

Ben Potter

Site Structure and Organization in Central Alaska: Archaeological Investigations at Gerstle River

Abstract:

This dissertation presents a multi-dimensional analysis of site structure and organization at a multi-component deeply buried stratified site in the Tanana Basin of Interior Alaska, Gerstle River. The primary objective of this research is to investigate patterning among the lithics, fauna, features, stratigraphy, and radiometric dating, within and among components and intra-component hierarchical spatial aggregates. These analyses are situated within and are explored in terms of technological and spatial organization.

Given the longevity of microblade technology (12100 BP to ~1000 BP) and its presence in very different climatic and biotic regimes, understanding how microblades were used within a technological system and possible variations in microblade use could be useful in understanding technological change during the Pleistocene-Holocene transition and later Holocene times. This research analyzes microblades and other lithic classes at a number of levels (e.g., attribute, artifact, raw material, modification type, cluster, area, component, and site).

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