EXPLORING THE SPATIAL AND TEMPORAL SCALES OF WARFARE AND CONFLICT

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Conflict archaeology is a new and promising field of research which has developed rapidly over the past two decades. This distinctive branch of archaeology focuses on the material manifestations of human violence from prehistory to the 21st century. The wider spatial and temporal dimensions of warfare and conflict, however, appear to be relatively underexplored themes; most research is site-based and related to a specific period or conflict.

The goal of this session is to explore the advances in conflict archaeology by a consideration of the wider scales of analysis in a spatial as well as a temporal sense. Where are the edges of conflicts and wars? How essential is the availability of historical sources? How can we study long-term trends? A consideration of ‘conflict landscapes’ might serve to re-focus work away from individual battles to explore the interrelationship between different spatial elements. Landscapes of conflict consist of more than just battlefields, but also include military encampments, airfields, practice areas, ammunition depots, and crucially, civilian settlements. There is a need, however, to explore long-term developments that cross-cut traditional chronological boundaries around themes like ‘warfare and ritual’, combat strategies, post-battle activities at conflict sites, the impact of warfare on rural communities, and the issue of warfare and migration.

The objective of this session is to offer:
• Case studies that focus on landscapes of conflict;
• Case studies that explore long-term developments in warfare and collective violence;
• Studies exploring the potentials and limitations of new methodologies and techniques with regard to the above themes.

Keywords: Conflict archaeology, Landscape archaeology, warfare.

The session is now open for contributions. Please submit your paper to the EAA [https://www.klinkhamergroup.com/eaa2017/] as well as a copy to the session organizers (listed below).

Proposals (15 minutes paper) can be submitted until 15th March 2017

Sincerely,

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