A Statistical Approach to Mississippian and Oneota Ceramics at Morton Village

The late prehistoric period of the Central Illinois River valley is marked as a multi-ethnic regional occupation of Middle Mississippians and Bold Counselor Oneota. A pilot analysis of the heterogeneous ceramic assemblage at Morton Village revealed key differences in the vessel wall thickness and percentage of temper occurrence between Mississippian and Oneota pottery. However, uncovering these differences required the a priori assignation of cultural identity based on decoration. This investigation was enhanced with additional pre-dissertation research to further contextualize the fact that while Mississippian and Oneota ceramics use the same temper and are morphologically similar, key differences do exist and may indicate differential vessel production, cooking, and/or raw material sourcing practices.