



ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Legacy Spatial Data as Archaeological Artefact: The Fifth Hermeneutic Fold?

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Abstract

In their 1987 book *Re-Constructing Archaeology*, Shanks and Tilley offered a powerful critique of archaeological thought and practice, proposing a hermeneutical framework with “four folds”: the first fold involves interpreting physical evidence; the second examines the social and cultural context of its creation; the third considers the socio-historical evolution of archaeological science; and the fourth encourages archaeologists to reflect on their own methodological biases. In this paper, I propose a possible fifth fold, especially relevant when dealing with legacy materials—records from past excavation, observation, note-taking, and mapping that remain unpublished or relegated to archives and private collections. These materials often present difficulties due to their misalignment with contemporary research and ethical standards, adding a new layer of complexity for archaeologists analysing pre-curated and edited records of the past. This talk will explore the challenges posed by legacy spatial data within landscape archaeology, where emerging evidence and analytical techniques call for novel inquiries and reframed narratives. What specific theoretical, methodological, and analytical challenges do these collections present, and how can we advance their study?

Keywords

Legacy, Spatial, Data, Hermeneutics

Session

3. Heritage and archaeology

Workshop

A16370FM - Cypriot Legacy Materials: Issues, Approaches and Encounters on Old Archaeological Data

Type of paper

Oral presentation