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Call for Abstracts – 77th Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, Memphis,
Tennessee, April 18th to 22nd, 2012

Answering Pseudoarchaeology: Proactive dialogue and research in response to extraordinary popular and esoteric archaeological claims Organized by David S. Anderson and Jeb J. Card

Abstract:

In popular media and culture, extraordinary and esoteric claims, dubbed “pseudoarchaeology,” dominate the image of the human past. The success of these alternative narratives demonstrates a latent interest in archaeology that the scientific community has not been able to satisfy. Past efforts to confront pseudoarchaeological claims have focused on dismissal and redirection to questions of more viable research interest to scholars, a tactic that has not borne much fruit. This session instead points to a more proactive model of research and presentation directly aimed at the “alternative” questions regarding the human past that are popular in public discourse. -Interested parties should contact David at dsanderson.319@gmail.com