

**Grave Politics:  
Memory and the Work of  
Post-Conflict Repair**

]

**Dr. Sarah Wagner**

Assistant Professor of Anthropology  
University of North Carolina at Greensboro

**Monday, February 6, 2012**

11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Hortense Amsterdam House (2110 G St.) 202

SARAH WAGNER (Ph.D. Harvard 2006) studies the use of genetic testing to identify missing persons. Her current projects are *Accounting for the Missing: Forensic Practice and Commemoration of US War Dead*, funded by the National Science Foundation, and *The Ethics of Post-Conflict and Post-Disaster DNA Identification*, supported by the National Human Genome Research Institute.

Dr. Wagner's earlier research was on the DNA-based identification of the over 8,000 Bosnian Muslims killed in the 1995 genocide at Srebrenica, Bosnia and Herzegovina. The mass graves presented forensic scientists with seemingly insurmountable difficulties: most of the remains had been dug up and transferred into secondary and, in some cases, tertiary mass graves in an attempt to cover up the crimes. The innovation of violence required an innovation of technology. Eventually, local and international experts turned traditional forensic practice on its head, making DNA testing the driving force – rather than a tool to exclude or verify – in the identification effort. Bosnians became the world's experts at this and Bosnian technologists aided American forensic experts after the 9-11 attacks.