

Southwestern and Hohokam Rock Art

The southwestern US has a large concentration of sites with rock art. In Arizona, the Hohokam produced a number of rock art sites that predominately have petroglyphs situated separately on individual features or clustered together on the same feature. However, there has not yet been a project that examines how often different types of images occur at a site, or whether their placement on features bearing more than one glyph indicates a selective association of these images. The purpose of this project was to do an exploratory analysis of image frequency to look for possible patterns in how often image types occur within sites, and how often they co-occur with other types of images.

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South Mountain and Tumamoc

The South Mountains were mainly used during the Preclassic period, but were consistently revisited during the Classic period as well. Tumamoc Hill was primarily occupied during the Cienega and Tortolita Phase with some occupation during the Hohokam Preclassic period, but the site was also revisited during the Classic period.

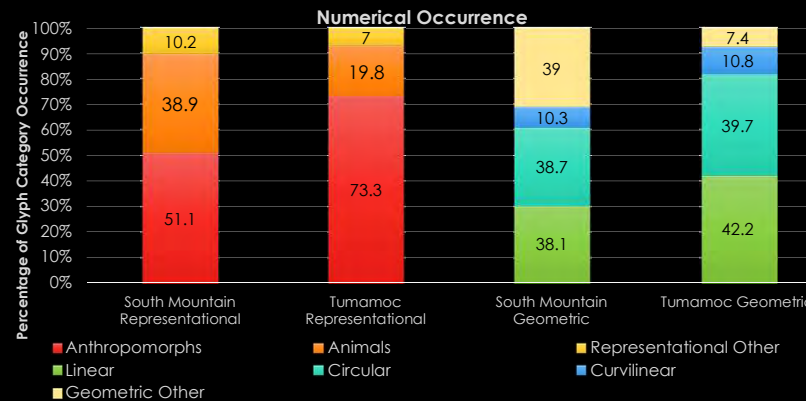
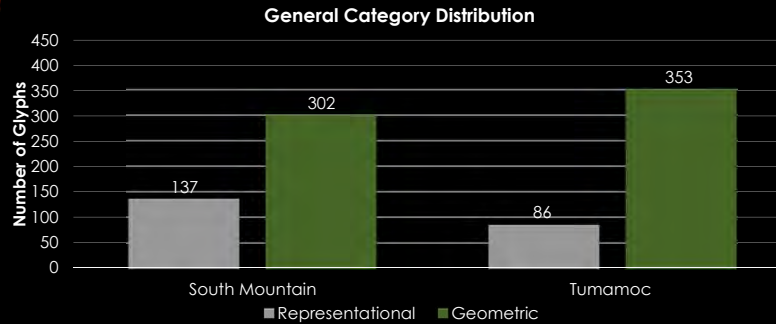


Figure 3: Rock art site in the South Mountains (Wright 2011)



Figure 4: Tumamoc Hill (Hartmann and Boyle 2013)

Discussion

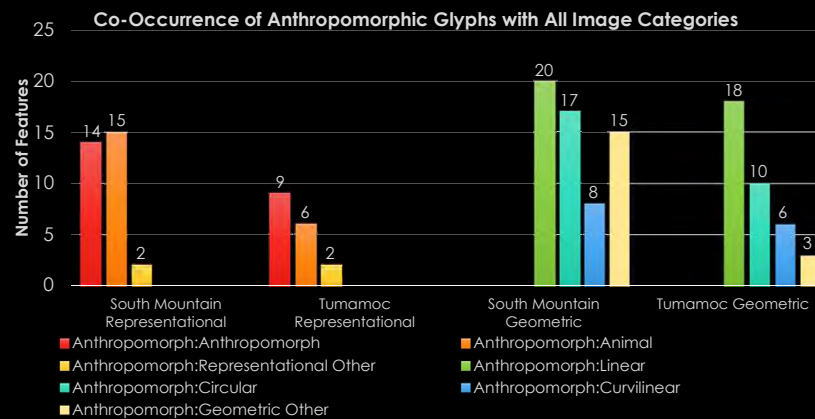
There does not appear to be any indication of selective association between the image types. The same types of images are overrepresented at both sites. It is possible that the communities at South Mountain and Tumamoc used their rock art to demonstrate a Pan-Hohokam identity. This could indicate that people in the Hohokam area ontologically situated themselves within a broader regional context, but expressed the individual identities of their communities through the frequency with which they used the different images. As such, it may be that the Hohokam saw themselves as both individual communities and as members of a larger social structure.

References

Wright, Aaron
2011 *Hohokam Rock Art, Ritual Practice, and Social Transformation*. Washington State University, WA.

Fish, Suzanne K., Paul R. Fish, Todd Pitezel, Gary Christopherson, James T. Watson, and Phillip O. Leckman
2013 *Emerging Settlement Differentiation in Preclassic and Early Hohokam Villages on Tumamoc Hill*. In *New Perspectives on the Rock Art and Prehistoric Settlement Organization of Tumamoc Hill, Tucson, Arizona*, edited by Gayle Hartmann and Peter Boyle, pp. 1-22, Arizona State Museum, Tucson, AZ.

Hartmann, Gayle Harrison and Peter Boyle
2013 *Tumamoc Hill Rock Art Revisited: With a Focus on Temporal Affiliation and Management*. In *New Perspectives on the Rock Art and Prehistoric Settlement Organization of Tumamoc Hill, Tucson, Arizona*, edited by Gayle Hartmann and Peter Boyle, pp. 23-95, Arizona State Museum, Tucson, AZ.



Approach

- Research Topic:** Archaeologies of ontology primarily use the study of material culture to investigate how past societies organized their understanding of their physical, social, and metaphysical reality. The focus of this project was to investigate possible correlations between the use of images in rock art and the manner in which a community constructed and maintained its own identity within a larger regional context.
- Hypothesis:** If the members of Hohokam communities used their rock art to demonstrate their identity in a way that reflects their ontological understanding of themselves, then there should be some pattern in the occurrence and co-occurrence of images that demonstrates selectivity.
- Methods:** Images were identified and categorized using the photos from site inventories and pre-existing reports of Hohokam rock art. Photos were analyzed for both image occurrence and co-occurrence.