



You are invited to attend the

Ontario Archaeological Society Toronto Chapter Meeting

Wednesday, February 19, 2020

7:30 pm

**19 Russell Street, Department of Anthropology
University of Toronto, St. George Campus
2nd Floor Boardroom, Rm. 246**

There will be a speaker, light refreshments, and time to socialize.

**Dr. Steven Dorland, Ph.D, University of Toronto and Daniel Ionico, M.Sc.,
McMaster University**

Hey Teacher! Leave Those Kids Alone!: A Communities of Practice Approach to Ceramic Traditions in the Lower Great Lakes

When archaeologists think of Iroquoian pottery production, focus most often lies with adults and skilled practitioners. But what about the children? Did their experiences mirror older members in potting communities, or were they involved in



Image: S. Dorland

unique ways of learning and engaging with material things? In this paper, we apply communities of practice approach to investigate childhood learning related to decorative practices from the 10th to 17th century. Our results indicate children maintained regionally similar decorative traditions for at least 600 years that were influenced, but not determined, by broader decorative traditions practiced in the community. Our findings suggest that children did not learn from teacher-like persons, rather learning took place in child groups through peer-to-peer learning. Through this research, we demonstrate the importance of considering children as primary actors in the past. We also demonstrate the opportunities that arise from analyzing grey literature and working with Sustainable Archaeology and their institutions in Hamilton and London.

***We encourage all interested persons to attend Toronto Chapter meetings free of charge
and invite you to become a member of the OAS and the Chapter. Bring a friend!***