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My research specialism can be described as "social archaeology", and topics I am currently working on include: past mortuary practices and the constitution of self-identity, the development of social complexity and state-formation, and the emergence and development of modernity and the disciplinisation of archaeology. My previous publications include: "*An Archaeological History of Japan, 30,000 BC to AD 700*" (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2002), and "*Archaeology, Society and Identity in Modern Japan*" (Cambridge University Press, 2006), and I am currently finishing "*The Archaeology of Ancient Japan: from the Earliest Rice Farming Villages to the State*" (Cambridge University Press).