Paynes Creek Salt Work 74.” Research Reports in Belizean Archaeology 13:229–237.

Sills, E. Cory, Heather McKillop, and E. Christian Wells

2015 “Chemical Analysis of Marine Sediment from Chan b’i, Paynes Creek Salt Works, Belize.”

Research Reports in Belizean Archaeology 12:261–269.

McKillop, Heather, **Elizabeth C. Sills**, and Vincent Cellucci.

2014 “The Ancient Maya Canoe Paddle and the Canoe from Paynes Creek National Park, Belize.” Research Reports in Belizean Archaeology 11:297–306.

Sills, E. Cory, and Heather McKillop

2013 “Underwater Excavations of Classic Period Salt Works, Paynes Creek National Park, Belize.” Research Reports in Belizean Archaeology 10.

McKillop, Heather, and **E. Cory Sills**

2013 “Sustainable Archaeological Tourism of the Underwater Maya Salt Works in Paynes Creek National Park, Belize.” Research Reports in Belizean Archaeology 10.

Watson, Rachel, Heather McKillop, and **E. Cory Sills**

2013 “Brine Enriching Slag Heaps or Mounded Remains of Salt Makers Homes? Earthen Mounds in the Mangroves at the Paynes Creek Salt Works.” Research Reports in Belizean Archaeology 10.

Sills, E. Cory, and Heather McKillop

2010 “The Architecture of Salt Production at the John Spang Site, Paynes Creek National Park, Belize.” Research Reports in Belizean Archaeology 7: 253-258.

McKillop, Heather, **E. Cory Sills**, and Jessica Harrison

2010 “Ancient Vegetation and Landscape of Salt Production in Paynes Creek National Park, Belize.” Research Reports in Belizean Archaeology 7:245-252.

McKillop, Heather, **E. Cory Sills**, and Jessica Harrison

2010 “A Late Holocene Record of Caribbean Sea-Level Rise: the K’ak’ Naab’ Underwater Maya Site Sediment Record, Belize.” ACUA: Underwater Archaeology Proceedings 2010, Chris Horrell and Melanie Damor, eds., Pp. 200-207.

**Newsletters**

Sills, E. Cory

2016 “Sharing Space—Football meets the 5,000 year old LSU Campus Mounds.” The SAA Archaeological Record 16(4):28–31.

McKillop, Heather, and **E. Cory Sills**

2013 Sustainable Archaeological Tourism of the Underwater Maya Project by 3D Technology. Anthropology News, January, <http://www.anthropology-news.org/index.php/2013/02/06/sustainable-archaeological-tourism-of-the-underwater-maya-project-by-3d-technology/>

Cliff, Maynard B., and **Cory Sills**

2004 “A Cherokee Trading House? Data Recovery at Site 41RK305, Rusk County, Texas.” Current Archaeology in Texas, Texas Historical Commission 6:1-8.

**Book Review**

Sills, E. Cory

2016 Book Reivew of “Maya Market Women: Power and Tradition in San Juan Chamelco, Guatemala” by S. Ashley Kistler for the Latin Americanist 60(3):424–425.

**Encyclopedia Entry**

Sills, E. Cory

Accepted Sampling in Marine Field. The Society for Archaeological Sciences Encyclopedia of Archaeological Sciences, edited by Sandra Lopez Varela.

**Grants and Awards**

2015-2016 Faculty Research Grant by the UT Tyler Office of Sponsored Research, $8,776

2015 Staying Connected Summer 2015: Online Core Curriculum Initiative, UT-Tyler, $7,000

Recipient of the Social Science Research Center at UT Tyler research travel fund, 2014 and 2015

NSF Grant: “Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant: Identifying Activity Areas at Ancient Maya Saltworks, Belize”, August 2011-2012, (McKillop and Sills), $12,800

Unsung Heroes Award, Louisiana State University, Campus Life award for Preserve the LSU Campus Mounds Campaign, May 2011

Awarded the Graduate Research Materials and Supplies Award, Dept. of Geography & Anthropology, LSU, Fall 2010

Awarded the Robert C. West Research Award, Dept. of Geography & Anthropology, LSU, Fall 2009

Recipient of the Pruitt Conference Travel Award, Dept. of Geography & Anthropology, LSU 2008

Awarded the Robert C. West Research Award, Dept. of Geography & Anthropology, LSU, Fall 2007

**Organized Conference Sessions**

2016 Forum: Presenting the Ancient Maya in 3D (80th Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, Orlando) with Heather McKillop

2012 Poster Session: Underwater Maya: Investigating Submerged and Waterlogged Sites in Southern Belize (77th annual meetings for the Society of American Archaeology, Memphis, Tennessee) with Heather McKillop

**Conference Forums, Papers, and Posters**

Sills, E. Cory and J. Jefferson MacKinnon

2016 Ancient Extent of Brine Enrichment for Salt Production at the Placencia Lagoon Salt Works, Belize(The 7th Annual South-Central Conference on Mesoamerica, UT-Tyler, Texas)

Feathers, Valerie, Heather McKillop, **E. Cory Sills**, and Rachel Watson

2016 Horizontal Excavation of an Underwater Shell Midden at the Eleanor Betty Site, Belize (The 7th Annual South-Central Conference on Mesoamerica, UT-Tyler, Texas)

McKillop, Heather and **E. Cory Sills**

2016 Diving Deeper in Punta Ycacos Lagoon at the Paynes Creek Salt Works, Belize (14th Annual Belize Archaeology and Anthropology Symposium, San Ignacio, Belize).

Feathers, Valerie, Heather McKillop, **E. Cory Sills**, and Rachel Watson

2016 Excavating an Underwater Shell Midden at the Paynes Creek Salt Works, Belize (14th Annual Belize Archaeology and Anthropology Symposium, San Ignacio, Belize).

Sills, E. Cory

2016 Exploring Underwater Maya Salt Works: Diving Deeper (UT-Tyler Faculty Research Day, Tyler).

Sills, E. Cory

2016 Discussant in forum titled “Presenting the Ancient Maya in 3D” (80th Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, Orlando).

Sills, E. Cory and Jeff MacKinnon

2016 Poster: Reevaluation of the Placencia Salt Works in the Classic Maya Economy (80th Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, Orlando).

Feathers, Valerie, Heather McKillop, **E. Cory Sills**, and Rachel Watson

2016 Dietary Implications from an Inundated Shell Midden at a Classic Maya Salt Work (80th Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, Orlando).

Feathers, Valerie, Heather McKillop, **E. Cory Sills**, and Rachel Watson

2015 Assessment of Sea-level Rise at Eleanor Betty: An Underwater Ancient Maya Salt Work (6th Annual South-Central Conference on Mesoamerica, San Antonio)

McKillop, Heather and E. Cory Sills

2015 Spatial Patterning of Salt Production and Wooden Buildings Evaluated by Underwater Excavations at Paynes Creek Salt Work 74 (13th Annual Belize Archaeology and Anthropology Symposium, San Ignacio, Belize)

Sills, E. Cory, Linda Howie, and Heather McKillop

2015 Ancient Maya Trade and Communication as Evidence by Petrographic and Iconographic Analysis of Unit-Stamped Pottery (80th Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, Austin)

Feather, Valerie, Heather McKillop, and E. Cory Sills

2015 Excavation of an Inundated Shell Midden: Methods and Preliminary Findings at a Classic Maya Salt work (80th Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, Austin)

Sills, E. Cory, Heather McKillop, and E. Christian Wells

2014 Ancient Maya Salt Making Activities as Revealed by Chemical Analysis (5th Annual South-Central Conference on Mesoamerica, New Orleans)

Sills, E. Cory, Heather McKillop, and E. Christian Wells

2014 Chemical Signatures Reveal New Activities at a Paynes Creek Salt Work (12th Annual Belize Archaeology and Anthropology Symposium, San Ignacio, Belize)

Sills, E. Cory and Heather McKillop

2014 Salt: Mover and Shaker in Ancient Maya Society (79th annual meetings for the Society of American Archaeology, Austin, Texas)

Watson, Rachel, Heather McKillop, and **E. Cory Sills**

2014 Excavations of Earthen Mounds in the Mangroves at the Paynes Creek salt works, Belize (79th annual meetings for the Society of American Archaeology, Austin, Texas)

Feathers, Valerie, Heather McKillop, and **E. Cory Sills**

2014 Excavating Underwater Maya: Does the Shell Midden Enhance Preservation in Mangrove Peat? (79th annual meetings for the Society of American Archaeology, Austin, Texas)

Vines, Patrick, Heather McKillop, and **E. Cory Sills**

2014 Poster: 3D Digital Reconstruction of Salt Production Ceramics Used by the Maya in

Paynes Creek National Park, Belize (79th annual meetings for the Society of American Archaeology, Austin, Texas)

Sills, E. Cory, Heather McKillop, and E. Christian Wells

2014 Poster: Signatures Reveal Ancient Activities at Chan b’i an ancient Maya salt work, now underwater (2014 annual meeting of the Association of American Geographers, Tampa, Florida)

Austin, Kevin, **Cory Sills**, and Tom Guderjan

2014 Poster: Application of Archaeological Methods at Camp Tyler (56th Caddo Conference and 21st East Texas Archaeological Conference, Tyler, Texas)

McKillop, Heather, E. Cory Sills, and Vincent Cellucci

2013 First Ancient Maya Canoe Discovered: Update on the Canoe Paddle and Canoe from the Paynes Creek Salt Works, Belize (11th Annual Belize Archaeology Symposium, San Ignacio, Belize, Central America)

Sills, E. Cory, and Heather McKillop

2013 Underwater Excavations Reveal Ancient Maya Classic Period Salt Works, Paynes Creek National Park, Belize (112th American Anthropological Association annual meeting, Chicago, Illinois)

Sills, Cory, and Heather McKillop

2013 Ancient Maya Classic Period Salt Works in Paynes Creek National Park, Belize (4th Annual South-Central Mesoamerican Conference, Houston, Texas)

Vines, Patrick, Heather McKillop, and **E. Cory Sills**

2012 Poster: Digital Reconstruction of Ancient Maya Salt Evaporation Pottery Vessels (LSU Undergraduate Research Conference)

Sills, Elizabeth C. and Heather McKillop

2012 Underwater Excavations Compare an Early Versus a Late Classic Salt Works, Paynes Creek National Park (10th Annual Belize Archaeology Symposium, San Ignacio, Belize, Central America)

McKillop, Heather and **E. Cory Sills**

2012 Sustainable Archaeological Tourism of the Underwater Maya Salt Works in Paynes Creek National Park (10th Annual Belize Archaeology Symposium, San Ignacio, Belize, Central America)

Watson, Rachel, Heather McKillop, and **E. Cory Sills**

2012 Brine-Enriching Slag Heaps or Mounded Remains of Salt Makers’ Homes? Earthen Mounds in the Mangroves at the Paynes Creek Salt Works (10th Annual Belize Archaeology Symposium, San Ignacio, Belize, Central America)

Sills, E. Cory and Heather McKillop

2012 Poster: Activity Areas at Two Ancient Maya Salt Works: Underwater Excavations (77th annual meetings for the Society of American Archaeology, Memphis, Tennessee)

Harrison, Jessica A., Roberto Rosado, Heather McKillop, and **E. Cory Sills**

2012 Poster: Sediment History at three Inundated Salt Works: Human-Environment Interaction in Paynes Creek National Park, Belize (77th annual meetings for the Society of American Archaeology, Memphis, Tennessee)

Sills, Cory, and Heather McKillop

2010 Classic Maya Wooden Architecture: Underwater Survey at the John Spang Salt Works, Belize (109th Annual Meeting for the American Anthropological Association, New Orleans, Louisiana).

Sills, Cory, Heather McKillop, Roberto Rosado, and Terrance Winemiller

2010 A GIS Approach to Spatial Analysis of Obsidian at the Trading Port of Wild Cane Cay.

(8th Annual Belize Archaeology Symposium, San Ignacio, Belize, Central America).

Sills, Cory, and Heather McKillop

2010 The Architecture of Salt Production at the John Spang Site, Paynes Creek National Park, Belize (43rd Annual Conference on Historical and Underwater Archaeology, Amelia Island, Florida).

Sills, Cory, and Heather McKillop

2009 The Architecture of Salt Production at the John Spang Site, Paynes Creek National Park, Belize (7th Annual Belize Archaeology Symposium, Belize City, Belize, Central America).

McKillop, Heather, **Cory Sills**, Bretton Somers, and Mark Robinson

2009 Poster Session: Underwater Ancient Maya: Wooden Architecture Preserved Below the Sea Floor, Belize (7th Annual Tulane Maya Symposium, New Orleans, Louisiana).

Sills, Cory

2008 The Architecture of Ancient Maya Saltmaking; Distribution and Analysis of Preserved Wooden Posts at the John Spang Site in Paynes Creek National Park, Belize (73th annual meetings for the Society of American Archaeology, Vancouver, British Columbia).

Sills, Cory

2007 Analysis of Ancient Maya Wooden Architecture Located on the Sea Floor at the John Spang Site, Belize (72th annual meetings for the Society of American Archaeology, Austin, Texas).

**Professional Affiliations**

American Association of Geographers

Archaeological Institute of America

Register of Professional Archaeologist

Society for American Archaeology

**Service**

Program coordinator for Social Science major, UT-Tyler, Fall 2016 to present

Member of the Oversight Committee for the Center for Social Science Research, Spring 2016 to present

Co-organizer of the 7th annual South-Central Conference on Mesoamerica, November 4-6, 2016, Tyler, Texas

Co-organizer of the 2015 East Texas Archaeology Conference, February 14, 2015, Tyler, Texas

Hiring Committee for two Assistant Professor’s in Criminal Justice, Department of Social Sciences, UT Tyler, Fall 2014-Spring 2015

Faculty advisor UT Tyler Anthropology and Geography Club

Co-instructor for Camp Tyler Archaeological Project by UT Tyler students, Fall 2013-present

**Community Service**

Career Day at Birdwell Elementary, January 26, 2016, Tyler, Texas

Invited Speaker for the Webb Historical Society, Tyler, Texas, March 2014 and September 2015

Geography Reader for the 3rd UT-Tyler 3rd Annual Global Quiz Night hosted by the Honors and GATES Organizations, Fall 2014

Sustainable Archaeological Tourism of the Paynes Creek Salt works, Belize, opened 2 permanent exhibits in Belize, public outreach (with PI McKillop, AIA grant), March 2012 and May 2013

Outreach, Louisiana State Lab School Career Day, Fall of 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011

Protect the LSU Campus Mounds Campaign, Fall 2010