SCHOOL for ADVANCED RESEARCH

INNOVATIVE SOCIAL SCIENCE AND NATIVE AMERICAN ART
About SAR

The School for Advanced Research (SAR) draws upon its roots in the American Southwest, anthropology, and indigenous arts to provide a dynamic environment for the advanced study and communication of knowledge about human culture, evolution, history, and creative expression.

SAR celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2007. In the century since its founding, SAR has played an important role in promoting the discipline of anthropology, advancing the recognition of Native American artists and scholars, and addressing critical contemporary issues facing the world today. In the century to come, the School will continue to shape efforts to understand, celebrate, and improve the human experience in all its variety.

“SAR gave me the opportunity to experiment and take my talents in new directions.”
—Robert Mirabal, Native Artist Fellow

“I found the special environment created by the landscape, the welcoming community of SAR, my fellow scholars and artists, and the dramatic sky and weather incredibly conducive to my intellectual work.”
—Tiya Miles, Resident Scholar Fellow
History

In December of 1907, the Archaeological Institute of America created the School of American Archaeology in Santa Fe, NM. Director Edgar Lee Hewett changed the name to the School of American Research in 1912 and in 2007, under the leadership of president James F. Brooks, the name was changed to the School for Advanced Research. In the more than 100 years since its founding, the School has proved crucial to the development of modern archaeology and anthropology and in the promotion of Native American artistry. From excavations at Bandelier and Chaco Canyon to the passage of the Antiquities Act; from the establishment of the Museum of New Mexico to the creation of Indian Market; and from the careers of artists Maria and Julian Martinez to anthropologist Eric Wolf and writer N. Scott Momaday, the School’s impact has been—and continues to be—significant.

SAR’s campus is located near downtown Santa Fe on an estate built by sisters Amelia Elizabeth and Martha Root White in the 1920s, and bequeathed to the School in 1972. The classic Pueblo Revival buildings and spacious grounds provide a tranquil environment for scholars to write, researchers to gather for week-long seminars, and Native artists and students to study amid one of the world’s greatest collections of Southwest Indian art.

SAR has impeccably preserved the historic site’s buildings, grounds, and collections, and received the 2012 Historic Santa Fe Foundation Stewardship Award for its sensitive preservation of the White Estate. Also in 2012, the School nearly doubled its campus with the purchase of an additional 7+ acres of adjacent, undeveloped land. This acquisition expands SAR’s campus to more than 16 acres, and provides for the gradual growth of infrastructure and programs for decades to come.
Membership

A School for Advanced Research membership opens doors to a world of ideas about past and present peoples around the globe. Our world-class Membership Lecture Series presents eminent scholars speaking on cutting-edge topics ranging from revolutions that had a dramatic impact on our world to human evolutionary processes. Our afternoon Sparks Talks feature off-beat topics about what makes New Mexico’s culture and history unique, such as Los Ciboleros (Spanish Buffalo hunters), the geography and archaeology of Santa Fe, and the extraordinary friendship between Kit Carson and Lucien Maxwell. SAR lectures provide insight and stimulate discussion about our world and the human experience.

A popular benefit of SAR membership is the chance to join “behind-the-scenes” field trips, with exceptional guides, to important archaeological and cultural sites. These exclusive trips offer exciting opportunities to explore the American Southwest.

SAR members also enjoy free guided tours of the Indian Arts Research Center collections and the School’s historic campus, discounts on SAR Press publications, and loan privileges at our vast library. Members who join the President’s Circle receive additional benefits.

P.O. Box 2188, Santa Fe, NM 87504 • (505) 954-7200
For more information, visit our award-winning website at www.sarweb.org
SAR Press & Education

For more than a century, SAR Press has published intelligent books on questions that matter. From scholarly works beginning in SAR’s seminar, resident scholar, and Native artist programs to books of popular interest on the peoples and cultures of the American Southwest, past and present, the exceptional quality and importance of SAR Press publications are widely recognized. SAR Press is now in partnership with UNM Press, which is handling distribution. SAR Press books can be purchased from unpress.com or from web or brick-and-mortar book sellers everywhere.

SAR uses digital formats for teaching topics of anthropological importance to public audiences. An example of such outreach is Southwest Crossroads: Cultures and Histories of the American Southwest, an interactive, on-line learning matrix of original texts, poems, fiction, maps, paintings, photographs, oral histories, and films. This engaging resource allows teachers and students in grades 7–12 to explore the variety of stories that reflect the diverse cultures of the region.

Indian Arts Research Center

Established in 1978, the School’s Indian Arts Research Center (IARC) houses a collection of over 12,000 items of Native art of the Southwest including pottery, jewelry, textiles, paintings, sculpture, basketry, wood carvings, and drums. The collections and associated programs have made the IARC an outstanding cultural and educational resource for Native communities, researchers, scholars, and the public. With advance reservations, the collections are open for weekly docent-led tours.
IARC offers internships for students and museum professionals, fellowship opportunities for Native artist residencies, and seminars and symposia that support the exploration and investigation of Native art, history, and culture. Since 1987, more than 3,000 Native American artists, elders, and schoolchildren have studied and been inspired by the IARC collections.

“My seven weeks as a summer fellow at SAR proved to be one of the most fruitful research experiences in my thirty-year career.”
—Daniel Usner Jr., 2010 summer scholar

Residential Fellowships

SAR awards residential fellowships each year to scholars and artists. Four to five resident scholar fellowships are given to scholars who have completed their research and analysis in the social sciences and humanities and who need time during the academic year to reflect, debate, and write. Summer scholar fellowships are awarded to help advance smaller projects. SAR also awards residential fellowships for Native American artists, which include studio space, as well as nine-month internships for young Native scholars interested in museum or academic careers. All fellows are encouraged to use the resources of the IARC and the archival collections of the Catherine McElvain Library.
Seminar Programs

Seminars at SAR promote in-depth communication among scholars, artists, and practitioners who are at a critical stage of work on a shared topic and whose interaction has the potential to move research, theory, and practice forward with new insights into human evolution, behavior, culture, or creative expression. Each seminar consists of up to ten participants who meet at SAR’s Santa Fe campus for three to five days of intense discussion. Participants appraise ongoing research or applied practice, assess recent innovations in theory and methods, and share data relevant to broad anthropological problems.

J. I. Staley Prize

SAR presents the J. I. Staley Prize to a living author for a book that exemplifies outstanding scholarship and writing in anthropology. The award recognizes innovative works that go beyond traditional frontiers and dominant schools of thought in anthropology and add new dimensions to our understanding of the human species. The annual prize carries a cash award of $10,000.

Catherine McElvain Library

The library hosts a 9,000-volume collection with concentrations in the history of anthropology, anthropological theory, and Mesoamerican and Southwestern research, in addition to more than fifty journal subscriptions. An archival collection of papers related to the history of early twentieth-century New Mexico is also housed in the library.