Justin Pargeter is a postdoctoral fellow working with Dr. Dietrich Stout in the Anthropology Department at Emory. His career focus has been on investigations of the later Pleistocene evolution of hunter-gatherer behavior in sub-Saharan Africa, through experimental archaeology, quantitative modelling, stone tool analysis and the recovery of new field data. His research addresses several of archaeology’s “big issues” including human-environment interactions, human mobility, and the resilience of small-scale societies. He received his Ph.D. in anthropology at Stony Brook University in 2017. Justin currently co-directs two interdisciplinary field research projects in South Africa investigating human-environment interactions in prehistoric coastal and inland foraging communities. He also has prior teaching experience as assistant lecturer with the Catholic University of Malawi where he helped establish this country’s first archaeology degree program.

**Monday April 9, 2018 4 PM / ANT 206**

**Justin Pargeter**

**Technological Miniaturization in Human Evolution**

Miniaturization, the systematic production and use of small technologies, is a widespread and pervasive phenomenon in contemporary technology. Only three decades ago launching a satellite into space required room-sized computers. Now, the computational power necessary to perform such a task come standard on devices that fit in the palm of one’s hand. We assemble the many small building blocks that characterize technological miniaturization into larger technologies with the potential to dramatically impacts our lives through biomedical advancements, shifts in agriculture and industry, as well as the harnessing and storage of renewable energy. Miniaturization has also incurred associated costs, for example driving the cost of most consumer electronics down to the point that humans use and discard technology more than ever before. With technological miniaturization so pervasive, one might suppose it is a recent phenomenon, yet in fact has deep parallels in Stone Age technology. From c. 70,000 years onwards, miniaturized stone tools become essential features of technology on nearly every continent humans inhabited. This talk will explore our evolving relationship with technological miniaturization, its associated costs and benefits, and on the role of small technologies in prehistoric human societies in southernmost Africa.