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#### **Authors**

Caporaso, Alicia

Moore, James

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introduction to archaeology, the book would be better served by highlighting archaeology's impact throughout the broader world.

If read as a popular archaeology book, *Archaeology's Footprints in the Modern World* also suffers due to the very organizational qualities that benefit it as a textbook. The sheer number of case studies is overwhelming and unnecessary for the casual reader. Many successful popular history and archaeology books limit the included case studies to permit more detail and narrative development. This approach might allow the author to delve more deeply into how archaeologists study material remains, as well as why. In this way, the text would better help the reader to “acquire a deeper understanding of

what we do” (xxiv). Moreover, longer chapters would allow for a more engaging reading experience, interrupted by fewer chapter and section (i.e., footprint) breaks.

Despite these shortcomings, *Archaeology's Footprints in the Modern World* is quite approachable and offers a diversity of fascinating case studies. Anyone, regardless of background, might enjoy this book and learn something from the rich selection of archaeological anecdotes. The book, therefore, is still a success because it fulfills its primary, stated goal—to demonstrate that “archaeology is as significant as it is cool” (xxiv). With all the case studies, Schiffer clearly shows the far-reaching impact of archaeology on the social, artistic, scientific, and technological culture of the modern world.



## ***Formation Processes of Maritime Archaeological Landscapes***

Alicia Caporaso, (ed.),  
Cham, Switzerland: Springer International Publishing, 2017,  
xii+220 pp., illustrations, index, ISBN 978-3-319-48786-1,  
\$89.00 (paper).

### **Reviewed by James Moore**

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management,  
45600 Woodland Rd, Sterling, VA 20166

Though maritime archaeology is a comparatively young academic discipline, the scientific paradigms utilized to examine and integrate multiple site formation processes at specific sites or in broader geographic areas have rapidly evolved. An important concept that researchers should now consider is how maritime archaeological sites may be placed into the broader maritime cultural landscape, which represents the long-term interactions between humans, represented by historical records and cultural remains, and the natural environment, represented by its physical and chemical processes. *Formation Processes of Maritime Archaeological Landscapes*, edited by Alicia Caporaso, offers an excellent representation of the current diverse, and sometimes conflicting, perceptions of how archaeologists define or perceive such landscapes. The

book also fully conveys to the reader that further dialog is needed among archaeological researchers to reach a more coherent definition of a maritime cultural landscape and to establish more comprehensive and integrated historical research and environmental survey methodologies.

Caporaso is direct in stating that the concepts and definitions of landscapes are academically inconsistent and that landscape formation analyses are approached in a variety of ways. While maritime sites are adjoined or submerged by a body of water, their identity as being part of a landscape has often been traditionally conveyed as cultural resource deposits from a specific period of time, such as an economic center, settlement area, or shipwreck. Maritime cultural sites and their remaining artifacts co-evolve with the surrounding natural environment, and landscape formation analyses should consider variable temporal and spatial scales where humans or their remaining cultural material may be present in a given area. Additionally, all exterior natural forces acting on a respective geographic area should be integrated into an all-inclusive framework.

Each chapter in the book is structured as a separate peer-reviewed article discussing archaeological case studies conducted in a distinctive geographic area. While approximately half of the chapters concern sites that

are along the edges of the continental United States, the others concern research conducted at lesser-known international sites, such as in Australia, Ghana, Egypt, and the French West Indies. There is no apparent structure in the way the book's chapters are organized, but this aspect allows the reader to more easily perceive the work's primary theme—that there remains an inconsistency in the identification and description of maritime cultural landscapes within the archaeological research community.

A significant challenge with characterizing maritime cultural landscapes is that they do not have readily-defined boundaries. While the concept of a landscape may be interpreted differently by researchers, as mentioned previously, readers of this book may see that the authors view cultural landscapes as being one of two primary types of features. Some of the chapter authors perceive them to be broad geographic features, such as shorelines or continental shelf areas that are composed of mixed or overlapping cultural materials from contiguous time periods. Other authors describe these landscapes as being discrete areas characterized by a specific archaeological site type, such as an inundated coastal port or a shipwreck-prone area featuring vessels from a defined time frame. A more extreme example of this interpretation is in Guibert et al.'s chapter discussing the archaeological landscape of the French West Indies, where the authors seem to infer that they are applying the term only to those areas where material culture may be readily visible.

While all the chapters feature interesting, and in some cases ground-breaking, archaeological research, the scientific writing styles are inconsistent, which makes the book feel a bit fragmented when read within a single period of time. While some chapter authors go into meticulous detail about their respective fieldwork methodologies and data analyses, including illustrations and tabulations, other writers give a more generalized account of their research and employ a more personalized writing style. Each chapter mentions the professional affiliation of the respective author(s), and while the book offers a brief description of the editor's

academic background, similar biographical summaries for the chapter authors would have helped convey their familiarity with the discussed research subjects and help the reader comprehend why a certain writing style may have been used.

Though the chapters themselves are distinct in terms of tone and subject matter, together they will help archaeological researchers understand that future research considering the interpretation of a specific landscape needs to be more inclusive of any available historical information and environmental data. The conclusions discussed in a few of the book's highlighted case studies would have been more robust if additional informational sources were utilized. For example, Horlings and Cook's chapter, which discusses research conducted along coastal Elmina in Ghana, could also have included mention of whether there is any historical information available on more ancient coastal settlements that may have existed in the study area. In another chapter, the authors note that while wooden shipwrecks were incorporated into their landscape assessment, iron vessels were not. These examples should merely be interpreted as constructive criticisms to be considered if further research is conducted in these study areas.

*Formation Processes of Maritime Archaeological Landscapes* should be considered a prominent academic source that conveys the various ways that maritime cultural landscapes are currently interpreted and how field research methodologies are organized independently by archaeological researchers in order to adhere to their own perceptions of what comprises a landscape. More inclusive historical research and data analyses, which in many cases requires multidisciplinary research partners and the sharing of available resources, allows for a robust survey methodology factoring the natural environment's continuous, long-term impact on overlapping human material culture. Like the academic discipline of maritime archaeology, the interpretation of maritime cultural landscapes continues to evolve, and a continuing dialog among archaeological researchers will encourage more consistent and inclusive research designs.

