Microhistory and Archaeology

COORDINATING EDITOR
Juan Antonio Quirós Castillo, University of the Basque Country

DESCRIPTION

Open Archaeology invites manuscripts for the Special Issue on Microhistory and Archaeology.

Archaeology, by definition, is a hybrid discipline, located between Humanities, Social Sciences and Experiential Sciences. For this reason, it has always been very open to the theoretical and methodological developments of other related disciplines, and in particular History.

Italian and southern European archaeologists have been interested in the experiences of Italian microhistory at least since the 1970s and 1980s, when the foundations were laid for the development of an archaeology of the postclassical period, in a disruptive manner compared to the then dominant trends in classical archaeology. And although processualist positions were dominant in these early decades, these approaches were considerably enriched through the development of a diverse universe of interests and themes inspired in the theory of practice, the focus on agency and the study of the deeper meanings of material culture.

In recent years, there has been a renewed interest in the experiences of microhistory on the part of many archaeologists, even if this appeal has often been declined in vague or contradictory ways. For some, microhistory is only linked to the scale of analysis, a method, case studies, osteobiographies of individuals, the analysis of domestic contexts, the study of everyday life, the cultural biography of objects or even the individual biographies of researchers.

Only a small number of authors have referred directly to Italian microhistory, and in particular to Ginzburg's work. Notable among these are the works of Charles E. Orser (Singularization of History and Archaeological Framing), Corinna Riva, and Ignasi Grau (Global archaeology and microhistorical analysis), Artur Ribeiro (Microhistory and Archaeology) or Sigurður Gylfi Magnússon (The history and archaeology of the small and ordinary). And in any case, referring only to certain works by Ginzburg loses many nuances and contributions made from the perspective of microhistory.

This monograph was created with the intention of discussing the relationship between microhistory and archaeology by considering some of the distinctive features that have matured within the experiences conducted in Italy: attention to agency, and more recently to social practices (Ago); treatment of relevant issues (big questions) in the light of single case studies that allow social dynamics to be analysed in terms of scale (Levi); an analysis to the spatiality of historical dynamics and the deep meanings of places (Torre); paying attention to the type of generalisations that are proposed
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considering a diversity of scales of inference (Ginzburg); including comparisons as a tool for analysing the micro-scale (Wickham).

This is not to say that there is only one way to address the relationship between microhistory and archaeology, but certainly certain starting points need to be considered to centre the discussion.

As these approaches are developing in different traditions of study, chronologies, and contexts, the authors invited to participate in this Special Issue cover the Mediterranean to the British, Prehistory to the Modern Age, and domestic to political archaeology.

HOW TO SUBMIT

The authors are kindly invited to submit their contribution via the online submission system Editorial Manager available at:

Please select the Category “SI on Microhistory and Archaeology” to ensure that the manuscript is processed by the Guest Editors.

It is important that authors include a cover letter with their manuscript. The cover letter should explicitly state that the manuscript (or one with substantially the same content, by any of the authors) has not been previously published in any language anywhere and that it is not under simultaneous consideration or in press by another journal.

Before submission the authors should carefully read over the Instructions for Authors, which are located at:
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Submission of a manuscript does not necessarily imply approval for its publication in this Open Archaeology special issue. The manuscript will be subjected to a peer review procedure managed by our esteemed Guest Editor and its acceptance will depend on this assessment.

There are no specific length restrictions for the overall manuscript or individual sections; however, we urge the authors to present and discuss their findings in a concise and accessible manner.

We invite you to submit manuscripts between 01 February 2023 and 31 March 2023. If you have any questions, please contact: Juan Antonio Quirós Castillo (quiros.castillo@ehu.eus) or Katarzyna Inga Michalak (katarzyna.michalak@degruyter.com).