

first announcement

What future for studying the past?

Essay competition on archaeology in the 21st century

Archaeological Dialogues organizes an essay competition on the future of archaeology. Young scholars are invited to send in manuscripts in which they develop their visionary perspectives about the nature of the discipline in the coming decades. All manuscripts will be evaluated by an independent jury of international experts. The three best essays will be published in Archaeological Dialogues, the author of the winning essay receives a 1,000 euro cheque.

Theme

In 1962, Lewis Binford wrote his landmark essay 'Archaeology as anthropology' which set the New Archeology into motion. Twenty years later, Ian Hodder published his 'Theoretical archaeology: a reactionary view', an article which marked the birthdate of contextual archaeology. Today, we are another twenty years further. Postprocessual archaeology has ramified into a variety of theoretical perspectives and thematic fields. Greeted with scepticism at first, it has successfully opened up new worlds of archaeological research and has enriched the discipline with a number of innovative studies and approaches. Yet just like its processual precedent, it has developed from theoretical avant-garde to academic establishment.

Apart from these intellectual developments, archaeology has also undergone in the previous decades dramatic changes in terms of its social and political embeddedness. Awareness has been raised about the role archaeology has played and continues to play in the construction of political identity discourses. And the spectacular rise of contract archaeology in most Western countries has raised new questions about the role of our discipline in large-scale landscape modifications and about the relationship between academic archaeology and society at large. Furthermore, processes of globalization and virtualization have severely challenged traditional perceptions of time and space, two of the key parameters in archaeological research.

Where do we go from here? What role do you see for theoretical reflection in the archaeology of the coming decades? What position will archaeology occupy in these radically new social, political and intellectual climates? How do you see archaeology develop in the near future? And what sort of archaeology do you think we should be working towards?

Essay competition

The questions raised above are all very close to the intellectual interests of Archaeological Dialogues. Since its start in 1994, the journal has stimulated in-depth reflection and discus-

sion about contemporary archaeology in Europe, irrespective of any chronological or thematic boundaries. Important contributions have been published in the field of theory, methodology, interpretation and history of archaeology, alongside a great number of articles dealing with the socio-politics of our discipline.

Like no other journal in archaeology, *Archaeological Dialogues* gives a prominent role to scholarly debate. This happens through the publication of discussion articles where experts from archaeology and adjacent disciplines like anthropology, history and geography engage with each other's ideas. Regular interviews with leading figures in the field also stress the dialectic nature of archaeological knowledge production. As such, the journal continues to play its role as a key forum for archaeological debate.

The essay competition organized by *Archaeological Dialogues* seeks to stimulate the discussion about the future of archaeology. In this it can be seen as a sequel to the 'Whither archaeology?' prize contest that was organized by *Antiquity* in 1969-1971 (and which was won by Glynn Isaac and Evžen Neustupný). The present essay competition gives the floor to a new generation of young and promising scholars for innovative thinking about the long-term developments of our field.

Competition rules

1. The essay competition is open to all archaeologists, regardless of their nationality or professional position, that were born after 1962. Members of the editorial board, advisory board, and the *Archaeological Dialogues* Foundation are excluded from participation.
2. The theme of the competition is 'What future for studying the past?'. Essays should not exceed a 3,500 word limit.
3. Deadline for submission is fixed at 1 February 2002. Essays received after that date will not be considered. Submission should be e-mailed to ad@arch.leidenuniv.nl. Alternatively, they can be sent to *Archaeological Dialogues*, P.O.Box 9515, 2300 RA Leiden, the Netherlands.
4. All submissions will be evaluated by an independent jury whose members will be selected from the journal's editorial and advisory board. Submissions will be studied anonymously and confidentially.
5. The three best essays will be published in *Archaeological Dialogues* 9.1 (Summer 2002); the author of the winning essay will receive a 1,000 euro cheque. In case of deficient quality of the submissions, the jury preserves the right not to present the prize.
6. Laureates will be given written notice of the jury's evaluation, prior to publication in the journal.
7. No correspondence shall be made about the jury report.

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Full competition rules will be made available through the journal's website. If you want to keep updated by e-mail, just send us your address at ad@arch.leidenuniv.nl.