

**Nomination Cover Sheet  
2016 Virginia Outstanding Faculty Awards**

<b>1. NAME</b> Full (Legal): Jennifer Girard Kahn Preferred First Name: Jenny	
<b>2. INSTITUTIONAL INFORMATION</b>  Institution: College of William & Mary  Rank/Position Title: Assistant Professor  Year Rank/Title Attained: 2012  Years at Institution: 4  Campus Email Address: jgkahn01@wm.edu  Campus Phone: 757-221-1054  Campus Mailing Address: Anthropology Department Washington Hall, Room 103 241 Jamestown Rd. Williamsburg, VA 23185  Campus Communications Contact: -Name: Christin Fiedler -E-mail: cefiedler@wm.edu	<b>3. PROFESSIONAL INFORMATION</b>  Academic Discipline: Anthropology  Specialization/Field: Archaeology  Type of Terminal Degree: Ph.D.  Year Awarded: 2005  Awarding Institution: University of California, Berkeley
	<b>4. PERSONAL INFORMATION</b>

*Please check only one box:*

- RESEARCH/DOCTORAL INSTITUTION NOMINEE:   
 MASTERS/COMPREHENSIVE INSTITUTION NOMINEE:   
 BACCALAUREATE INSTITUTION NOMINEE:   
 TWO-YEAR INSTITUTION NOMINEE:   
 TEACHING WITH TECHNOLOGY NOMINEE:   
 RISING STAR NOMINEE:

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Signature (President or Chief Academic Officer)   
 Printed Name: Michael Halleran  
 E-mail address: halleran@wm.edu Telephone: (757) 221-1992

## **Excerpts from the College of William & Mary Mission Statement**

At the College of William & Mary, teaching, research, and public service are linked through programs designed to preserve, transmit, and expand knowledge. Effective teaching imparts knowledge and encourages the intellectual development of both student and teacher. Quality research introduces students to the challenge and excitement of original discovery, and is a source of the knowledge and understanding needed for a better society. The university recognizes its special responsibility to the citizens of Virginia through public and community service to the Commonwealth as well as to national and international communities. Teaching, research, and public service are all integral parts of the mission of William & Mary.

## Summary of Accomplishments — Jennifer G. Kahn

Dr. Jennifer Kahn is an outstanding educator, a world-class archaeologist, and a consummate public servant. As a specialist in Polynesian Archaeology and Anthropology, her significant contributions are internationally recognized, even at this early stage of her career. Much of her current research studies long-term adaptations to climate change in the Pacific Islands, which has relevance to human populations living in modern coastal environments affected by global warming. She has been awarded three highly competitive National Science Foundation grants totaling \$1.9 million, unique both within her field and her department at William & Mary, which testifies to the cutting-edge nature of her research. She has an outstanding record of scholarship with an impressive 33 peer-reviewed publications in top journals. As an educator, she is held in the utmost regard for her successes in the undergraduate classroom, her mentoring of graduate students, and the exciting research opportunities she provides undergraduates and graduates during field work in Tahiti and Hawai'i. Dr. Kahn has a highly active research lab where graduates and undergraduates are trained during hands-on internships. She has introduced seven new courses into the W&M curriculum and has successfully recruited three graduate students of diverse backgrounds in her first three years at W&M. Her community outreach work is unparalleled and she is known far and wide for her close collaborations with Pacific Islander communities. She has also excelled in key leadership positions in service to her field and in outreach to the local community at her field sites.

### Teaching

As an archaeologist, Dr. Kahn imparts a holistic view of Anthropology to her students through a mix of social theory, methodology, and world-wide and regional case studies. She teaches a broad range of courses including freshman seminars and senior capstone seminars that focus on writing skills and critical thinking; large introductory courses that fulfill General Education requirements; and mid-sized classes on advanced archaeological topics. She also teaches an advanced seminar in Archaeology Theory, a departmental capstone course for graduate students. Dr. Kahn frequently integrates her archaeological field research into her courses as a dynamic means to encourage active learning. All of her classes incorporate distinctive "hands on" modules where students work with archaeological materials from her field sites. Her course offerings draw upon varied disciplines such as the biological and physical sciences and the humanities and thus introduce students to cutting edge inter-disciplinary research.

Dr. Kahn's goal is to inspire young minds through her demanding teaching. Her students greatly appreciate her impressive skills. As one student explains, "Dr. Kahn successfully and gracefully managed to provide an ideal yet rigorous undergraduate-level environment while maintaining a welcome, encouraging, and non-intimidating atmosphere during our class discussions." Dr. Kahn's superlative skills in the classroom are also displayed in her teaching evaluations which regularly exceed departmental averages by substantial margins. In her graduate seminars in *Archaeological Theory* and *Wealth, Status and Power in Prehistory*, her mean scores were 4.52 and 4.53 out of 5, respectively, while the departmental average was 4.06. Students note that she is an outstanding teacher and mentor: "Prof. Jenny Kahn has been one of the best professors I've had throughout my college career. She always came to class with so much enthusiasm and was always so respectful to her students. She always listened to what we had

to say, heard our opinions, and answered our questions. Basically, Prof. Jenny Kahn is an amazing addition to the department and I wish she would have been at WM throughout my four years because I've learned so incredibly much in her class. She's beyond excellent." Students from Kahn's freshman seminar, *From Cavemen to Kings*, enthusiastically noted that their writing had significantly improved over the course of the semester, as had their critical thinking. Finally, her remarkable efforts to craft hands-on teaching exercises have significantly increased student learning: "Kahn's "hands-on" approach with the lab assignments each week made this class especially engaging and it was easier to learn the material when looking at actual objects and "real-world" applications of the archaeological lab techniques. This class made me more comfortable with science and technical aspects of archaeology post-excavation".

Dr. Kahn has developed seven new courses since she arrived at W&M in 2012. For a junior faculty member, this number is unusually ambitious. Her course curriculum spans introduction to world archaeology, topics in human evolution, the development of inequality and social complexity, household archaeology, human-environmental interactions, and cultural development in Polynesia, as well as high-level theory and archaeological methods. Her course offerings sit at the cutting edge of inter-disciplinary research. Two of Kahn's courses are cross-listed in Environmental Studies; an additional two courses will be cross-listed in the developing Native Studies and Asian and Pacific Islander minors/concentrations.

Dr. Kahn has an exemplary record of undergraduate and graduate student mentoring, both during the academic year and in the summer months. In her department, she serves as chair for two Ph.D. committees, as a member of two other Ph.D. committees, and as chair of two undergraduate Honors theses. She has also served on undergraduate Honors thesis committees in Biology and Geology. She will serve as chair to another undergraduate Honors thesis in Anthropology in 2015-16. She currently serves as a committee member for two Anthropology Ph.D. students at other universities. This exemplary record of student advising illustrates her high demand both within her department and within her field.

Providing extraordinary research experiences has been emblematic of Dr. Kahn's career. She excels at teaching and supervising W&M undergraduates and graduate students in the lab and in the field through independent studies and internships. A total of 17 undergraduates have completed hands-on internships in Kahn's lab between 2012-2015; 6 others are completing internships in Fall 2015. She has provided invaluable student research opportunities, funding 4 undergraduate students and 8 graduate students as research assistants in her lab through her National Science Foundation grants. Equally exceptional, seven undergraduates and graduate students have accompanied her to Hawai'i and Tahiti for overseas fieldwork opportunities. Her skills in globally engaged teaching have been rewarded with two successive Reves Faculty Fellowships, the Center for International Studies at W&M. As part of her fellowships, Dr. Kahn trained students in archaeological techniques and community outreach in Tahiti. With Kahn's help, students wrote internal grants to partially cover the costs of their international travel, thereby gaining invaluable grant writing experience.

These long-term field trips (4 to 11 weeks in duration) have provided students with outstanding hands-on experiences, cross-cultural encounters, and opportunities to participate in all the stages of a scientific project, including initial research design, sampling and methodology,

organization and implementation of the field work, post-field laboratory analysis, interpretation, and presentation of the results. Undergraduates and graduates who have worked with Kahn in the lab and who have traveled with her to Tahiti and Hawai'i for fieldwork have been inspired to continue their studies. "Dr. Kahn has inspired me to consider returning to graduate school for my doctorate and changing my future research focus to Oceania Archaeology." Finally, Dr. Kahn fosters students' professional development in a variety of ways, through discussions of applying for museum internships or field programs, the "how-to's" of applying for graduate school, and advice about how best to format resumes for particular types of job searches. Many students who accompany her to the field continue their research experiences back on the W&M campus and emerge as fledgling scientists themselves. Undergraduate Kelsey Frenkiel, who participated in Kahn's fieldwork in Tahiti in 2014, is currently researching and writing an Honors thesis on prehistoric shell exploitation in the Society Islands, using materials she excavated in 2014 with Dr. Kahn.

### **Discovery**

Dr. Kahn's innovative research compares and contrasts long-term sequences of island colonization and settlement in Polynesia to understand how islander populations transformed through time. Much of her work focuses on how past communities adapted to larger population sizes and changing environments through agricultural intensification and elaboration of socio-religious practices. Dr. Kahn has a notably high profile in the scholarly community that conducts archaeological work in Oceania. She has an exceptionally strong publication record, with 33 peer-reviewed articles and a book, and has received three major National Science Foundation (NSF) grants. In recent years, as her field projects have become more multi-disciplinary, she has published in top ranking inter-disciplinary journals to reach a broader academic audience.

Her cutting-edge research in the Pacific Islands has two major themes. The first explores the relationship between political economy and social organization in Oceania, long considered an important region for chiefdom research. Kahn's work highlights socio-political and economic transformations at the local, community, and regional levels as a means for understanding the evolution of simple chiefdoms into larger scale hierarchical chiefdoms. Her current research in French Polynesia and the Hawaiian Islands seeks to understand the dynamic interactions between initial settling populations and their natural environments, which she argues lead to new and at times radically transformed landscapes as well as emergent sociopolitical formations (hierarchical chiefdoms). This work encompasses long-term adaptations to climate change, which have relevance to human populations living in modern coastal environments affected by global warming. Distinctively, Kahn's archaeological fieldwork frequently involves extensive collaboration with indigenous Pacific Islander communities, training of local community members, and outreach visits and talks held at community centers and schools. During her time at W&M, she has developed several important collaborations with scientists at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science as well as anthropologists in her own department to study how coastal populations adapt and remain resilient in the face of global climate change.

Dr. Kahn is a world-class scientist whose research has significantly advanced the field of Pacific Island archaeology, and more specifically, human-environment interactions. She has a highly impressive publication record for a junior scholar. The external review of the Anthropology

Department in 2015 declared that “Jennifer Kahn has earned an exceptional number of high profile research grants, publishes extensively, and is at work on a series of compelling projects”. In 2014 Kahn co-authored and published a book on monumental architecture, social hierarchy, and religion in the Society Islands. A published review illustrates the book’s high impact and its holistic nature, “This monograph presents the results of well-planned and well-executed archaeological research that makes far-reaching contributions... it demonstrates the utility of integrating multiple lines of evidence in prehistoric interpretation.” Richard Scaglion, Professor of Anthropology, review in *Journal of Island and Coastal Archaeology*, 2015.

Dr. Kahn’s international research has been supported by more than \$1.9 million dollars in competitive grants, including three National Science Foundation awards. She has been continuously funded by NSF since 2006, a remarkable accomplishment given the highly competitive nature of these grants, where the funding rate is 11% or lower. Her research is collaborative, involving world-class researchers from three continents. Her research is also highly inter-disciplinary, involving soil scientists, geologists, geomorphologists, and botanists. She was recently granted an Inter-Institution Collaborative Grant to work with Dr. Chris Hein (coastal geomorphologist) at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS) on a geoarchaeology project in the Hawaiian Islands. She also serves as a co-PI on two local projects funded by the Commonwealth Center for Energy and the Environment. The first examines water-use practices in island environments and the Chesapeake from a sustainability perspective; the second will host a visit to Williamsburg by Hokulea (a Hawaiian voyaging canoe) with planned events centered on ocean sustainability and indigenous knowledge. Finally, Dr. Kahn curated a major exhibit on the settlement of the Pacific Islands at the Bishop Museum, the Natural and Cultural Museum of the State of Hawai‘i, which will be featured for the next 20+ years.

### **Integration of Knowledge**

Much of Dr. Kahn’s research takes place in French Polynesia, where local researchers and community members lack access to resources or infrastructure. Her standard practice is to invite Tahitian researchers to her field sites for training workshops, particularly when specialists from the US or elsewhere (Australia, France) accompany her into the field. This provides Tahitian archaeologists with specialized training, and facilitates their development of broader contacts within the archaeological and scientific communities. Dr. Kahn works tirelessly to establish collaborations between international researchers and cultural specialists in French Polynesia. For example, in the summer of 2015, she co-directed a workshop on the island of Mo‘orea focusing on food webs, ecological interactions, and climate change that brought together French, Tahitian, and American scientists to work in collaboration with Tahitian cultural specialists. Dr. Kahn also regularly provides training and mentoring to local Tahitian students who want to gain archaeological experience, including five undergraduate and graduate students from the University of French Polynesia in the summers of 2014-15. Likewise, she integrates local Tahitian and Hawaiian community members and landowners into her archaeological crews (hiring 3-4 persons per field site) in order to share archaeological knowledge and archaeological practice with descendant communities.

Dr. Kahn excels at combining discovery, teaching, and service. A case in point is her outreach to Pacific Islander communities where she helps to recover ways of life that have been lost and uses her findings to inform public debates and policies concerning human responses to global climate change. She has been highly successful at disseminating her research to Pacific Islanders, the W&M community, and the larger public. She has done so through public presentations, articles in non-academic journals, interviews in print, audio, and online formats, and community outreach projects. Dr. Kahn has published three magazine articles in journals for general audiences, which discuss her Hawaiian and Society Island research. In addition, she has been interviewed several times for print and audio media to discuss human-environmental interactions in the Pacific Islands and human adaptations to climate change today. Finally, she is working with a group of Tahitian elders from the Association *Te Pu Atitia* to incorporate her archaeological data into K-12 lesson plans on Tahitian history and environment for French Polynesian schools.

On the W&M campus, Dr. Kahn excels at integrating her research into the classroom and integrating students into her research. In her *Methods in Archaeological Science* course, Kahn used her expertise in Stone Tool Use Wear analysis to develop a hands-on lab where students used experimentally-made stone tools to butcher a pig, clean and descale fish, and de-bark tree branches. Students then examined each tool under a microscope to record use-wear patterns, an archaeological method researchers use to determine the function of stone tools recovered at archaeological sites. These types of hands-on activities, particularly those related to Kahn's research, are mentioned enthusiastically in student course evaluations, both in terms of degree of learning and enjoyment: "The hands on aspect of the class was definitely the best part because if you put effort into the labs it really helped to understand the material."

Dr. Kahn runs a thriving research lab, with 3-5 students interning each semester, actively learning archaeological laboratory techniques while studying artifact collections from the Pacific Islands. A significant number of these students join Dr. Kahn in archaeological fieldwork in Tahiti and Hawai'i during the summer, complete summer independent study courses in her lab, and continue their studies with Honors theses during the academic year. These patterns illustrate the considerable success Kahn has in integrating her roles as a researcher, teacher, and mentor, in expanding student knowledge, and in imparting the joy of academic discovery.

Dr. Kahn has a stellar track record of teaching across disciplinary boundaries and regularly integrates articles and data from the natural sciences, physical sciences, and the humanities into her courses. In her popular freshman seminar, *World Archaeology: From Cavemen to Kings*, Kahn starts the semester with a series of readings on human evolution, from a bioanthropological and archaeological perspective. Students then read and discuss *The Beak of the Finch*, an award-winning account of Darwinism and of evolution taking place in "real time" in Galapagos Island finches. Students write a midterm paper, employing ideas of "real time" natural selection and reproductive fitness taken from ecology. They analyze contemporary views of human physical evolution (bipedalism, increase in brain size) and explore cultural evolution as reflected in in archaeology and bioarchaeology. Finally, the class debates modern human evolution as a result of pressures such as population growth, disease, and climate change. This discussion relates "real time" evolution to current issues such as GMO-produced crops and antibiotic resistance. In Kahn's *Archaeology and Popular Cinema* course, students

examine stereotypes and “essentialized” views of scientists in classic archaeology films (Indiana Jones, *Laura Croft: Tomb Raider*). They then turn to a critical analysis of the ways in which ethnic groups, particularly Native Americans, are portrayed in films such as *Pocahontas* and *Last of the Mohicans*. Students are encouraged to explore and discuss how their own identities, whether ethnic, religious, sexual, or gendered, are represented in popular culture. These discussions often lead to spirited debates concerning the politics of representation and who owns the past. During class students easily apply these questions to modern events, such as the destruction of cultural properties by ISIS in the Middle East, or the disturbance of Southern United States Civil War battlefields encouraged by new reality TV shows.

## **Service**

Institution: For someone so new to the College, Dr. Kahn has become involved in a remarkably wide array of service projects. Over the past three academic years, Dr. Kahn has served on three separate committees for the Department of Anthropology. In 2013 she took on the role of organizing the Anthropology Department Brown Bag speaker series. She currently serves as the Webmaster for the Department of Anthropology, in addition to continuing her role as a member of the Budget, Graduate, and Space Committees. At the college-wide level, Dr. Kahn has served as a freshman advisor since 2013. She has been an active member of the Native Studies Working Group and the Environmental Science and Policy Management group. In 2014 she was a member of the COLL 400 Working Group discussing and refining the requirements for the College’s new curriculum. She has also served on the Provost’s Dissertation Fellows Selection Committee and the Scholarship Committee of the Charles Center, which oversees Interdisciplinary Studies. She is a member of the Center for Geospatial Analysis (CGA) Oversight Committee and served on a search committee for the CGA Director.

Professional Service: Dr. Kahn has been affiliated to the Bishop Museum (Honolulu) as an Associate Researcher since 2012. She served on the Crabtree Award Committee for the Society for American Archaeology (the flagship organization for American archaeologists) from 2012-2014. She also served on the board of directors of the Society for Hawaiian Archaeology from 2008 to 2013. Dr. Kahn currently serves on the editorial boards of two academic journals. She frequently reviews grant applications, book manuscripts, and article submissions for academic presses, granting agencies, and academic journals (see list in her CV).

Community/Society: Dr. Kahn serves as a Regional Director for Mo’orea IDEA Consortium, a group of physical and social scientists and community members who are modeling human-environmental interactions in the Society Islands. She provides volunteer consulting for the INTEGREGRE project, which is developing a nature trail centered on the archaeological and botanical history of Mo’orea Island in collaboration with the Tahitian community. In both her Tahitian and Hawaiian field sites, Dr. Kahn actively engages descendant communities in the excitement of archaeological discovery and scientific analysis. She has done so through presentations at local community centers and middle school classrooms, interviews in print and on the radio, and “open house” site visits. Structured community outreach projects of the last three years include a two-day session of site visits, “open houses”, and excavation programs for the Tahiti Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts and a six-day work stay for Hawaiian high school students associated with the Hawai’i Youth Conservation Corps.

### **Personal Statement: Jennifer G. Kahn**

When I went on my first archaeology dig in the American Southwest as an undergraduate, I was immediately struck with how the discipline intertwined many of my diverse interests: my love of the outdoors and travel, my interest in history, art, and religion, and my joy of discovery. Each day we hiked the desert to a remote rockshelter. As we excavated, we discovered how ancient Native American hunters had left the “tools of their trade,” hundreds of brilliantly colored spear points, projectile points, and arrow heads, on a natural shelf. Through our analysis, we reconstructed a dynamic, peopled past, bringing alive the ceremonies where hunters prayed to the gods around bonfires, decorated the shelter with red ochre designs, and carefully placed their tools as offerings, all as a means to ensure successful hunting expeditions. I experienced both the marvel of discovery and the power of interpretation. Excited by the knowledge that understanding the past could inform the present, particularly when it comes to understanding how to live and thrive in remote, inhospitable environments, I struck out on my new career as a fledgling archaeologist.

In my senior year a newly hired professor taught a course on the Prehistory of the Pacific Islands. I jumped at the chance to learn about Islander cultures living in remote tropical environments. During my post-graduate and M.A. years, I eagerly joined field projects in Hawai'i and the Marquesas Islands of French Polynesia, honing my skills as an archaeologist but equally important, learning how to live and thrive in Polynesian communities. The choice to focus my Ph.D. research on the secluded Pacific Islands was an easy one. During my Ph.D. research I excavated ancient Tahitian house sites to look at social inequality, asking, for example, how does an elite chief's house differ from that of a commoner? I directed large scale excavations with a Tahitian crew, undergraduates, and fellow graduate students who I trained. Left with thousands of artifacts and samples from my fieldwork, I returned to campus to begin the next stage of discovery that of laboratory analysis and interpretation. I learned how fulfilling it was to see a research project successfully through each of its stages and to publish and present the results at meetings and in journals. I also developed a clear sense of my important role as a mentor, both to members of the Tahitian community and students who I worked with in the lab and the field.

Here I could make a difference in helping descendant Islander communities connect with their past by uncovering the material remains of their ancestors. I came to this realization when Taufa, a Tahitian hired to work on my field crew, remarked that the way his ancestors cooked was just like the system his family used in their backyard today. He had seen this while excavating an earth oven. Or when Haamoe (another Tahitian fieldworker) and I, hiking through the verdant tropical forest on the island of Mo'orea (neighbor to Tahiti), discovered an immense agricultural site, above which stood an imposing stone temple, replete with sculpted stone god images in place. Haamoe exclaimed that she had no idea her ancestors had built such large and elaborate temples, of a similar size, but so different in form from churches on the island today. These experiences molded me into a social scientist, teacher, and advocate for community outreach. I now direct field projects in the Hawaiian Islands and Society Islands (Tahiti and Mo'orea). I now bring undergraduate and graduate students into the field with me

where they experience the joy of discovery. Being in the field with me is as much about cultural exchange as it is about the research. We work closely with descendant communities in every stage of the process. I tell my students that you know you are “in” with the community when you understand the local jokes (no easy thing in Tahiti as we are speaking French!). Once I hear my students understanding and laughing at a local joke I know that they are having experiences they will remember for a lifetime.

As a scientist, mentor and teacher, I strongly believe in integrating disciplines within the liberal arts and fostering critical thinking. I make my international research relevant to students’ daily lives by stressing the connections between the Pacific Islands and the United States. In both contexts, society confronts issues such as adaptations to climate change and global warming in the past and the present, the politics of identity, gender and sexuality, and hierarchy and inequality. My scholarship incorporates comparative research that encompasses both the natural and the social sciences. You have to understand both the natural and cultural landscape in order to understand why and how prehistoric societies sometimes thrived and sometimes failed in ever changing environments in the past. Because Pacific Islanders have always lived in and adapted to isolated, fragile, and often marginal environments, comparative long-term studies of their diverse cultures have much to add to current debates about human-caused landscape changes world-wide, such as the costs of global warming and sea level rise and how populations can adapt to such changes over the long term. I am constantly reminded of how the past can inform on our current lives. Bringing the past alive can have a great impact in so many ways - for descendant communities, for grappling with pressing environmental issues, and for understanding the social dynamics of power and control, gender and hierarchy.

I emphasize hands-on learning in all of my courses, from freshman seminars to graduate independent studies. It is thrilling to handle a shell fishhook or a bone pendant and to realize the craft knowledge that went into their production and the linkage between material items, social identity, and community dynamics. I take mentoring seriously as I had the benefit of learning from many strong and generous mentors over the course of my career. I am now rewarded with mentoring my own graduate students as they begin to write their own grant proposals and organize their own field projects. Equally thrilling is providing students with opportunities to analyze archaeological assemblages and to walk them through data analysis and interpretation in order to craft dynamic views of the past. It is a gift to share in their first discoveries - there is nothing like seeing a student excavate their first earth oven or find their first fishhook.

To have broader impacts on my field, I have increasingly taken on leadership roles. I have organized international conference symposia and workshops to bring together diverse scholars to collaborate with Hawaiian and Tahitian cultural practitioners. I see the enormous benefits of community outreach in my work to develop an archaeological nature trail for Tahitians and my collaboration with Hawaiians in preserving and studying cultural sites affected by dramatic coastal changes. For me, archaeology is not just about discovery, but learning from, and sharing my experiences with, so many others. The wonderful diversity of my research projects, and my roles as a mentor, researcher, and advocate for the community, keeps my career as a Professor of Anthropology rewarding, challenging, and motivating.

## ABBREVIATED CURRICULUM VITAE

Jennifer G. Kahn

### EDUCATION

Post-Doctoral Fellow University of Queensland (Australia), 2006-08  
Ph.D. University of California, Berkeley, Anthropology, Fall 2005  
M.A. University of Calgary, Department of Archaeology, Fall 1996  
B.A. University of California, Berkeley, Anthropology, History, Spring 1992

### ACADEMIC AND MUSEUM POSITIONS

Assistant Professor, Anthropology, College of William & Mary, 2012-present  
Lecturer, Department of Anthropology, University of Hawai'i, Manoa, 2011-12  
Associate Researcher, Bishop Museum, Honolulu, Hawai'i, 2010-12  
Assistant Researcher, Bishop Museum, Honolulu, Hawai'i, 2008-10

### EXTERNAL RESEARCH FUNDING (select, of >\$1.9M total)

*National Science Foundation*, Coupled-Human-Natural Dynamics. Socio-ecosystem Dynamics of Human-Natural Networks on Model Islands. Co-PI. 2013: \$ 555,566  
*National Science Foundation*, Archaeology. Vulnerability and Resilience in Island Socioecosystems. Co-PI. 2010: \$352,835  
*National Science Foundation*, Archaeology. Households, Specialization, and Social Production in Society Islands Chiefdoms. Co-PI. 2007: \$226,840  
*Commonwealth Center for Energy and the Environment*. Food Security, Energy and Water in Island Systems. Co-PI. 2015 : \$10,000  
*Commonwealth Center for Energy and the Environment*. Island Wisdom, Global Lessons: Hosting a Hokulea-WM Exchange on Earth Sustainability. Co-PI. 2015 : \$10,000

### INTERNAL RESEARCH FUNDING (select, of >\$50K total)

*WISE Inter-Institution Collaborative Grant*, College of William & Mary. 2015: \$7,000  
*Reves Center Faculty Fellows*, College of William & Mary. 2013, 2014: \$13,430

### MAJOR MUSEUM EXHIBITS

*Pacific Hall*, Bishop Museum (permanent installation), 2013. Head Archaeological Consultant; Curator for the Oceania Archaeological Collections; 2010-13

### PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS (select, of 33 total)

#### Books:

**Kahn, J.G.** and P.V. Kirch, 2014. *Monumentality and Ritual Materialization in the Society Islands*. Honolulu: Bishop Museum Press [xiv + 267 pp., 82 figures and tables].

#### Edited Journals:

McCoy, M.D., and **J.G. Kahn**, 2014. Understanding the Hawaiian Past: A Special Issue in Honour of Patrick Kirch. *Journal of Pacific Archaeology* 5(2): 1-114.

#### Peer Reviewed Journal Articles:

**Kahn, J.G.**, 2015. Identifying Residences of Ritual Practitioners in the Archaeological Record as a Proxy for Social Complexity. *Journal of Anthropological Archaeology* 40: 59-81.

**Kahn, J.G.**, C. Nickelsen, J. Stephenson, N. Porch, E. Dotte, C.C. Christensen, and P.V. Kirch, 2015. Mid- to Late Holocene Landscape Change and Anthropogenic Transformation on Mo'orea, Society Islands: A Multi-Proxy Approach. *The Holocene* 25(2): 333-347.

**Kahn, J.G.**, E. Dotte-Sarout, G. Molle, and E. Conte, 2015. Landscape Change, Settlement Histories, and Agricultural Practices on Maupiti Island, Society Island Archipelago. *Journal of Island and Coastal Archaeology* doi 10.1080/15564894.2014.1001922.

**Kahn, J.G.**, 2014. Household Archaeology and 'House Societies' in the Hawaiian Archipelago. *Journal of Pacific Archaeology* 5(2): 18-29.

**Kahn, J.G.**, M. Horrocks, and M. Nieuwoudt, 2014. Agriculture, Domestic Production, and Site Function: Micro-Fossil Analyses and Late Prehistoric Landscapes of the Society Islands.

*Economic Botany* 68(3): 246-263.

**Kahn, J.G.**, 2013. Anthropological Archaeology in 2012: Mobility, Economy, and Transformation. *American Anthropologist* 115(2): 248-261.

Kirch, P.V., P. R. Mills, S. P. Lundblad, J. Sinton, and **J. Kahn**, 2012. Inter-polity Exchange of Basalt Tools Facilitated via Elite Control in Hawaiian Archaic States. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Science* 109(4): 1056-1061.

Lepofsky, D. and **J.G. Kahn**, 2011. Cultivating an Ecological and Social Balance: Elite Demands and Commoner Knowledge in Ancient Ma'ohi Agriculture, Society Islands. *American Anthropologist* 113(2): 319-335.

## **PUBLIC AND ACADEMIC SERVICE** (select)

### Institutional:

Member, *Oversight Committee for Center for Geospatial Analysis*, 2015

*Provost Dissertation Fellows Selection Committee*, 2015

*COLL 400 Working Group*, Education Policy Committee, 2014

*Charles Center Summer Scholarship Committee*, 2014, 2015

Coordinator, *Anthropology Graduate Student Professional Workshops*, 2013-14

Coordinator, *Anthropology Brown Bag Series*, 2013-14

### Professional:

Member, Crabtree Award Committee, *Society for American Archaeology*, 2012-14

Board of Directors, *Society for Hawaiian Archaeology*, 2008-13

Editorial Board, *Journal of Pacific Archaeology*, 2009-present; *Archaeology in Oceania*, 2012-present

Peer Reviewer, (2005-present, select); *American Anthropologist*; *Antiquity*; *Current Anthropology*; *Journal of Anthropological Archaeology*; *Journal of Archaeological Science*; *The Holocene*; The SAA Press; National Science Foundation, National Geographic Foundation

### Society:

Member, *INTEGRE*, Tahitian/Mo'orea Nature Trail, 2015-present

Node Director, *Mo'orea IDEA Consortium*, 2014-present

Member, Committee of Experts, *Nomination for the Marquesas Islands to World Heritage Site List*. Invited by Délégation à la Recherche, Government of French Polynesia, 2009-11

Member, Committee of Experts, *Nomination for the Papahāhauāmpūkua Marine National Monument, Hawaiian Islands, to the World Heritage Site List*, 2008

## **MENTORSHIP**

Committee Chair/Major advisor to three graduate students (3 Doctoral)

Served on Thesis committee for ten additional graduate students (5 Doctoral, 5 Masters)

Undergraduate Honors Thesis Committee chair – 3 students, Committee member – 5 students;

WM Freshman Advising – 12 students; WM Major Advising – 8 students

## **EXAMPLES OF COMMUNITY OUTREACH** (select, last three years)

Co-Leader, Community Workshop with Tahitian group *Te Pu Atitia*. Engaged Tahitian residents and elders in discussing climate change science and K-12 school curricula, 2015

Site Visits and Excavation Program, *Tahiti Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts* (two days), 2014

Co-Field Director, Field trip/work stay for *Kaua'i Youth Conservation Corps*, Hawaiian high school students visit to Miloli'i Valley archaeological sites (six days), 2013

### Letters of Support (Excerpted)

“Jenny Kahn is, in a word, extraordinary. I was thrilled when she joined the College of William & Mary faculty in 2012 and have been awed by how much she has enriched our community ever since. Dr. Kahn has conducted impressive field research in both Tahiti and Hawai'i and has also involved the 'descendant populations' in her discoveries. Her publication record is prolific, having already published one monograph, three co-edited volumes and more than thirty articles. The National Science Foundation (NSF) does not provide much support for archaeological research, and so the fact that she has received more \$1.9M in NSF funding speaks powerfully to the range, importance and impact of her work. I can think of no one at this stage of work in her discipline who has accomplished as much or promises more than Jenny Kahn. She is the epitome of the 'rising star'.” – **Dr. Michael Halleran, Provost, College of William & Mary**

“Her innovative teaching across all levels encompasses factual content, method and theory in a way that thoroughly integrates knowledge from a variety of fields. This approach strongly appeals to and motivates her students, as her evaluations make clear.” – **Dr. Ian Lilley, Professor, Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander Unit, University of Queensland, Australia**

“Dr. Kahn's teaching has already earned her a stellar reputation among students and colleagues...Dr. Kahn has demonstrated a distinctive ability to mentor her students, and to engage with them at their particular level of interest and preparation for her demanding, innovative courses...a number of students have noted that their writing, as well as their analytical ability, improved significantly because of the work Dr. Kahn did to support and encourage them during the semester...Dr. Kahn makes exceptional use of opportunities outside of the classroom for teaching. She runs a very dynamic lab that provides students with the opportunity to do valuable archaeological work, and this is central to her teaching mission. Moreover, Dr. Kahn has taken a number of graduate and undergraduate students with her to the field” – **Dr. Brad Weiss, Professor and Chair of Anthropology, College of William & Mary**

[Dr. Kahn is] a “confident, experienced teacher...enthusiastic and approachable ...Dr. Kahn's student evaluations are excellent, with overall assessment scores consistently higher than the department mean...[The department is] confident of Dr. Kahn's teaching abilities and have asked her to play a substantial role in several of our most important offerings” – **Dr. Martin Gallivan, Associate Professor of Anthropology, College of William & Mary**

“In terms of curricular development, Dr. Kahn has constructed and offered seven new courses in her three years at William & Mary. This is simply above and beyond in terms of pedagogical effort and workload, especially considered in context of her research schedule and her working intensively to be certain her teaching and her research go explicitly hand in hand... it's notable that Dr. Kahn's teaching is cross-disciplinary (with formal links already in place with Environmental Studies, and in the future with Native Studies and Asian and Pacific Islander minors or concentrations at the College)...Dr. Kahn teaches effectively at all levels from first-year to graduate seminars (plus chairing or serving on PhD committees and undergraduate honors committees) and... her scientific discovery informs that teaching” – **Dr. Barbara King, Chancellor Professor of Anthropology, College of William & Mary, SCHEV Outstanding Faculty Award winner 1998**

“Archaeology and anthropology come alive in the classroom with Prof. Kahn...she effortlessly integrated this material from across anthropology’s disparate (and inherently interdisciplinary) subfields, rendering a powerful picture of human diversity across time and space...Prof. Kahn’s research and teaching offers insight into some of the biggest challenges facing today’s world (including social reactions to booming population sizes, rapid ecological shifts, and climactic changes) by examining how people in the past responded to similar issues” – **Eli Dolaride, W&M alumnus (2013), NYU graduate student in Anthropology**

“Dr. Kahn has reached out to students or young professionals with an offer of providing a hands-on learning experience in the field. She has always worked hard to help students fund these trips, providing sponsorship and strong guidance in applying for student research funding opportunities. She makes laboratory internships available to graduate and undergraduate students, in which she teaches her interns using material from her recent excavations... it is clear that the time and attention she spends with students and lab interns inspires students to continue in the field” – **Summer Moore, College of William & Mary graduate student in Anthropology**

“One of the country’s most active and well-published young faculty... Jenny is quite knowledgeable in the area of archaeological science, particularly as it is applied to stone tools. This is unusual in the U.S., where there are few courses of instruction in Archaeological Science, and few lithic technologists who are also archaeometrists. This places Jenny way ahead of most American archaeologists in my estimation. She is truly a unique archaeologist...Kahn’s ability to understand social process through lithic technology is innovative and has already had ramifications for lithic technology worldwide” – **Dr. Steve Shackley, Professor Emeritus, University of California, Berkeley**

“She has already established an international reputation and she is on a trajectory to become one of the leading archaeologists of the entire Pacific region... Anthropology’s premier journal, *American Anthropologist*, has twice published Dr. Kahn’s work and her writing has appeared twice as well in *Proceedings of the National Academy of Science*” – **Dr. Patrick Kirch, Professor, University of California, Berkeley**

[Her work] “sits at the cutting edge of pure and applied anthropological and environmental science in engaging issues of deep importance to our society today... The quantity of her peer-reviewed publications—over 30-- is as impressive as is the quality of the journals in which they appear” – **Dr. Barbara King, Chancellor Professor of Anthropology, College of William & Mary**

“Publication record is incredible...Jenny has recently completed a book which has already had a broad impact on me and my colleagues working in the Americas” – **Dr. Martin Gallivan, Associate Professor of Anthropology, College of William & Mary**

“A hallmark of Jenny’s career is her integration of cutting edge archaeological and paleoecological methods with social theory. She brings together these often disparate approaches to the archaeological record (and thus bridges natural and social sciences)...It’s her deep grounding in both social theory and ecology that makes Dr. Kahn’s research so compelling...in the area of education about and conservation of Polynesian heritage...she has written letters to officials to protect Maohi (Tahitian) heritage and is currently seeking funding to write a popular book about Maohi heritage to be published in Tahitian and French and thus encouraging language preservation” – **Dr. Dana Lepofsky, Professor, Simon Fraser University, Canada**

“She has made a major effort to reach out to the descendant communities, training and educating local descendants in both Hawai’i and French Polynesia – **Dr. Patrick Kirch, Professor, University of California, Berkeley**

“Dr. Kahn...has personally shaped my understanding of how archaeology is meant to benefit associated descendant communities... [she serves as an example of how] to act as an advocate for their traditions and history when they are threatened by either local or national measures” – **Ally Campo, College of William & Mary graduate alumna in Anthropology (2015)**

“Professor Kahn has exceeded our goals of practicing responsible and ethical cultural heritage management...she has fully supported the inclusion of groups such as the Kaua’i Youth Conservation Corps into our fieldwork, knowing the potential of such a unique opportunity to profoundly affect young lives... she has always made it a priority to bring archaeology to the general public through public presentations and contributing to the creation of educational materials for the layperson...”– **Alan Carpenter, Hawai’i State Parks Archaeologist (M.A.)**

“She is one of the two junior colleagues who in my 26 years at the College have, to use one of higher education’s more technical evaluative measures, absolutely knocked my socks off with the skills evident in their scholarship and in communication of that scholarship in ways in keeping with our mission as a public university.. .I’m aware in particular of her course *Methods in Archaeological Science* in which she taught laboratory sessions that offered her students the joy of that discovery in hands-on archaeological techniques... it’s not just laboratory knowledge that is integrated into her teaching, but fundamental principles relating to that intersection of social theory, ecology, and archaeology... She is incredibly active in planning interdisciplinary endeavors. She is already collaborating with Dr. Chris Hein of VIMS on issues of island geomorphology and will be writing grants with other VIMS scientists and with anthropologists in our department regarding issues of ocean sustainability” – **Dr. Barbara King, Chancellor Professor of Anthropology, College of William & Mary**

“The study of the political development of Polynesia...is routinely divided into camps... Dr. Kahn’s work cuts across these unproductive divides and draws on ideas and methods from a host of fields in order to generate a truly complex and nuanced understanding of environmental and social history. It is tremendously exciting work with enormous potential...the quality of the work she is engaged in is really stimulating and important. All of her work is interdisciplinary, and she routinely collaborates with senior scholars in the fields of environmental science, paleontology, climatology, oceanography, cultural anthropology, as well as historical and prehistoric archaeology. Dr. Kahn is renowned for her success at bringing together scholars across these disciplines and integrating their findings in her reports and publications” – **Dr. Brad Weiss, Professor and Chair of Anthropology, College of William & Mary**

“She actively participated in faculty-wide discussions of the new general education curriculum, and she made major contributions to the COLL 400 committee that worked out details of what this capstone requirement would entail. She has become a valued member of the college community in her time here, most recently agreeing to serve on the Center for Geospatial Analysis committee. Considering her superlative scholarship, outstanding teaching, and her interdisciplinary connections, she is a rising star!” – **Dr. Heather Macdonald, Professor of Geology, College of William & Mary**

## **Additional Documentation — Student Evaluations**

### **From *Anthro 150W: From Cavemen to Kings***

“This was a fantastic class that was very enjoyable. It was very helpful in learning how to do research papers and professor Kahn gave us so many helpful resources for the papers in that class and resources that we can use in the future.”

“I really was hesitant about this class because I wrote myself off as someone who was not a fan of archeology. But I LOVED this class and its content. The professor made everything really fun and interesting. The labs were great, the discussions and books were relevant, and I really enjoyed the class.”

“The material was dense, yet interesting. I learned a lot about the processes and studies of anthropology. Overall, the class was enjoyable. Prof Kahn was very helpful, informative, and knowledgeable. This class not only improved my writing skills, but introduced me to a new and interesting topic.”

“I loved this class! All of the material was very interesting and Professor Kahn's lectures helped to explain all of the material in a clear and concise way. Being in this class has made me re-think my original plan of going pre-med and instead double majoring in biology and anthropology.”

“I was always happy to devote time and effort to this course because Professor Kahn made it so fascinating. I loved this course and wish I could take more classes with Professor Kahn.”

### **From *Anthro 150W: Archaeology and Popular Cinema***

“One of my favorite classes!”

“Professor Kahn is an excellent instructor who gives students readings that are interesting and essential to the topic of the class. She is always available during office hours and gives great advice to improve writing on essays.”

“I really enjoyed the class. I liked the system of small group discussions and then full class discussions.”

“Professor Kahn was enthusiastic, very knowledgeable, and willing to help when asked. The class was an excellent introduction to archaeology for those unfamiliar with the subject.”

### **From *Anthro 201: Introduction to Archaeology***

“Dr. Kahn is a great professor, and she has made me want to become an anthropology major. She continually tries to show examples (case studies) of the development of the human race, and I really think this has helped me better understand the timeline. She puts her powerpoints on blackboard, which I am extremely grateful for. I think the class is organized very well.”

“Professor Kahn is a great professor! Although I took this class because it was a GER she made the material interesting to learn. I am glad I took this class with her teaching it. Professor Kahn went above and beyond to make sure we understood the course material thoroughly. As a geology major it was interesting to hear geological terms used in another perspective. Thanks for teaching us the material this semester.”

“Professor Kahn is great. The level of difficulty of Anthro 201 is extremely appropriate for it being an intro level class; it's not so easy that you can get an A without studying (in fact, you'd likely fail without studying)...The course load is not too overwhelming and I like that there are three midterms weighted equally instead of having, like in some other departments or intro level classes, one midterm counting for 1/4 of your grade and one final counting for 1/2 or more of your grade. Love this professor and she really wants her students to do well.”

### ***From Anthro 301: Methods in Archaeological Science***

“Professor Kahn’s enthusiasm for the material and a "hands -on" approach with the lab assignments each week made this class especially engaging and it was easier to learn the material when looking at actual objects and "real-world" applications of the archaeological lab techniques. This class made me more comfortable with science and technical aspects of archaeology post-excavation. Kahn always appropriately tried to pull back in the anthropological insights that could be gained by these scientific techniques. Overall, a great teacher.”

“I really like how this class was organized into weekly lectures and labs and that we got to do so much hands-on work with artifacts, which made learning about things like lithics a lot easier.”

“I really liked how the class was structured with the lectures on Tuesday and the corresponding lab on Thursday. The hands on aspect of the class was definitely the best part because if you put effort into the labs it really helped to understand the material.”

“I really liked this class - labs, lectures, and readings. I especially liked the readings that were specific case studies (like U-Th dating in the Pacific Islands, or the Sr Teotihuacan case study)...I especially liked the use-wear analysis lab and the charcoal sorting lab and I liked the flint-knapping demonstration.”

### ***From Anthro 470: Household Archaeology***

“Professor Kahn made the class so enjoyable. The expectation to 'be responsible' for one article per week was completely reasonable, and it made me engage with that article and the other readings for the course. After weeks of reading and understanding the literature my knowledge of archaeology increased dramatically. The way Kahn leads class is also really helpful. Her questions are direct and make us reflect on the material. If we aren't grasping the concept right away she is quick to rephrase the question or elaborate on the idea. I never felt pressured or nervous to speak in class because she was very open to all responses and constructive with her comments.”

“Professor Kahn is very enthusiastic about her subject, and it really shows. The class and content were excellent; I improved academically from taking it. And Kahn is a really great professor.”

“This was a fabulous class. I am not a very talkative person, yet somehow she managed to make a discussion-based class into a wonderful learning experience. Thanks, Professor!”

“Really loved the class--discussion were always on-target and engaging. Comments on writing were always helpful. Prof. Kahn was always enthusiastic.”

**From *Anthro 603- Graduate Seminar in Archaeological Theory***

“This was a great course. I felt that the workload was very well-distributed, which is often a challenge in theory courses. The readings were a great foundation to archaeological theory without being repetitive. Dr. Kahn was very helpful in finding a balance between providing guidance and allowing discussion to form organically. I would highly recommend the professor for this course to other students.”

“I think this class helped me to grow as a student. I really appreciated the way in which Professor Kahn encouraged class discussion as a way to understand and explore the text we were engaging with. I was able to learn a great deal through the readings, Professor Kahn, and my fellow colleagues.”

“This was a fantastic class that really broadened my understanding of archaeological theory. The professor did an excellent job of choosing readings for the course that supported the concepts she was teaching, and provide a survey of important works in the field.”

**Student Evaluation Scores for “Overall Teaching Effectiveness” out of a 5 point scale**

<b>Course</b>	<b>Kahn</b>	<b>Department</b>
Freshman Seminar: From Cavemen To Kings: An Introduction to Archaeology	4.38	3.95
Freshman Seminar: Archaeology and Popular Cinema	4.00	3.89
People and Cultures of Polynesia	4.18	3.72
Methods in Archaeological Science	4.55	3.95
Senior Seminar: Household Archaeology	5.00	3.95
Senior Seminar: Wealth, Status, and Power in Prehistory	4.50	3.91
Graduate Seminar in Archaeological Theory (2014, 2015)	4.53, 4.67	4.03, 4.14

**Book reviews of *Monumental and Ritual Materialization  
in the Society Islands* (Kahn and Kirch 2014)**

“In sum, this monograph presents the results of well-planned and well-executed archaeological research that makes far reaching contributions. It supports models of developing social complexity that emphasize how elite power is intermeshed with control over ideology as well as economic production in chiefdoms and other ranked societies. And it demonstrates the utility of integrating multiple lines of evidence in prehistoric interpretation... This volume should appeal not only to island specialists, but also to those interested in how complex societies develop.”

Richard Scaglione, *Journal of Island and Coastal Archaeology*

“What might the implications of a case study of this kind be? In combination with earlier and other recent research, it is actually powerful in the effort to understand development within the Society Islands...To conclude, this book is a well written (and produced) contribution in the longstanding interest dedicated to how *marae* (monumental temple) structures in the Society Islands societies develop.” Paul Wallin, *Rapa Nui Journal*