

Forthcoming Issue: Vol. 35.2

Knowledge-scapes

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How knowledge was developed and shared in ancient societies is a key research question for historians and archaeologists. The dynamics and mechanisms by which knowledge and its associated skills and practices evolve, change, and dissolve can be observed across multiple analytical scales. Studies engaged with these questions are frequently undertaken within distinct scholarly sub-fields. Only when academic compartmentalisation is overcome, is it possible to fully explore the strengths, challenges and limitations of the study of knowledge to contribute to the understanding of past societies.

Knowledge-scapes offer a flexible framework to explore the potential of the study of knowledge at different scales and from various theoretical, practical and methodological perspectives. For this volume we invite papers that discuss the origin(s), development, maintenance, evolution, transfer, expansion, transmission, transplantation, contraction and/or dissolution of socially constructed knowledge-scapes. We understand knowledge-scapes as dynamic bodies of knowledge over time, space and social entities, linked to shared practices (e.g. manufacturing practices, travelling practices, exchange practices, subsistence practices).

The diverse nature and scope of knowledge-scapes demands that we adjust our research methods, case studies and data collection strategies accordingly. Knowledge-scapes ultimately feed into bigger archaeological and anthropological narratives concerned with social and economic boundaries, identities, cultural integration and resilience among others.

Forthcoming Issue: Vol. 36.1

Resilience and Archaeology: Human Response to Past Hardship

EDITED BY LEAH M. BRAINERD AND SERGIO G. RUSSO

Over the last decades, the concept of resilience has become central within the archaeological agenda, particularly as to the study of change and transformation. Two main characterisations have been emphasised: the first one dealing with the short-termability of a system to quickly regain an equilibrium state (engineering or political resilience); the other one focusing on the long-term capacity to adapt and transform (ecosystem or cultural resilience). In both cases, complex systems and their response to hardship are the objects of study.

Those can, through the lens of resilience, intersect with and inform on other aspects such as sustainability, connectedness, agency, scalarity, flexibility, vulnerability, and adaptability. In general, we understand resilience as a dynamic process within a given system that links a set of adaptive capacities to a trajectory of functioning and adaptation after a disturbance.

It is also a neutral interdisciplinary framework useful to explore social, cultural, economic, and ecological changes at different magnitudes, and at different systemic and spatial scales. It allows us to grasp the complexity of those systems rather than to attempt to determine only the causes of disturbance.

For this volume, we welcome papers that discuss, either from a short- or long-term perspective, how communities or individuals engaged with past hardship; the strategies implemented to overcome these difficulties and changes; and how the nature and consequences of these hardships impacted human society.

Cover Artists

NADIA BLADT KNUDSEN AND TATJANA BLADT-COHEN

Nadeshda Bladt Knudsen

Nadeshda is an archaeologist with 25 years' experience as a freelance archaeological draughtsperson and is on the teams of several established excavation projects in the Middle East. She teaches archaeological illustration at the Institute of Archaeology, University College London where she is an honorary staff member. Alongside the illustration work, her principle academic project is her PhD research at Tel Aviv University focusing on Early Bronze Age zoomorphic figurines from the southern Levant.

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Tatjana is an Amsterdam-based freelance educator, artist and project manager who works in collaboration with several in art spaces in Europe. With a BA in Art History and French, and an MA in Arts and Heritage, she specialises in audience engagement and inclusion through art mediation and cultural events. She is passionate about projects that unite art and current issues, such as decolonisation, sustainability, intersectional feminism and equal rights. Tatjana's artistic practice focuses on themes of identity, connecting aesthetics with social, historical and cultural narratives.

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