

THURSDAY
September
04

3:00pm – 5:00pm

Gambrell 431

ANTHROPOLOGY COLLOQUIUM

**Nuclear Imaginaries: Art,
Archaeology and Heritage
Common Sense**

Dr. Rosemary Joyce
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In the last decades of the 20th century, the US government grappled with ways to manage waste accumulating from military and civilian applications of nuclear technology. Experts from science, humanities, and social sciences—including anthropologist—were enlisted in bureaucratic exercises to imagine future human behavior and design interventions to protect waste from exposure for at least 10,000 years.

Looking back at these efforts today, we can see multiple forms of thinking about human propensities and diverse ways of thinking about human engagements within nonhumans that were taken for granted, explicitly theorized, or tacitly accepted by different experts. Drawing on an anthropological understanding of these expert understandings as diverse forms of common sense, this talk explores the understanding of monuments used as models by experts from the perspectives of art, archaeology, and heritage. It places these common senses in counterpoint with a 21st century perspective rooted in posthumanism, agential realism, and indigenous ontologies that leads to the conclusion that artists may have had the most instructive insights into the challenges posed by the impossible demand to control human behavior in our deep future.