Dr Karen Schollmeyer from Archaeology Southwest will be speaking on The Salado Phenomenon in the U. S. Southwest. There is as a long history of debate over the Salado phenomenon: its ori gins, geographic extent, and whether Salado refers to a cultural group, religious movement, pottery ware, or some combination of all three. Much of this debate is due to the highly variable material culture across the region where Salado polychrome dominates decorated ceramic assemblages. This talk discusses some of the variability in what archaeologists call Salado, particularly in the Tonto Basin, San Pedro Valley, and Upper Gila areas of Arizona and New Mexico, and how this religious and social phenomenon supported successful multi-ethnic communities during the 14th and 15th centuries.

Karen Schollmeyer grew up in Phoenix, Arizona, and earned her undergraduate degree at Stanford University and her Master's and Doctoral degrees from Arizona State University. She has worked on archaeological projects in the Peruvian highlands, the Ethiopian desert, and throughout the American Southwest.

Karen's research interests include zooarchaeology, long-term human-environment interactions, and food security and landscape use. She is also interested in how archaeologists' long-term insights can be applied to contemporary issues in conservation and development. She has done research and fieldwork (including teaching multiple field schools) in southwest New Mexico for 15 years, and is especially interested in the "edges" of the Mimbres-Mogollon area along the Rio Grande and the Upper Gila.

Each summer Karen and Jeff Clark co-direct the Archaeology Southwest–University of Arizona Preservation Archaeology Field School. Other current projects include work on prehispanic hunting sustainability in the Four Corners area with archaeological chemist Jeff Ferguson at MURR (NSF BCS-1460385) and research on long-term changes in plants and animals in the Mimbres area with paleoethnobotanist Mike Diehl at Desert Archaeology Inc. (NSF BCS-1524079).