

77 (d) Historical Archaeology as a Device for Heritage Protection in West Patagonia

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Presentation Time Slot: 1:45 PM - 2:00 PM

Presentation Room and Venue: Iberville, Marriott

Abstract:

The relatively recent colonization of West Patagonia is perceived as a main component of cultural heritage by the communities of the Aisén region (Chile). Understanding colonial life makes sense in the construction of the narrative of local and regional identities. Hence, historical archaeology can play a key role in education and protection of material heritage, especially in a context where there is a limited written record. Furthermore, historical archaeology has the potential for unveiling underrepresented processes and/or individual stories. We developed a research project for studying the variability of the rural record of household and ranch occupation of the recent past of Aisén, one which is very rich and diverse. The record ranges from large estancias to ephemeral sites across a wide variety of environments, including the coast, forests, and the steppe. We present a multilayered strategy aimed at studying the record at site and basin scales, material culture analysis, 3D recording of architectural heritage, and outreach. Experience thus far shows a high engagement of communities, making historical archaeology an appropriate device for heritage protection in West Patagonia.

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