Hanna-Mary Cook

Mr. Speice

Independent Study and Mentorship - 3A

18 December 2018

**Assessment 12**

**Name of Professional:** Becca Peixotto, PhD.

**Profession/Title:** Director and Research Scientist of the Center for the Exploration of the Human Journey

**Business/Company name:** Perot Museum of Nature and Science

**Date of Interview:** December 6th, 2018

**Assessment:**

Dr. Peixotto was the first archaeologist that I interviewed. She provided a very concise overview of the field and how it relates to the other four branches of anthropology. Dr. Peixotto explained that archaeology is sometimes seen as a separate branch since it deals primarily with human and animal remains or historical artifacts, while other branches of anthropology involve observation and interaction with living people. She said that even though some consider archaeology an outlying branch, she constantly uses methods and ideas developed in the other three branches to draw conclusions about artifacts she finds. I found it interesting that even though Dr. Peixotto considers archaeology to be very intertwined with the other branches, she and other archaeologists seem to call themselves archaeologists and not anthropologists. A lot of the anthropologists that I have spoken to said they do not have formal titles since they practice in multiple subfields.

On a daily basis, Dr. Peixotto’s tasks focus on outreach and research. This includes visiting schools and talking about her research and the importance of scientific research and processes. She also works on various projects, such as researching penetrating ground radar and visiting an excavation site in South Africa where a team of scientists have discovered the remains of a human predecessor. Working at the Perot Museum allows Dr. Peixotto to travel to South Africa to work on her project more often than she would be able to if she worked in education or other jobs in anthropology/archaeology. I think I would rather have a museum based job like Dr. Peixotto than a job in education so that I would have more opportunity to complete research and travel.