

RESSOURCENKULTUREN 15

HUMAN-MADE ENVIRONMENTS

THE DEVELOPMENT OF LANDSCAPES AS
RESOURCEASSEMBLAGES



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Content

Introduction: Human-made environments

The development of landscapes as ResourceAssemblages 1

Roland Hardenberg

Dwelling in an animated landscape:

Forms of attachment between environment and people in eastern India 17

Maïke Melles

The Representation of the Dehesa Landscape in Spanish Local Museums 29

Helene Simoni, Kostas Papagiannopoulos, Rigas Tsiakiris & Kalliopi Stara

Local Resource Managment Imprinted in the Landscape:

Convergent Evolution in two Greek Mountain-Plains during the last five Centuries 45

Oscar Jané, Oliver Vergés, Carles Gascón & Carlos Guàrdia

Abandoned Villages: An Archaeological Approach to Studying Social and

Landscape Transformations in the Pyrenees 65

Leonardo García Sanjuán, Raquel Montero Artús & Coronada Mora Molina

Waterscapes Through Time: The Menga Well as a Unique Hydraulic Resource

in its Geographic and Historical Context 81

Roberto Filloramo, Valeska Becker & Antonio Curci

Landscapes of control and connection: Reconstructing mobility among

Apulian Late Prehistoric communities, Italy. 107

Martin Bartelheim, Döbereiner Chala-Aldana & Marta Díaz-Zorita Bonilla

The Known Unknowns: Full Bronze Age Settlement and Landscape Use in the

lower and middle Guadalquivir valley 123

Astrid Skou Hansen

Defining a landscape: The socio-cultural significance of man-made and

natural demarcations in a Danish Early Iron Age landscape 147

Michael Kempf

The Designed Landscape: Spatial Concepts of Human-Environmental

Interactions in Early Medieval Southern Germany 157

HUMAN-MADE ENVIRONMENTS

Landscapes bear traces of the use of resources over long periods. These reflect not only ways of using, shaping, organising, controlling and exchanging resources, but also knowledge, perceptions, motivations for actions and related social dynamics. Resources can be material as well as immaterial and constitute the basis for the development and decline of societies. They are usually not exploited in isolation, but as parts of complexes whose specific constellation in time and space can be best described as assemblages.

This topic was the subject of the session "Human-Made Environments: The Development of Landscapes as ResourceAssemblages" held at the 24th Annual Meeting of the European Association of Archaeologists (Barcelona, 5-8 September 2018) and forms the basis of this volume. A general purpose is a debate on new concepts of the interrelation of social dynamics and resource use and a discussion of case studies in which landscapes were shaped to facilitate the utilisation of resources. The identification of what has been considered to be a resource is discussed as well as the means through which the corresponding landscapes were transformed and the results. This implies not only material, but also spiritual aspects linked to the exploitation of resources. Since resource assemblages are products of historical evolution and mutual relations the mechanisms of these processes are of great importance. Important aspects comprise the detection of a conscious human formation of landscapes in order to suit the exploitation of resources, the connected social practices as well as socio-cultural dynamics linked to the use of resources.



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