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Special issue, Exploring Interpretive Trails

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2015-05

McDavid , C & Thomas , S 2015 , ' Special issue, Exploring Interpretive Trails ' , Journal of Community Archaeology and Heritage , vol. 2 , no. 2 , pp. 83 . <https://doi.org/10.1179/2051819615Z.00000000039>

<http://hdl.handle.net/10138/302050>

<https://doi.org/10.1179/2051819615Z.00000000039>

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Carol McDavid & Suzie Thomas (2015) Special issue, Exploring Interpretive Trails, *Journal of Community Archaeology & Heritage*, 2:2, 83-83, DOI: 10.1179/2051819615Z.00000000039

As the guest editor for our second thematic issue, we invited Dr Sonya Atalay, of the University of Massachusetts at Amherst (widely known as UMass), to share the results of current research now being undertaken by her graduate students on 'Heritage Trails'. This work begins to build a literature that, heretofore, has not been explored deeply in archaeological heritage writing. Atalay has provided a detailed introduction to the papers that follows this brief note.

Because of the addition of two 'Field Reports' (as described in Atalay's Introduction), as well as a 'Reflections' paper from one of Atalay's community collaborators, we have opted to forego book reviews for this special issue. We welcome guest editor proposals from those who wish to discuss thematic topics, and have developed two different formats to choose from. The first format is to propose a dedicated special issue like this one (at present, we accept one per year). The second format consists of a series of guest-edited papers that would run over a number of issues (sequentially, or in one issue per year over a period of time). The papers in the extended-series format are grouped for thematic treatment, and published alongside the 'usual' individual papers that we normally feature.

We have both sorts of treatments planned for coming years, and welcome reader input on these formats and any others that will help us to continue to open the conversation about community archaeology and heritage, world-wide.