

the evolution of

# COMPLEX SYSTEMS



2013 Spring Lecture Series



## DR. SCOTT ORTMAN

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20 – 7:00 PM**  
**RASMUSON HALL 101**

### **Winds from the North: Resolving one of the great mysteries in American Archaeology**

An enduring problem in North American archaeology is the relationship between the present-day Pueblos of New Mexico and the ancestral Pueblo society of the Mesa Verde region. Archaeologist Scott Ortman integrates biological, linguistic, cultural, and archaeological evidence to trace the origins of the Tewa-speaking pueblos, reveal their relationship with Mesa Verde, and relates this process to the evolution of global human diversity.

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**THURSDAY, MARCH 21 – NOON to 1 PM**  
**ALLIED HEALTH SCIENCES, ROOM 106**

### **Culture and the Accumulation of Social Complexity**

Human societies have grown exponentially in scale and complexity over the past ten thousand years, but the basic drivers of this process remain poorly understood. Archaeologist Scott Ortman suggests that conceptual systems, or “culture,” played an important role in this process. Social complexity is grounded in conceptual metaphors that recruit our primary emotions and instincts to develop social coordination, and he illustrates this hypothesis using examples from the ancient Near East and the U.S. Southwest.

*All lectures are free and open  
to the public*

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