

## **Forum Abstract: Mortuary Practices in the American Southwest: Meta-Data Issues in the Development of a Regional Database**

The study of prehistoric mortuary practices in the American Southwest is undergoing tremendous change in the new millennium. The challenges (and opportunities) of NAGPRA implementation, declines in the number of large samples being excavated, and loss of data from previously excavated samples have altered mortuary archaeology in the region. Given this state of affairs, the development of an integrated regional database of prehistoric mortuary practices is imperative. This session at the 76th annual meeting of the Society for American Archaeology in Sacramento, CA is devoted to the first stages of creating such a data set. Participants in the session will develop the frameworks and structures for building a regional mortuary database. The database that is developed will expand the potential for research with existing and future burial samples.

Participant	Organization	Title of Presentation
M. Scott Thompson (Co-Organizer and Chair)	Arizona State University	A Preliminary Database of Hohokam Mortuary Practices in the Salt River Valley, Phoenix Basin
Gordon Rakita (Co-Organizer)	University of North Florida	The Mortuary Practices of the Casas Grandes Region: A Preliminary Database
James Watson	Arizona State Museum, University of Arizona	Distances in Space and Time: Issues with a Mortuary Database of the First Farmers in the Southern Southwest
Ann Stodder	Field Museum	Context as Key for Understanding Mesa Verde Mortuary Data at Local and Regional Scales
Todd Howell	Ecosystem Management, Inc.	In With the Old: Examining Issues in Using Older Mortuary Data
Nancy Akins	Museum of New Mexico	Exploring Mortuary Variability in the Northern Rio Grande
Pat Gilman and Alison K. Livesay	University of Oklahoma	Mortuary Data from the Mimbres Region of Southwestern New Mexico
Michael O'Hara	Arizona State University	Creating Local and Regional Contexts for Understanding Sinagua Mortuary Practices