

2019 LOVELAND STONE AGE FAIR

BIOGRAPHY

Dr. Metin I. Eren

Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology, Kent State University, Kent, Ohio
Research Associate, Cleveland Museum of Natural History, Cleveland, Ohio

Metin I. Eren is an Assistant Professor of Anthropology at Kent State University and a Research Associate at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History in Cleveland, Ohio. He has degrees in Anthropology from Harvard (A.B.), and Southern Methodist University (M.A., Ph.D.). He also has a degree in experimental archaeology from the University of Exeter (M.A.) and a Certificate in Ceramics from Canterbury College. He has conducted research in Canada, China, Denmark, France, India, Ireland, Japan, Norway, Tanzania, Turkey, Republic of Georgia, U.K., and across the U.S.A. His research has been featured in international media, including PBS NOVA, the History Channel, the BBC, the Discovery Channel, NPR, among many others. After all of this travel and research, he was delighted to return home to Northeast Ohio in 2016 to found the Kent State University Experimental Archaeology Laboratory, which he now co-directs. A master flintknapper, having formally studied under Robert J. Patten and Bruce A. Bradley, Dr. Eren knaps stone technologies from across the Stone Age to figure out how they work.



Title of Presentation:

Experimental Archaeology: Reverse-Engineering the Past.

The future of archaeology is largely an experimental one. Experimental archaeology is the process of recreating artifacts to figure out how they were made, how they work, and why certain designs work better than others. I'll be talking about the role of experimental archaeology in modern science, and how flintknapping and other artifact re-creation processes can reveal information about Paleoindians, Old World Paleolithic peoples, and ethnographic foragers. I learned a tremendous amount from my dear friend and colleague, the late Robert J. Patten, a Stone Age Fair legend. As such, I'll also discuss his influence on me and the discipline, as well as his continuing legacy.