Do You Dig?

On Being a Disabled Archaeologist, and How Our Ideas and Definitions Must Change

If I ask you to picture an archaeologist, what comes to mind? Chances are, it’s not me: not female, not disabled, and not someone who looks at already excavated material held in museums. A lot of archaeology depends on the constant production of new data, and for new data, you need excavation. But what if you can’t dig? Professional and academic archaeologists with disabilities often encounter complications when attempting to work in field situations which are not accessible due to distance, the physicality of the location, or the weather. This presentation will discuss what happened when plan A failed, and where plan B has taken me.