



Wednesday 30th of November 2016

at 02:30pm under the Fare Pote'e of the CRIOBE,



Jennifer Kahn (bottom right) and her team in the valley

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15 Years of Archaeological Research in the 'Opunohu Valley: A Multi-Scalar Analysis of the Prehistoric Society Island Chiefdoms

In this talk I discuss 15 years of archaeological research in the 'Opunohu Valley. Micro-scale analysis of prehistoric house sites reveals the

elaboration of rank and status hierarchies, notably in access to specialist activities, non-local raw materials, food storage, surplus, and feasting. Landscape scale analyses of monumental architecture illustrate rapid elaboration of temple architecture in the 4 generations prior to European contact (latter half of 17th century). These analyses support that chiefly control of the subsistence econ was intermeshed with the religious ideology, particularly in late prehistory between the 1600s to 1700s. Thus, in the 'Opunohu Valley, over a period of 700 years, varied lines of evidence speak to increasing differentiation among commoner and elites at both the local and community scales. The data suggest the consolidation of power by ritual and social elites was in part, affected by the retrieval of surplus wealth and social production.