Before Kukulkán

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ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Vera Tiesler received her PhD from National Autonomous University of Mexico in 1999 and currently works as a Research Professor for the School of Anthropological Sciences at the Autonomous University of Yucatan. Her general academic interests lie in illuminating the human conditions of the Maya and of past society in general. To this end, Tiesler correlates bioarchaeological information with other material and discursive documentation. During her academic career, she has conducted work on some 250 Maya burial series. She is the author of 200 scientific papers, chapters, and volumes, including the book *The Bioarchaeology of Artificial Cranial Modification* (Springer, 2014), which has granted a new nuanced understanding of permanent body enhancements among Mesoamerican natives. Tiesler is also the co-editor of *New Perspectives on Human Sacrifice and Ritual Body Treatments in Ancient Maya Society* (Springer, 2008), of *Natives, Europeans, and Africans in Colonial Campeche, Mexico. History and Archaeology* (University Press of Florida, 2010), and of *Janaab’ Pakal of Palenque: Reconstructing the Life and Death of a Maya Ruler* (University of Arizona Press, 2017).

Andrea Cucina received his PhD from the Catholic University of Rome in 1998 and is currently Research Professor at the Autonomous University of Yucatan. He is the co-editor of *Janaab’ Pakal of Palenque: Reconstructing the Life and Death of a Maya Ruler* (University of Arizona Press, 2017) and *New Perspectives on Human Sacrifice and Ritual Body Treatments in Ancient Maya Society* (Springer, 2008), both with Vera Tiesler, and he has authored/co-authored as many as 80 scientific papers in national and international journals. As a bioarchaeologist, his primary interest is Maya dental morphology, with which he addresses broader questions on ancient human mobility, biological affinities, and health and child development. His co-edited volumes on ruler Janaab’ Pakal, on Maya human sacrifice, and on the social fabric of colonial Campeche, Mexico, have led to a more holistic discussion of bioarchaeological data and a deepened understanding of Maya and post-Contact population dynamics.
Travis W. Stanton received his PhD from Southern Methodist University in 2000 and is currently Associate Professor and Chair in the Department of Anthropology at the University of California, Riverside, where he co-directs the PIPCY project currently ongoing at the site of Yaxuná. In addition to editing several volumes on Mesoamerican archaeology, he is the author of several articles that have been published in journals such as *Cambridge Archaeological Journal, Latin American Antiquity*, and *Ancient Mesoamerica*. His primary research foci include ceramic technology, origins of Maya civilization, violence and warfare, and settlement patterns.

David A. Freidel received his PhD from Harvard University in 1976 and is currently Professor of Archaeology at Washington University, St. Louis. His prolific publications and seniority in the discipline of archaeology center around Maya economies, cosmology, warfare, iconography, and political history. His two co-authored volumes with Linda Schele on Maya history and cosmology, *Forest of Kings* (HarperCollins, 1992) and *Maya Cosmos* (HarperCollins, 1995), were pathbreaking in their content and scope and have shaped recent Maya research in profound ways. Freidel is presently the Principal Investigator of another large Maya site project in Guatemala (El Peru, Waka’), which is the subject of the recent University of Arizona Press book, *Archaeology at El Peru-Waka’: Ancient Maya Performances of Ritual, Memory, and Power* (University of Arizona Press, 2014), for which he was a critical mentor.