



University  
of Victoria

# ANTHROPOLOGY COLLOQUIUM

The screenshot displays the Open Context website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with 'OPEN CONTEXT' and links for 'About', 'Explore', 'Contact', and 'Donate'. A search bar is located on the right. The main content area features a map titled 'Map of Counts by Region' with '36,394 Data Records'. The map shows an aerial view of Giza, Egypt, with several sites highlighted in yellow and orange. A sidebar on the right contains an 'Export or Map Records' button, 'Applied Filters' (Project: Giza Botanical Database, Context: Egypt/Giza), a 'Filter by Text Search (Data Records)' section, and 'Filtering Options' for 'Giza (Context)'. The filtering options list: Heit el-Ghurab (30,854), Khentkawes Town (5,011), and Menkaure Valley Temple (527).

## Digital Archaeology: Infrastructure and Power

**Dr. Eric Kansa**

Program Director, Open Context

**Monday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

**11:30 am – 12:50 pm**

**Cornett Building: A229**

Commercial social media platforms highlight the power that comes from controlling infrastructure collecting data from billions of user interactions. This power, seemingly impervious to any social accountability or oversight, has come to threaten the stability of major world powers. This talk will argue that we need to place more consideration on who controls infrastructure in digital scholarly communications in general, and archaeology in particular. Thus far, most of the debate about digital technology and data in archaeology has focused on issues of access and intellectual property. While control over the intellectual property of digital content matters, we also need to consider how control over user interaction data matters. Measurements of clicks, likes, retweets, page views and other indicators of user "engagement" can have profound implications for both privacy and how scholarly contributions are recognized and rewarded. This discussion will highlight some of our experiences with Open Context, a nonprofit open access data publishing service for archaeology, as we have tried to navigate issues of user privacy, social media engagement, and assessment of research impact.

**EVERYONE WELCOME.**

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