

BLACKWELL STUDIES IN GLOBAL ARCHAEOLOGY

mesoamerican archaeology

second edition

Edited by
Julia A. Hendon,
Lisa Overholtzer, and
Rosemary A. Joyce



WILEY Blackwell

Mesoamerican Archaeology Theory And Practice

Michael Chazan



Mesoamerican Archaeology Theory And Practice:

Mesoamerican Archaeology Julia A. Hendon, Lisa Overholtzer, Rosemary A. Joyce, 2021-03-30 A unique and wide ranging introduction to the major prehispanic and colonial societies of Mexico and Central America featuring new and revised material throughout Mesoamerican Archaeology Theory and Practice Second Edition provides readers with a diverse and well balanced view of the archaeology of the indigenous societies of Mexico and Central America helping students better understand key concepts and engage with contemporary debates and issues within the field The fully updated second edition incorporates contemporary research that reflects new approaches and trends in Mesoamerican archaeology New and revised chapters from first time and returning authors cover the archaeology of Mesoamerican cultural history from the early Gulf Coast Olmec to the Classic and Postclassic Maya to the cultures of Oaxaca and Central Mexico before and after colonization Presenting a wide range of approaches that illustrate political socio economic and symbolic interpretations this textbook Encourages students to consider diverse ways of thinking about Mesoamerica as a linguistic area as a geographic region and as a network of communities of practice Represents a wide spectrum of perspectives and approaches to Mesoamerican archaeology including coverage of the Postclassic and Colonial periods Enables readers to think critically about how explanations of the past are produced verified and debated Includes accessible introductory material to ensure that students and non specialists understand the chronological and geographic frameworks of the Mesoamerican tradition Discusses recent developments in the contemporary theory and practice of Mesoamerican archaeology Presents new and original research by a team of internationally recognized contributors Mesoamerican Archaeology Theory and Practice Second Edition is ideal for use in undergraduate courses on the archaeology of Mexico and Central America as well as for broader courses on the archaeology of the Americas

Mesoamerican Archaeology Julia A. Hendon, Rosemary Joyce, 2003-11-07 Offering an alternative to traditional textbooks Mesoamerican Archaeology Theory and Practice places the reader in the middle of contemporary debates by top archaeologists actively exploring the major prehispanic societies of Central America Offers a comprehensive introduction to the archaeology of Mesoamerica by focusing on key time periods sites and the issues these times and places require us to confront Examines key moments in the Mesoamerican historical tradition from the earliest villages where Olmec art flourished to the Aztec and Maya City states that Spanish invaders described in the 16th century Engages the chronological benchmarks of precolumbian social development in Mesoamerica such as the transition to village life emergence of political stratification and formation of Mesoamerican urban centers Includes an extensive introduction by the editors that situates contemporary Mesoamerican archaeology in the broader terms of the social politics of archaeology For further resources to use with this book including study questions maps and photographs visit the website at www.blackwellpublishing.com/BSGA_mesoam

Mesoamerican Archaeology Lisa Overholtzer, 2021-03 In the seventeen years since the first edition of Mesoamerican Archaeology Method and Theory was published our goal of providing

theoretically sophisticated and data rich explorations of important topics for a non specialist reader written by the researchers themselves has proved successful When approached by Wiley Blackwell to edit a second edition the original coeditors Julia Hendon and Rosemary Joyce agreed that the chance to incorporate new research by an international array of scholars was not to be missed The first move was to add Lisa Overholtzer as editor The three of us approached some authors from the first edition who agreed to update or rewrite their chapters We then invited new contributors whose work reflects current research trends in Mesoamerican archaeology For this edition we purposefully included a chapter on bioarchaeology and three chapters that include the Colonial period in their discussions As with the first edition this book is intended to be useful for anyone teaching Mesoamerican archaeology whether as the sole subject of a course or as one case study among others in courses dealing with archaeology of the Americas complex societies or other topics We also expect that it will be of interest to any reader who wants a sample of contemporary research on the major time periods and societies that are the focus of Mesoamerican archaeology Because this book is a departure from other models for introductory texts it is appropriate for us to briefly explain what it is and is not and to suggest how we hope it might be incorporated into the classroom All three of us teach material from the field of Mesoamerican archaeology in basic introductory courses and more advanced offerings As active researchers who each have developed and led our own field projects we find ourselves struggling to provide students with a sense of the research process In particular we think it is important for students to see that changes in archaeological understanding or differences in opinion as illustrated by some of the essays included here are a constructive part of the research process They reflect the mechanisms through which our discipline debates explanations puts them to the test against existing and new data and gradually revises them Too often we find that students and people outside the academy interested in archaeology have the impression especially from media coverage that changes in interpretation result from violent rejection of earlier ideas represented as poorly conceived foolish or examples of bad work We do not think that representing archaeology as a kind of winner takes all contest is very true to the reality of the constant hard work only occasionally accompanied by moments of transformative insight that we experience as field researchers Nor does the metaphor of a contest accurately represent the way that new research builds on and acknowledges older ideas even in the process of modifying extending or disagreeing with those ideas

Political Strategies in Pre-Columbian Mesoamerica
Sarah Kurnick, Joanne Baron, 2016-03-21 Political authority contains an inherent contradiction Rulers must reinforce social inequality and bolster their own unique position at the top of the sociopolitical hierarchy yet simultaneously emphasize social similarities and the commonalities shared by all Political Strategies in Pre Columbian Mesoamerica explores the different and complex ways that those who exercised authority in the region confronted this contradiction New data from a variety of well known scholars in Mesoamerican archaeology reveal the creation perpetuation and contestation of politically authoritative relationships between rulers and subjects and between nobles and commoners The contributions span the geographic

breadth and temporal extent of pre Columbian Mesoamerica from Preclassic Oaxaca to the Classic Pet n region of Guatemala to the Postclassic Michoac n and the contributors weave together archaeological epigraphic and ethnohistoric data Grappling with the questions of how those exercising authority convince others to follow and why individuals often choose to recognize and comply with authority Political Strategies in Pre Columbian Mesoamerica discusses why the study of political authority is both timely and significant reviews how scholars have historically understood the operation of political authority and proposes a new analytical framework to understand how rulers rule Contributors include Sarah B Barber Joanne Baron Christopher S Beekman Jeffrey Brzezinski Bryce Davenport Charles Golden Takeshi Inomata Arthur A Joyce Sarah Kurnick Carlo J Lucido Simon Martin Tatsuya Murakami Helen Perlstein Pollard and V ctor Salazar Ch vez

World Prehistory and Archaeology Michael Chazan,2021-04-30 World Prehistory and Archaeology provides an integrated discussion of world prehistory and archaeological methods presenting an up to date perspective on what we know about our human prehistory and how we come to know it A cornerstone of World Prehistory and Archaeology is the discussion of prehistory as an active process of discovery Methodological issues are addressed throughout the text to engage readers Archaeological methods are introduced following which the question of how we know the past is discussed This fifth edition involves readers in the current state of archaeological research revealing how archaeologists work and interpret what they find Through the coverage of various new research author Michael Chazan shows that archaeology is truly a global discipline In this edition there is a particular emphasis on the relevance of archaeology to contemporary society and to the major issues that face us today This edition will provide students with a necessary grounding in the fundamentals of archaeology before engaging them with the work that goes into understanding world prehistory They will be given the tools to place this knowledge in the context of the modern world acknowledging the relevance of archaeology to the concerns of today

Mesoamerican Plazas Kenichiro Tsukamoto,Takeshi Inomata,2014-04-10 This is the first book to examine the roles of plazas in ancient Mesoamerica It argues persuasively that physical interactions among people in communal events were not the outcomes of political machinations held behind the scenes but were the actual political processes through which people created negotiated and subverted social realities

Power and Identity in Archaeological Theory and Practice Eleanor Harrison-Buck,2012-04-15 A new and broader approach to understanding power and identity in the Mesoamerican archaeological record

Materializing Ritual Practices Lisa M. Johnson,Rosemary A. Joyce,2022-07-15 Materializing Ritual Practices explores the deep history of ritual practice in Mexico and Central America and the ways interdisciplinary research can be coordinated to illuminate how rituals create destroy and transform social relations Ritual action produces sequences of creation destruction and transformation which involve a variety of materials that are active and agential The materialities of ritual may persist at temporal scales long beyond the lives of humans or be as ephemeral as spoken words music and scents In this book archaeologists and ethnographers including specialists in narrative music and ritual practice

explore the rhythms and materiality of rituals that accompany everyday actions like the construction of houses healing practices and religious festivals and that paced commemoration of rulers ancestor veneration and relations with spiritual beings in the past Connecting the kinds of observed material discursive practices that ethnographers witness to the sedimented practices from which archaeologists infer similar practices in the past Materializing Ritual Practices addresses how specific materialities encourage repetition in ritual actions and in other circumstances resist changes to ritual sequences The volume will be of interest to cultural anthropologists archaeologists and linguists with interests in Central America ritual materiality and time Contributors M Charlotte Arnauld Giovani Balam Caamal Isaac Barrientos Cedric Becquey Johann Begel Valeria Bellomia Juan Carillo Gonzalez Maire Chosson Julien Hiquet Katrina Kosyk Olivier Le Guen Maria Luisa Vasquez de Agredos Pascual Alessandro Lupo Philippe Nondedeo Julie Patrois Russel Sheptak Valentina Vapnarsky Francisca Zalaquett Rock

Digital Methods and Remote Sensing in Archaeology Maurizio Forte, Stefano Campana, 2017-02-10 This volume debuts the new scope of Remote Sensing which was first defined as the analysis of data collected by sensors that were not in physical contact with the objects under investigation using cameras scanners and radar systems operating from spaceborne or airborne platforms A wider characterization is now possible Remote Sensing can be any non destructive approach to viewing the buried and nominally invisible evidence of past activity Spaceborne and airborne sensors now supplemented by laser scanning are united using ground based geophysical instruments and undersea remote sensing as well as other non invasive techniques such as surface collection or field walking survey Now any method that enables observation of evidence on or beneath the surface of the earth without impact on the surviving stratigraphy is legitimately within the realm of Remote Sensing The new interfaces and senses engaged in Remote Sensing appear throughout the book On a philosophical level this is about the landscapes and built environments that reveal history through place and time It is about new perspectives the views of history possible with Remote Sensing and fostered in part by immersive interactive 3D and 4D environments discussed in this volume These perspectives are both the result and the implementation of technological cultural and epistemological advances in record keeping interpretation and conceptualization Methodology presented here builds on the current ease and speed in collecting data sets on the scale of the object site locality and landscape As this volume shows many disciplines surrounding archaeology and related cultural studies are currently involved in Remote Sensing and its relevance will only increase as the methodology expands

Bridging the Gaps Danny Zborover, Peter Kroefges, 2015-04-02 Bridging the Gaps Integrating Archaeology and History in Oaxaca Mexico does just that it bridges the gap between archaeology and history of the Precolumbian Colonial and Republican eras of the state of Oaxaca Mexico a cultural area encompassing several of the longest enduring literate societies in the world Fourteen case studies from an interdisciplinary group of archaeologists anthropologists ethnohistorians and art historians consciously compare and contrast changes and continuities in material culture before and after the Spanish conquest in Prehispanic and Colonial documents and in oral

traditions rooted in the present but reflecting upon the deep past Contributors consider both indigenous and European perspectives while exposing and addressing the difficulties that arise from the application of this conjunctive approach Inspired by the late Dr Bruce E Byland s work in the Mixteca which exemplified the union of archaeological and historical evidence and inspired new generations of scholars Bridging the Gaps promotes the practice of integrative studies to explore the complex intersections between social organization and political alliances religion and sacred landscape ethnic identity and mobility colonialism and resistance and territoriality and economic resources

Interregional Interaction in Ancient Mesoamerica Joshua Englehardt, Michael D. Carrasco, 2019-05-27 Interregional Interaction in Ancient Mesoamerica explores the role of interregional interaction in the dynamic sociocultural processes that shaped the pre Columbian societies of Mesoamerica Interdisciplinary contributions from leading scholars investigate linguistic exchange and borrowing scribal practices settlement patterns ceramics iconography and trade systems presenting a variety of case studies drawn from multiple spatial temporal and cultural contexts within Mesoamerica Archaeologists have long recognized the crucial role of interregional interaction in the development and cultural dynamics of ancient societies particularly in terms of the evolution of sociocultural complexity and economic systems Recent research has further expanded the archaeological art historical ethnographic and epigraphic records in Mesoamerica permitting a critical reassessment of the complex relationship between interaction and cultural dynamics This volume builds on and amplifies earlier research to examine sociocultural phenomena including movement migration symbolic exchange and material interaction in their role as catalysts for variability in cultural systems Interregional cultural exchange in pre Columbian Mesoamerica played a key role in the creation of systems of shared ideologies the production of regional or international artistic and architectural styles shifting sociopolitical patterns and changes in cultural practices and meanings Interregional Interaction in Ancient Mesoamerica highlights engages with and provokes questions pertinent to understanding the complex relationship between interaction sociocultural processes and cultural innovation and change in the ancient societies and cultural histories of Mesoamerica and will be of interest to archaeologists linguists and art historians Contributors Philip J Arnold III Lourdes Budar Jos Luis Punzo Diaz Gary Feinman David Freidel Elizabeth Jim nez Garcia Guy David Hepp Kerry M Hull Timothy J Knab Charles L F Knight Blanca E Maldonado Joyce Marcus Jesper Nielsen John M D Pohl Iv n Rivera D Bryan Schaeffer Niklas Schulze

Archaeology of Oceania Ian Lilley, 2008-04-15 This book is a state of the art introduction to the archaeology of Oceania covering both Australia and the Pacific Islands The first text to provide integrated treatment of the archaeologies of Australia and the Pacific Islands Enables readers to form a coherent overview of cultural developments across the region as a whole Brings together contributions from some of the region s leading scholars Focuses on new discoveries conceptual innovations and postcolonial realpolitik Challenges conventional thinking on major regional and global issues in archaeology

Reimagining National Belonging Robin Maria DeLugan, 2012-12-06 Reimagining National Belonging offers the first sustained critical

examination of post civil war El Salvador describing how one nation took up the challenge of generating social unity and shared meanings around ideas of the nation An ethnography of the state it highlights the practices and the complexities of nation building in the 21st century Social Bioarchaeology Sabrina C. Agarwal,Bonnie A. Glencross,2011-02-14 Illustrates new methodological directions in analyzing human social and biological variation Offers a wide array of research on past populations around the globe Explains the central features of bioarchaeological research by key researchers and established experts around the world Indigenous Persistence in the Colonized Americas Heather Law Pezzarossi,Russell N. Sheptak,2019-06-30 This scholarly collection explores the method and theory of the archaeological study of indigenous persistence and long term colonial entanglement Each contributor offers an examination of the complex ways that indigenous communities in the Americas have navigated the circumstances of colonial and postcolonial life which in turn provides a clearer understanding of anthropological concepts of ethnogenesis and hybridity survivance persistence and refusal Indigenous Persistence in the Colonized Americas highlights the unique ability of historical anthropology to bring together various kinds of materials including excavated objects documents in archives and print and oral histories to provide more textured histories illuminated by the archaeological record The work also extends the study of historical archaeology by tracing indigenous societies long after their initial entanglement with European settlers and colonial regimes The contributors engage a geographic scope that spans Spanish English French Dutch and other models of colonization **Maya E Groups** David A. Freidel,Arlen F. Chase,Anne S. Dowd,Jerry Murdock,2017-08-08 E groups are not the fifth element but a group of structures in the temple complexes of Classic Maya City centers In this volume from distinguished researchers of the Classic period the E groups prove to be more than just records of the sun s passages through the years **Lord Eight Wind of Suchixtlan and the Heroes of Ancient Oaxaca** Robert Lloyd Williams,2010-01-01 In the pre Hispanic Mesoamerican world histories and collections of ritual knowledge were often presented in the form of painted and folded books now known as codices and the knowledge itself was encoded into pictographs Eight codices have survived from the Mixtec peoples of ancient Oaxaca Mexico a part of one of them the Codex Zouche Nuttall is the subject of this book As a group the Mixtec codices contain the longest detailed histories and royal genealogies known for any indigenous people in the western hemisphere The Codex Zouche Nuttall offers a unique window into how the Mixtecs themselves viewed their social and political cosmos without the bias of western European interpretation At the same time however the complex calendrical information recorded in the Zouche Nuttall has made it resistant to historical chronological analysis thereby rendering its narrative obscure In this pathfinding work Robert Lloyd Williams presents a methodology for reading the Codex Zouche Nuttall that unlocks its essentially linear historical chronology Recognizing that the codex is a combination of history in the European sense and the timelessness of myth in the Native American sense he brings to vivid life the history of Lord Eight Wind of Suchixtlan AD 935 1027 a ruler with the attributes of both man and deity as well as other heroic Oaxacan figures

Williams also provides context for the history of Lord Eight Wind through essays dealing with Mixtec ceremonial rites and social structure drawn from information in five surviving Mixtec codices

The Oxford Handbook of the Aztecs Deborah L. Nichols, Enrique Rodríguez-Alegría, 2017 The Oxford Handbook of the Aztecs the first of its kind provides a current overview of recent research on the Aztec empire the best documented prehispanic society in the Americas Chapters span from the establishment of Aztec city states to the encounter with the Spanish empire and the Colonial period that shaped the modern world Articles in the Handbook take up new research trends and methodologies and current debates The Handbook articles are divided into seven parts Part I Archaeology of the Aztecs introduces the Aztecs as well as Aztec studies today including the recent practice of archaeology ethnohistory museum studies and conservation The articles in Part II Historical Change provide a long term view of the Aztecs starting with important predecessors the development of Aztec city states and imperialism and ending with a discussion of the encounter of the Aztec and Spanish empires Articles also discuss Aztec notions of history writing and time Part III Landscapes and Places describes the Aztec world in terms of its geography ecology and demography at varying scales from households to cities Part IV Economic and Social Relations in the Aztec Empire discusses the ethnic complexity of the Aztec world and social and economic relations that have been a major focus of archaeology Articles in Part V Aztec Provinces Friends and Foes focuses on the Aztec s dynamic relations with distant provinces and empires and groups that resisted conquest and even allied with the Spanish to overthrow the Aztec king This is followed by Part VI Ritual Belief and Religion which examines the different beliefs and rituals that formed Aztec religion and their worldview as well as the material culture of religious practice The final section of the volume Aztecs after the Conquest carries the Aztecs through the post conquest period an increasingly important area of archaeological work and considers the place of the Aztecs in the modern world

Pottery Economics in Mesoamerica Christopher A. Pool, George J.

Bey, 2022-08-23 Pottery is one of the most important classes of artifacts available to archaeologists and anthropologists Every year volumes of data are generated detailing ceramic production distribution and consumption How these data can be interpreted in relation to the social and cultural framework of prehistoric societies in Mesoamerica is the subject of this book Nine chapters written by some of the most well known and respected scholars in the field offer readers an in depth look at key advances from the past fifteen years These scholars examine ethnoarchaeological studies and the Preclassic Formative Classic and Postclassic periods and cover geographic areas from eastern to central Mesoamerica In a series of case studies contributors address a range of new and developing theories and methods for inferring the technological organizational and social dimensions of pottery economics and draw on a range of sociopolitical examples Specific topics include the impacts and costs of innovations the role of the producer in technological choices the outcomes when errors in vessel formation are tolerated or rectified the often undocumented multiple lives and uses of ceramic pieces and the difficulties associated with locating and documenting ceramic production areas in tropical lowlands A compelling collection that clearly integrates and

synthesizes a wide array of data this book is the definitive text on pottery economics in Mesoamerica and an important contribution to the fields of anthropology archaeology ancient history and the economics of pre industrial societies

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Landscape Is...! Gareth Doherty, Charles Waldheim, 2025-02-24 Landscape Is examines the implicit biases and received meanings of landscape Following on from the previous publication Is Landscape which examined the plural and promiscuous identities of the landscape idea this companion volume reflects upon the diverse and multiple meanings of landscape as a discipline profession and medium This book is intended for academics researchers and students in landscape architecture and cognate disciplines Chapters address various overlooked aspects of landscape that develop disturb and diversify received understandings of the field Framed as an inquiry into the relationship of landscape to the forms of human subjectivity the book features contributions from leading voices who challenge the contemporary understandings of the field in relation to capital and class race and gender power and politics and more

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