



Preventing and reducing occurrences of sexual harassment and assault at archaeological field schools

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Field-based learning



The Context and Consequences of Sexual Harassment in Southeastern Archaeology

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“high (66%) level of harassment, primarily among women, with an additional 13% of respondents reporting sexual assault.”

The setting of field schools: An overview

- Sustained field training
- Practical experience
- Locations vary
 - Remote
 - Urban setting
 - College campus
- Connection to non-field school world varies
 - No independent transportation
 - No cellular service
 - No independent internet access



Five factors that create conditions for harassment

1. Perceived tolerance of inappropriate behavior
2. Male-dominated work setting and/or leadership
3. Hierarchical power structures
4. Focus on compliance
5. Lack of intentional focus on reduction/elimination of inappropriate sexual behavior



Five factors defined in the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine: *The Sexual Harassment of Women: Climate, Culture, and Consequences in Academic Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine*.

Phase 1: Research Methods

- Literature review
- 64-item field director survey
 - Frequency of implemented practices and policies
 - $n = 65$ (31.7% response rate)
- Document analysis
 - $n = 24$ syllabi and other associated documents
 - Over 800 excerpts



Syllabi coding: Themes

- Field school organization and expected student behavior
- Logistics of the course
- Explicit policies on sexual harassment and assault



Syllabi: Field school organization and behavior

- Leadership structure
 - Hierarchical
 - Egalitarian
- Student behavior
 - Professionalism
 - Controlling unwanted behavior
- Singular responsibility for behavior



Syllabi: Logistics of the course

- Subjective grading
 - Student attitude
 - No rubrics
 - Prescribed behavior



Syllabi: Explicit policies on sexual harassment and assault

- Director handles reporting
- Students responsible for addressing harassment
- Reporting rarely operationalized
- “Zero tolerance” policy



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- The authors are responsible for all the thoughts, opinions, data, and any errors presented in this paper.
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