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# **E**DITORIAL

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Archaeology, like any other discipline, is subject to theory wars as processualists, Marxists, post-processualists and others strive to convince us of the appropriateness of their particular approaches and insights. But these struggles are complicated by the multinational and multilingual nature of our scientific community – to what extent does the promotion of a theoretical viewpoint become intellectual colonialism, particularly by the ‘Anglo-saxophones’?

In an important (post-processual) work, Ian Hodder produced a useful definition of intellectual colonialism (1986: 106, original emphasis): ‘... intellectual colonialism [may be defined as to] impose on the [other society] our own ... concepts, explain *their* culture in *our* terms, without trying to understand them, to let *them* teach *us*’. We can therefore avoid the charge if we are open to dialogue, if we attempt to understand. In short, archaeology should be reflexive. In my first Editorial as General Editor I cited this definition and drew attention to the fact our discipline is thankfully a ‘pluriverse’ (2002: 5–6). Writing my last Editorial, I trust that readers of many different theoretical viewpoints will have found stimulation in the issues that I have had the privilege to edit.

How archaeologists are to communicate, and thus become truly reflexive, is a rather more complex issue, and was the subject of a session organized by Evžen Neustupný and Natalie Venclová at the 10th Annual Meeting of the EAA at Lyon in September 2004. In the present dispensation the ‘Anglo-saxophones’ have an unfair advantage. English is *de facto* (if not *de iure*) the international language of communication, the Latin of our days. Its dominance is not unconnected to another form of colonialism. And yet, as anyone who has tried to translate an academic article from one language to another will understand, certain concepts, certain forms of argument just do not translate, or lose their subtlety and therefore their force in the translation. The English language is certainly capable of complex inflection and great subtlety, but as a tool of international communication it sometimes lacks these qualities. There is of course no simple answer to these problems, and even though the *EJA* accepts articles in French and German as well

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as English, the simple fact is that an article in English will reach more readers. One small innovation that readers may have noticed is that since issue 5(2) we have printed an additional abstract in the author's native language, where they themselves have judged it useful or appropriate to do so.

In his last Editorial, my predecessor John Chapman (2001) analysed the content of the Journal under his editorship in terms of the period covered by articles, the gender of the authors and the geographical zone covered. I believe that it is profitable to give an account of such matters over the last seven issues.

As regards gender attribution, John found that 64% of authors in the period 1995–2001 were males and only 36% were females. This ratio is largely unchanged, with 65% males and 35% females, figures which, as John pointed out, almost certainly do not reflect the gender balance of our profession. I am a little more pleased with progress in broadening the coverage of the Journal. Fig. 1 shows the period dealt with by the 25 articles published since issue 5(1). The most important thing to note here is that although the majority of articles still deal with later prehistory (little changed at 64%), 20% of articles address issues in the Roman or Medieval periods. I should have liked to see more submissions focused on heritage management, and unfortunately no early prehistory papers reached publication during my Editorship.

Lastly, I have produced figures on the country of residence of the authors of the 25 papers published (Fig. 2). John preferred to present figures on the regions of Europe covered by the articles, but I feel that these statistics inform the points made earlier in this Editorial. As can easily be seen, there are many authors based in the UK. This can in part, as I argued in my first Editorial (2002: 6), be seen as a vote of confidence – British academics are forced by the Research Assessment Exercise to seek to publish in prestigious journals – and articles published inevitably reflect submissions, but it also reflects the linguistic advantages of the

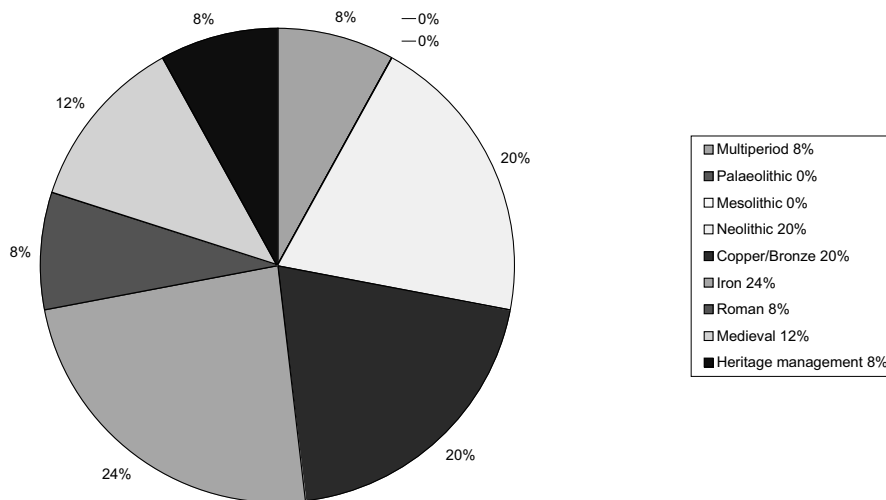
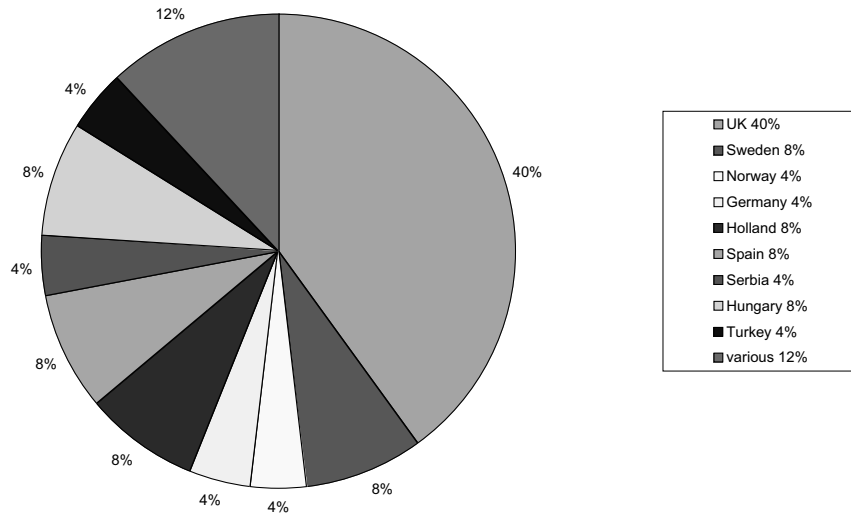


Figure 1. EJA articles by period, issues 5(1)–7(1).



**Figure 2.** EJA articles by author country of residence, issues 5(1)–7(1).

‘Anglo-saxophones’ (though it should be noted that not all the British-based authors published are first language English speakers).

The first article in this issue, by T. Douglas Price and a group of researchers, focuses on the recognition of migration in the archaeological record. They note that artefacts cannot provide proof of ancient migrations but argue that strontium isotope ratios in dental enamel and bone can be used to suggest substantial mobility of people in the Bell Beaker period. Isotope studies are increasingly informing the archaeological debate, and have regularly featured in the pages of the Journal. It is interesting to see how migration hypotheses, which were sidelined by processual archaeology’s emphasis on trajectories of local development, have newly become acceptable – perhaps also as a result of the changed political situation since the end of the Cold War.

The second article, by Mary Leighton and Marie Louise Stig Sørensen, looks at Vere Gordon Childe’s involvement in the 1927 excavations at Tószeg, and the dispersal of collections from that excavation, which was partly funded by the University of Cambridge Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology. They make the point that archaeologists are not giving proper attention to material from older excavations in museum collections, which when studied with a rigorous philological method can provide important new data.

The third article looks at two ninth-century AD mounds at Tønsberg in Norway. Terje Gansum and Terje Oestigaard show how their stratigraphy can illuminate the rituals of their construction, but also trace the biographies of the mounds, which became attached to the Hårfagre dynasty, reputedly containing the tenth-century AD burials of two of Harald Hårfagre’s sons. These mounds are clearly ‘monuments that matter’.

Production of the Journal depends on many unsung contributors – such as Isabelle Kayser-Gerges and Heiner Schwarzberg, who translate the Abstracts into French and German, respectively, and of course the anonymous referees, who unselfishly give up their time for the good of the discipline and out of friendship for the *EJA*. I have found the practical support of the SAGE Senior Production Editor, Jeremy Toynbee, most valuable; not to mention that of the Executive and Editorial Boards and the Secretariat of the EAA.

Finally, in that first Editorial (2002: 5) I made the claim that ‘the *EJA* has made a name for itself as *the* forum for interpretative articles whose interest goes beyond the local or the national’; this achievement fulfils our Journal’s ‘Aims and scope’ and it is my confidence that Alan Saville and Martin Bartelheim, the new General and Associate Editors, will continue in this strong tradition: I wish them every success.

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