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Northeast Conference on Andean Archaeology and Ethnohistory (NCAAE) Statement on Sexual harassment and Community Values

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NORTHEAST CONFERENCE ON ANDEAN AND AMAZONIAN ARCHAEOLOGY AND ETHNOHISTORY
(NCAAE) STATEMENT ON SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND COMMUNITY VALUES

17 June 2020

For many of us, when we think of Andean and Amazonian archaeology, we think of both our field of study and our close-knit community of friends and scholars. We strive to support one another and to learn from one another, to foster horizontal communication, and to build upon generations of knowledge on the histories and peoples of a part of the world about which we care so profoundly. This collegial and convivial spirit animates our scholarship and our community, and yet, it also has—for too long—masked serious issues of sexual abuse and inequality in our field, and in archaeology at large.

The reports of sexual harassment and abuse in our community that have recently come to light are serious breaches of that social fabric—the ties of trust and friendship we depend upon personally and professionally. More seriously, they are offenses of both a personal and professional nature to those—disproportionately women—whose well-being has been harmed, scholarship diminished, and careers upended. We have a responsibility to our discipline and to our students to continually strive to be a better community, one more welcoming and more vigilant, in which past offenses, abuses, and improprieties are recognized and in which we do everything in our power to prevent them from reoccurring.

As founder and organizers of the Northeast Conference on Andean and Amazonian Archaeology and Ethnohistory (NCAAE), we are examining how to best protect community members from sexual and gender-based harassment, abuse, and violence. We are not a formal organization, but we are individuals and scholars of conscience, and we stand by survivors of sexual assault and harassment. And we remain committed to both the self-reflection and public conversation needed to live up to our values and to ensure the integrity of our community—not for some or many—but for all.

Signed, with institutional affiliation listed for identification purposes only, by the following:

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