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***After Teotihuacan: Perspectives on Collapse and
Regeneration from beyond the Metropolis***

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Presented by ***The Archaeological Institute of America, Rockford Society***
in collaboration with
the Department of Languages, Philosophy, Religion, and Cultures of Rockford University

on **Tuesday, February 22, 2022**
at **7:30 P.M.**

(Watch for zoom link closer to February 22)

Teotihuacan emerged in central Mexico during the first millennium CE as one of the earliest major cities in the western hemisphere. For centuries, it prospered as the capital of a powerful state that dominated the surrounding region until its dissolution during the 500s CE. The breakdown of Teotihuacan left a fractious sociopolitical landscape in its wake, and the subsequent period was marked by instability, violent conflict, and large-scale migration. This was also a time of resilience and ingenuity, however, as people reconfigured social networks and created new communities.

In this presentation I consider these changes from the perspective of a site called Chicoloapan, located 40 km south of Teotihuacan. Chicoloapan grew rapidly in the generations following the decline of Teotihuacan and prospered as an autonomous settlement for several centuries. Its residents innovated novel forms of local leadership and adopted a variety of new practices. We detect these transformations archaeologically through changes in land use, architecture, and material culture. This talk will focus on the strategies that people implemented to reformulate thriving communities under conditions of regional political instability and rapid change.

An archaeologist interested in the development, social structure, and decline of the world's earliest urban states, Sarah Clayton is a field researcher in central Mexico. She currently directs research at Chicoloapan, a project funded by the National Science Foundation since 2012. She has published extensively and participated in a number of symposia and workshops. Her educational background includes a B.A. in anthropology/art history from the University of Washington, an M.A. in anthropology from Arizona State University, and a Ph.D. from Arizona State University School of Human Evolution and Social Change. She is a professor in the Department of Anthropology at UW, Madison.

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