

EDITORIAL

Evaluating

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Dear friends,

First of all, we need to apologize for the delay in publishing Volume 7. As you probably already know, we have recently migrated to Open Journal Systems, which means this is the first time we use the new platform to handle papers and we are still oiling gears. Meanwhile, other unforeseen circumstances got in the way, but one thing is certain: we are adjusting and learning.

On the bright side, as you might have already heard, this past year we were accepted in Scopus, which is a recognition of the value of our journal for the research community. One of the main changes during this process was the creation of an editorial board consisting of international scholars and practitioners who have supported the journal in the past and will continue doing so in a more straight way in the future. It has been a while since we applied to Scopus for inclusion and, although the migration to the new platform was fundamental, the support of our authors and readers as well as the hard work and perseverance of the team are, in effect, the basis of this success. Thank you all again. Always.

This good news made us look back and consider where we stand and where we want to head next. For the moment, our focus is to be more efficient and keep offering a good service to you.

During the past three years we have been pointing out and noting down our flaws—some of them obvious, others not that much—which clearly proclaim that there is still room for improvement for

the journal. We have already addressed some of them, changed completely others (e.g. the platform) and the results seem to be satisfactory. However, as long as improvement is possible, we cannot be fully satisfied. But reality brings us to a different scenario; one in which not all improvements can be fully achieved due to limited resources. In our case, being a fully Open Access journal run with voluntary work equals struggling in terms of both financial sustainability and time constraints. Flexibility and imagination, the pillars of the model, are thus the only way we can carry on, trying to do the best journal possible with the available resources. Still, we need to be ambitious, and believe we need to keep on doing better and providing a service that has proven useful for many around the globe. Last year we reached the milestone of 100 contributors and our statistics show a steady growth in readership year after year.

The question then arises, how can we keep growing in audience and improving in quality? You will play a central role, and your support will continue to be essential. Feel free to contact us with any ideas or comments you may have, and we will continue doing our best.

What's on?

This volume sees the end of a series of fora about the looting of archaeological heritage. This time the focus is on large infrastructure works with three papers we hope will be of your interest: First, Richard Morgan offers an overview of Environmental Impact Assessment which we want to be of use for archaeologists, understanding how it works in theory and practice. Then, Nicolás Zorzín examines a case in Taiwan (Hanben), where the mixed outcomes of the project—no protection, but awareness—offer a view of the challenges that big development works pose for the protection of archaeological heritage on the island, and demonstrate the general need for an effective model. Finally, Fernanda Kalazich discusses the debate over the Dakar rally, which has been promoted as a source for economic development by the countries involved, while the risk

and actual impact for archaeological heritage was dramatic, with very limited possibilities of action to mitigate it.

The first article of this volume brings out an example of integrated research in the United States of America. Greg Pierce, archaeologist in the Office of the Wyoming State Archaeologist (OWSA), highlights the outcomes of the project at the Gipson Site, showing how the inclusion of educational and outreach activities in any project is not only possible but also beneficial. Then, Rihanna Rogers returns to the journal, this time with co-authors James Schuetz and Rex Cauldwell, with a very personal overview of their project in La Mina, Costa Rica. There, despite facing several challenges, they wish to encourage others to follow a similar path towards an archaeology engaged with the community.

This year's Points of You is a photo-essay. Aris Anagnostopoulos, Eleni Stefanou and Evangelos Kyriakidis take us to Gonia Maleviziou in Crete and their engagement with the local community during the summer field school (2014-2017).

This volume includes only four book reviews. However, the first one could be considered an article. Ignacio Rodríguez Temiño writes a lengthy sharp critique of "Challenging the dichotomy" where some of the realities of the postmodern world do not always fully fit into Western paradigms. Marianne Eriksen reviews "Built on bones", Clara Masriera reviews "The archaeology of Time Travel" and, finally, Alexandra Ion reviews "Collecting, ordering, governing". All together bringing once again dozens of pages of public archaeology.

Before leaving you to read this volume, we wish to make a final announcement. This summer we will publish our third Special Volume, edited by Howard Williams and Lorna Richardson, and focusing on public archaeology and contemporary perspectives on death, after several papers within the First Twitter Public Archaeology Conference last year. As usual, we hope you will enjoy our new volume and find it useful. We would like to close this editorial with our standard calls:

1. Call for Debate:

We welcome guest blog posts on a wide range of topics related to public archaeology as well as event reviews. You can send your posts in a Word document with image files attached to our email. We also encourage your feedback and comments, after visiting our blog, as well as discussion via our social media. If you have any specific topic in mind that you want to write about, we are open to suggestions. Don't forget our forums that are always open to discussion and comments.

2. Call for Papers:

Volume 7 was set to be published in 2017. Because of the delay in publication of the current volume, the deadline for submissions is extended by one month, and will be 31 May 2018. We wish to receive papers for our next volume as soon as possible so that there will be enough time to get things done in a timely, consistent manner. For more information about the submission procedure, please visit our website. In case you have any questions or doubts, please feel free to contact us.

3. Call for Special Issue Proposals:

We invite guest editor proposals from those who wish to discuss particular topics and areas of research that fall within the aims and scopes of the journal. Special issues provide a great opportunity to review a specific topic, examine aspects that remain unaddressed, discuss, suggest and develop novel approaches, and encourage new research models. Feel free to contact us for guidance on preparing your proposal.

4. Call for Donations:

The philosophy of this journal—and of its editors—is to provide the widest access at no cost for both authors and readers. AP is—and will remain—a free-access and not-for-profit journal, thus, sustainability is always an issue. The publisher, JAS Arqueología,

will continue to take care of it for as long as it exists. The material costs of the journal are less than 100€ per year, which is affordable for the company in case donations are low, but keeping it a fully open-access and ad-free publication means its future depends on your support. So if you find any stimulation in AP Journal, please consider a modest donation. No matter how small the amount, it can make a big difference.

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