The "P" Word: The possibilities (and problems) of phenomenological perspectives in archaeology

Organiser: Hannah Cobb, University of Manchester
Discussant: Julian Thomas, University of Manchester

12.40-12.50 Background and the possibilities of phenomenological perspectives in archaeology: Hannah Cobb
12.50-1.00 Phenomenology and Practical Knowledge in Contemporary Academic Contexts: Cordula Hansen
1.10-1.30 Broken Homes: Knapp of Howar, phenomenology and the logic of practice: Giles Carey
1.30-1.50 The Question Concerning Archaeology, Giorgio Vasco
1.50-2.10 Thinking through sign: the phenomenology of Charles Sanders Peirce: Zoe Crossland
2.10-2.30 The Doorframes of Perception?: Mark Gilgins
2.30-2.50 Whose phenomenology? A "non-exclusive" consideration of phenomenological perspectives in archaeology: Fay Stevens
2.50-3.00 questions
3.00-3.20 tea/coffee
3.20-3.40 What about the S word...?: Paul Cripps
3.40-4.00 What would Husserl say? Finding strategies for engaging with everyday experiences in prehistory: Thomas Kadar
4.00-4.20 An affective and mnemonic phenomenology? Revisiting the Dorset Cursus: Oliver Harris
4.20-4.40 Naval gazing for beginners: phenomenology and eclipses: Kenneth Brophy
4.40-5.00 discussion

Taking Archaeology out of Heritage

Organisers: Laurajane Smith, University of York, and Emma Waterton, Keele University

12.30-12.50 There is no such thing as heritage: Laurajane Smith and Emma Waterton
12.50-1.10 Where the value lies: the importance of materiality to the immaterial aspects of heritage: John Comran
1.10-1.30 Devils advocate or alternate reality: keeping archaeology in heritage: Martin Newham
1.30-1.50 The northern city exhibition: installation art, embodiment and heritage in post-devolution Scotland: Angela McClanahan
1.50-2.10 Should community archaeology try to redefine heritage or run a mile from the concept?: Jon Kenny
2.10-2.30 Exploring the boundaries of archaeology and heritage in Greece: Kalliofi Fosouiki
2.30-2.40 questions
2.40-2.50 tea/coffee
3.00-3.20 The no-man's-land of the buffer zone - archaeology's legacy to world heritage site management?: Esther Renwick
3.20-3.40 Archaeology quiet on the western front: Ross Wilson
3.40-4.00 The dilemma of participating: Masajuliy Kox
4.00-4.20 Archaeology as a subservent 'tool' in cultural heritage management: Cawood, North Yorkshire: Keith Emerick
4.20-4.40 Archaeology and the negotiation of heritage: Steve Watson, York St John University
4.40-5.00 The tribes and territories of heritage: Janet Davies, University of York
5.00-5.15 discussion

Biographies of People and Place

Organiser: Harold Mytum and Jonathan Finch, University of York

2.00-2.10 Introduction: Harold Mytum and Jonathan Finch
2.10-2.30 Reaching the Respectables: material and textual sources for William Harries Gent, tenant farmer of Hentlys Farm, Pembrokeshire: Harold Mytum
2.30-2.50 Harwood in the Long Eighteenth-Century: Tim Tatloge
2.50-3.00 questions
3.00-3.20 tea/coffee
3.20-3.40 Hearing Voices in the Garden: biography and place in the historic landscape: Jonathan Finch
3.40-4.00 'The greatest ordeal': dinner with the late Victorians: Annie Gray, University of York
4.00-4.20 Glimpses of the bibliography of a community: Crustumerium and the tombs of Cisterna Grande: Uli Quaas
4.20-4.40 discussion

When Data Are Human: Repatriation, Physical Anthropology, and the Intersection of Science and Belief

Organiser: Rosa Drew, University of York

2.00-2.10 Introduction: Rosa Drew and Jonathan Finch
2.10-2.30 Reaching the Respectables: material and textual sources for William Harries Gent, tenant farmer of Hentlys Farm, Pembrokeshire: Harold Mytum
2.30-2.50 Harwood in the Long Eighteenth-Century: Tim Tatloge
2.50-3.00 questions
3.00-3.20 tea/coffee
3.20-3.40 Hearing Voices in the Garden: biography and place in the historic landscape: Jonathan Finch
3.40-4.00 'The greatest ordeal': dinner with the late Victorians: Annie Gray, University of York
4.00-4.20 Glimpses of the bibliography of a community: Crustumerium and the tombs of Cisterna Grande: Uli Quaas
4.20-4.40 discussion
S A T U R D A Y

Fragmen ting Archaeology, or: Taking a Leaf out of Shanks and Tilley's book...

Location: Tempest Anderson Hall, Yorkshire Museum
Organiser: James Dixon, University of Bristol
Discussant: Michael Shanks, Stanford University

9.00-9.10 Introduction: The Red Book: James R Dixon
9.10-9.35 'Intellectual Labour and the Socio-Political Role of the Archaeologist' — then and now: Kristian Kristiansen
9.35-10.00 "...a chronic reciprocity..." — partible time and uncertainty in a California midden; or, "how I wished for stratigraphy last summer": David Robinson
10.00-10.25 Critiquing Critique: John Carman
10.25-11.00 coffee/tea/coffee
11.00-11.25 Putting the Tin in: Sarah May
11.25-11.50 Static Artifact or Dynamic Entity: New Directions for Conceptualising and Approaching the Archaeological Text: Brentford Bracke
12.15-12.30 discussion, followed by lunch
1.30-1.40 Re-introduction: The Black Book: James R Dixon
1.40-2.05 The Interpretive Consensus: Dan Hicks
2.05-2.30 Representation and Authenticity — some reflections on their place in experiencing the past: Stijn Jennes
2.30-2.55 (Re-)Positioning the Archaeologist through Theory: John Chapman
2.55-3.30 tea/coffee
3.30-3.55 Black Book, p. 105-106: Josh Pollard
3.55-4.20 (Shanks and Tilley 1992, 203-64) or A politics of the past present: Chris Wratmore
4.20-4.40 Response and discussion: Michael Shanks

Hous e-making: the process of building and being

Location: K135
Organiser: Serena Love, Stanford University
Discussant: Ruth Tringham, University of California at Berkeley

9.00-9.10 Introduction: Serena Love
9.10-9.30 Two peas in a pod: an Anglian and a Neolithic timber hall at Lockerbie Academy: Oliver Harris and Phil Richardson
9.30-9.50 Caught in time: the temporariness of building an LBK house: Daniela Hofmann
9.50-10.10 More than a house: Bronze Age navetas of Balearic Islands: David Javaloyes, Joan Forns, Bartomé Salva, Licerio Oliver, and Gabriel Servera
10.10-10.30 Rebuilding a living space, reshaping a community: Change in the Middle Assyrian Tell Sabi Abyad, Syria: Piotr Kurczewski and Adam Mlekewicz
10.30-10.50 Seeing difference in the walls of sameness: Looking for autonomy at Çatalhöyük: Serena Love
10.50-11.10 coffee/tea
11.10-11.30 Inside out - early Neolithic occupation in southern Britain: Lesley McFadyen
11.30-11.50 Remaking the Roman house, Re-casting Social Relations: Reuben Thorpe
11.50-12.10 The Importance of Being Selfied: House making at Catalhoyuk: Burcu Turgut
12.10-12.30 Making and Doing the Dogon house. Containment as a process of 'being at-home in the world': Laurence Douny
12.30-1.00 Discussion: Ruth Tringham
Staging events: atmospheres of performance in archaeology

Location: K159
Organizers: Penny Biddle and Kate Waddington, Cardiff University

1.00-2.10
The Poirot: casting and staging the Bronze Age: Kate Waddington

2.10-2.30
"Topography drives tactics": scenario, programme, and the military imagination: Mike Pearson

2.30-2.50
Performance, animism and perspectivism: transformations at some British Neolithic monuments: Hilton Reynolds

2.50-3.10
Half Life: Angus Farquhar

3.10-3.30
Space, Shape and the Performance of Social Differentiation in Prepalatial Crete: Kathryn Soar

3.30-3.50
Tea/coffee

3.50-4.10
"Art du déplacement: parkour and some physical re-engagements with archaeology: Andrew Cochrane and Tom Russell

4.10-4.30
Performing the valley: journeys to causewayed enclosures: Jess Mills

4.30-4.50
Engaging with the Unknown: The Late Neolithic and Early Bronze Age of the northern Clun Hills of Shropshire and Powys: Bronwen Price

4.50-5.10
Willing as performance: Kathryn Piquette

5.10-5.30
Making the Past feel at Home: Christine Finn

5.30-5.55
Enclosure: awakening the Neolithic mind: Performance as ritual across a mythographic landscape: Simon Pascoe

6.00-6.00

From the everyday commute to a journey of a lifetime: the landscapes and material culture of movement

Location: K133
Organizers: Julie Cade and Erin Gibson, University of Glasgow

2.00-2.20
The bewitching of Mr. Jacob Sestay and other tales: how stories influence journeys: Lucy Ryder

2.20-2.40
The phenomenology of pastoralist movement: Bedouin poetry and the archaeological landscape: Piotr Bienkowski

2.40-3.00
Travelling on the Darb al-Hajj: Peter Andrew Petersen

3.00-3.20
The journey of a lifetime: the archaeology of long-distance pilgrimage: JULIE CANDY

3.20-3.40
Pilgrimage as ritualised travel: two examples from the ancient west Mediterranean: Mireia López-Bertran

3.40-4.00
Tea/coffee

4.00-4.20
Roads and paths: a historical and archaeological metaphor for rural conditions in modern Sicily (Italy): Antonio Mierponte

4.20-4.40
The archaeology of everyday movement: Erin Gibson

4.40-5.00
Moving beyond abstraction: strategies to understanding movement in early prehistory: Thomas Kador

5.00-5.20
A few multilabled ditches and a broken wall: Hadrian's Wall and the secular pilgrimage: dislocated experience of a linear monument: Claire Nesbitt

5.20-6.40
Discussion

Movement in the Ancient City: new approaches to urban form and theory

Location: G04
Organizer: David Newsome, University of Birmingham
Discussant: Dominic Pering, University College London

2.10-2.20
Introduction

2.20-2.40
Centrality in the ancient city: defining the media urbis in ideology and experience: David J. Newsome

2.40-2.50
Activating the Map: Movement as Variable in Spatial Analysis: Eric L. Pechter

3.00-3.20
Beyond the Walls: Determining Patterns of Extramural Movement at Pompeii: Virginia Campbell-Lewis

3.20-3.40
Tea/coffee

3.40-4.00
Symbolic landscapes and urbanism: approaching an analysis of movement in the towns of Roman Britain: Adam Rogers

4.00-4.20
Integrating the Insulae: street network and place-based activity in 2nd century: Hanna Stöger

4.20-4.40
Classic Maya social space: changing patterns of access, spatial segmentation and social status in the Maya lowlands: Jeffrey Selbert

4.40-5.00
Discussion: Dominic Pering

Chance, choice and catastrophe: an archaeology of the unpredictable

Location: G07
Organisers: Stephen O'Brien, David Smith and Helen Murphy, University of Liverpool

2.10-2.20
Introduction

2.20-2.40
Theory and a Multiscalar Temporal Methodology: Revealing irregular and contested processes hidden in patterns of gradual evolution: Suzanne Spencer-Wood

2.40-3.00
Diversity of Public Grounds and Plurality of Truth: Stephanie Koerner and Brian Wynne

3.00-3.20
Between the Blind and the Open Mind: A Road-Map for Adventures in the Unpredictable: James Doesser

3.20-3.40
Tea/coffee

3.40-4.00
Extreme Events Call For "Radical" Measures. The Erugion of the Leacher See Volcano 12920 Years Ago and Social Change in Late Glacial Northern Europe: Felix Ries

4.00-4.20
Unpredictable Factors and the End of the Mycenaean Palaces: Stephen O'Brien

4.20-4.50
Discussion

Personal Histories - films

Location: K111, from 1pm
Filmed by Pamela Jane Smith, Silas Michaiakas Sam Wakeford

Film 1: Colin Renfrew, Mike Schiffer & Ezra Zubrow, recount "Personal histories in archaeological theory and method. The New Archaeology", also speaking and chaired by Graeme Barker, Robin Dennell, Bob Foley, Paul Mellars & Marek Zvelebil as discussants (recorded in 2006).

Film 2: Henrietta Moore, Mag Conkey, Ruth Tringham and Alison Wylie, recount "Personal Histories". The panelists analyze their young experiences as they pioneered early post-processual feminist, gendered, symbolic and structural approaches (recorded in 2007).

Archaeology and the politics of vision in a post-modern context

Location: Tempest Anderson Hall, Yorkshire Museum
Organiser: Vitor Oliveira Jorge, University of Porto, and Julian Thomas, University of Manchester
Discussant: Colin Renfrew

9.00-9.10
Introduction by the coordinators: Vitor Oliveira Jorge and Julian Thomas

9.10-9.30
On the Occasion of the Archtology: Julian Thomas

9.30-9.50
Love in ruins, or why do we "see" couples in archaeological sites: Stefan Lebakić

9.50-10.10
Additive subtraction: addressing pick-dressing in Irish passage tombs: Andew Cochrane

10.10-10.30
Coming to Our Senses: Toward a Unified Perception of the Iroquoian Longhouse: Christopher Watts

10.30-10.40
Questions

10.40-11.10
Tea/coffee

11.10-11.30
Seeing the Meaning behind the Mask: examining the role that meanings play in social integration: Christopher M. Roberts

11.30-11.50
Archaeology's "Scientific Vision" and the "Local": Salvage Work in Turkey's G.A.P. Region: Laurent Dissard

11.50-12.10
Learning to see through the "Klimtian Eye": Aaron Watson

12.10-12.30
Luminous Monolith: rock art, sound and enlightenment: Andy Jones

12.30-12.50
Aspects of the historicity of authoritative conceptions of perspectival (a-perspectival) objectivity and conditions of possibility for plurality of archaeological research directions: Stephanie Koerner

12.50-1.10
Questions

1.00-2.00
Lunch

2.00-2.20
"Now, I can see you": bringing an archaeological sensibility to bear on digital media through the politics of presence: Ian Russell

2.20-2.40
Aspects and icons of Portuguese nationalism in the period of the XIXth century dictatorship: Sérgio Gomes

2.40-3.00
Deconstructing domesic views of the Copper Age monumentalized hills of Iberia: the case of Castanheiro do Vento in Foz Côa (NE of Portugal): Ana Margarida Vale

3.00-3.20
Questions on an archaeology of vision: four dimensions of implicated discourse from post material culture: Keith Ray

3.20-3.40
Tea/coffee

3.40-4.00
Archaeological excavation as performance: dissolving boundaries between art and science for the sake of knowledge: Vitor Oliveira Jorge

4.00-4.20
Privileging the Visual at Chaco Canyon: A Case Study from the Southwest U.S.: Ruth van Dyke

4.20-4.40
An Archaeology of Vision: Seeing Past and Present at Catalhöyük, Turkey: Michael Ashley

4.40-5.00
Discussion: Colin Renfrew

SUNDAY
9.50-10.10  Phenomenology and GIS: potentials for methodological dialogue? Rebecca Rennell
10.10-10.30 The problem with things: experiencing artefacts/studying artifacts: Stavan Matthews
10.30-10.50 questions
10.50-11.10 coffee/tea
11.10-11.30  Assimilating phenomenology: considering the archaeological method: Fay Stevens
11.30-11.50 Whose genius led? Working across disciplines in the exploration of spirit of place on Monte Altare, North East Italy: Sarah Deardi
11.50-12.10  Comparing then with now: a 'phenomenological' approach to sites of past conflict: John Carman
12.10-12.30 Discussion

Judicial archaeology: can we prove the past beyond reasonable doubt?

Location: KG33
Organisers: Simon McGrory and Matthew Collins, University of York

5.00-6.10  Introduction
5.10-5.30 Why archaeology is a science: Terry O'Connor
5.30-5.50 Past the dating — dating the past: Beatrice Demarchi, Eline van Asperen and Kirsty Penkman
6.00-6.10 Traditional heritage: Carl Haen
6.10-6.30 Reconstructing the 'crime scene': Inference, Assumption and Argument in Environmental Archaeology: Benjamin R. Geary, Nick J. Whitehouse, and Jane Bunting
6.30-6.50 questions
6.50-7.10 coffee/tea
7.10-7.30 Modern Archaeology for Past Inference? The Case for Credit Marks: Krish Seethal
7.30-7.50 Public perceptions and scientific truths: a case of inca child sacrifice: Timothy Taylor and Andrew Wilson
7.50-8.10 What went in the mouth was usually eaten and sometimes got stuck. Ancient dental calculus and what's inside it: Karen Hardy
8.10-8.30 Walking with Dinosaurs: is it more important to inform or entertain ourselves?: Matthew Collins
8.30-8.50 discussion

The Historic Landscape: more than just character?

Location: KG11
Organisers: Jonathan Finch and Timur Tatlıkoglu, University of York

10.00-10.20  Introduction: Jonathan Finch and Timur Tatlıkoglu
10.20-10.40 Using characterisation in an urban industrial context: an example from the West Midlands: Paul Quigley
10.40-10.50 Characterising the Urban Rural Fringe — A Case Study from Tyne and Wear: Jayne Winter
10.50-11.10 The Northamptonshire Historic Landscape: A New Perspective: Tracey Parida
11.10-11.30 coffee/tea
11.30-11.50 A people based approach to Historic Landscape Values: Camilla Priede
11.50-12.10 Being there: Graham Fairclough
12.10-12.30 discussion

Discussing Evolutionary and Interpretable Archaeologies

Location: K159
Organisers: James Steele, Andrew Gardner and Ethan Cochane, University College London

2.00-2.10  Introduction: James Steele, Andrew Gardner and Ethan Cochane
2.10-2.30 Why intentionally matters: Interpretation as an essential aspect of human behaviour that evolutionary Archaeology in the UK: Faye Simpson needs to consider: Bill Sillar
2.30-2.50 Fashion versus reason in archaeological theory: Alex Bentley
2.50-3.10 Agents and agency, a view from evolutionary archaeology: Mark Lake
3.10-3.30 Dialogue on Agency: Interpretive perspective: Andrew Gardner
3.30-3.50 coffee/tea
3.50-4.10 Dialogue on Landscape, Interpretative perspective : Sue Hamilton
4.10-4.30 Dialogue on Landscape, Evolutionary perspective: James Steele
4.50-5.10 Dialogue on the Future of the Discipline: Evolutionary perspective: Stephen Shennan
5.10-5.30 Discussion

Reconsidering the on-site relationship between subject, object, theory and practice

Location: KG11
Organisers: Oliver Harris, University of Cambridge, Cara Jones, CFA Archaeology LTD, Phil Richardson, University of Newcastle, and Hannah Cobb, University of Manchester

2.00-2.10  Introduction: Situating the Problem: Oliver Harris, Cara Jones, Phil Richardson, and Hannah Cobb
2.10-2.30 An Archaeology of Many Steps: Marianne Linn
Dwelling and Telling: Archaeological Approaches to Architecture, Space and Theory

Location: K133
Organizers: Kate Giles, University of York; Lesley McFadyen and Chris King, University of Leicester
Discussions: Mark Gilles, University of Leicester, and Josh Pollard, University of Bristol

2.00-2.15 Architecture as practice: Chris King and Lesley McFadyen, University of Leicester
2.15-2.30 ‘And to your left, the fireplace...’ A brief visit to some LBK buildings: Dani Hoffman
2.30-2.45 Encountering medieval buildings: ‘showing’ and ‘telling’ sensory experiences using new technologies: Kate Giles, Thomas Masston and Geoff Arnott
2.45-3.00 Thinking outside the ‘Four Walls’ box: architecture and space in the Palaecolithic: Rebecca Wragg Sykes
3.00-3.15 ANF at Dulles Int. Airport: Brent Forchney
3.15-3.30 Materials and spaces: Tracking technological networks at Star Carr: Chantal Conneller
3.30-3.45 Discussion
3.45-4.00 Tea/coffee
4.00-4.15 Half Lives: journeys into the Neolithic: Gordon Noble
4.15-4.30 Hermits’ Caves – narrative structures: Tim Allen
4.30-4.45 The politics of architecture in New Delhi: Lizlee Edwards
4.45-5.00 Pettipacest, and the disciplinary divide: a de-stratified approach to understanding Goodland, Co. Antrim, Northern Ireland: Audrey Homing
5.00-5.30 Discussion

Theorising in Animal Bone Research

Location: K233
Organizers: Kish Seetha, University of Cambridge and Aleksander Pluskowski, University of Reading

2.00-2.20 Keynote: In theory, what is zooarchaeology?: Terry O’Connor
2.00-2.40 What were animals thinking... a thousand years ago?: Ethology in medieval zooarchaeology: Aleksander Pluskowski
2.40-3.00 The ‘proper study’ of medieval animal remains (i.e., NOT a paper for zooarchaeologists): Jane-Jane Sutcliffe
3.00-3.20 Feeding the Roman army: multi-nationals or farmers’ markets?: Sue Stilbrass, and Richard Thomas
3.20-3.40 Tea/coffee
3.40-4.00 Domestic (re)defined: some thoughts on a familiar dichotomy: David Orton
4.00-4.20 Animal biographies and the zooarchaeological use of theory: James Morris
4.20-4.45 Theoretical considerations concerning height estimation from skeletal measurements: Torstein Bjøvold
4.45-5.00 Defining improvement: is bigger really better?: Louise Gidney
5.00-5.20 Environmentalism, Materiality and Paradigm Shifts in Archaeology: A Zooarchaeological View: James Barrett
5.20-5.40 Discussion

ABSTRACTS

The “P” Word: The possibilities (and problems) of phenomenological perspectives in archaeology
Organizer: Hannah Cobb, University of Manchester

Phenomenology has undeniably entered mainstream disciplinary consciousness over the last decade. Yet whilst for some it has been embraced as a positive and insightful theory to assist in the interpretation of the past, for others it has become a dirty word, representative of all that many see as problematic with Interpretive or Post-Processual archaeologies. Such stigmatisation may mean that such bodies are now significantly informed by phenomenological arguments have become so redundant as to clarify clearly acknowledge this influence, preferring to avoid the loaded and problematic connotations of the “P” word altogether.

Consequently it is clear that there is much to discuss in this session: are phenomenologically informed approaches to the past really this problematic or are they born from a series of troubled disciplinary misconceptions? What is the future of phenomenological investigations into the past? Is there more to phenomenology than its application towards landscape studies? And for those attempting to put phenomenological ideas into practice, is this possible? Or is a phenomenologically informed methodology ultimately a contradiction in terms?

Background and the possibilities of phenomenological perspectives in archaeology
Hannah Cobb, University of Manchester

In this introductory paper I will discuss background in more ways than one. Firstly I hope to provide a very brief background to the session and its aims. Then I shall turn to some of the questions I have raised in the session abstract; What is the future of phenomenological investigations into the past? Is there more to phenomenology than its application towards landscape studies? And for those attempting to put phenomenological ideas into practice, is this possible? Or is a phenomenologically informed methodology ultimately a contradiction in terms?

In response to these I will briefly present one of the many possibilities that phenomenological perspectives provide archaeology, by exploring the Heideggerian notion of background. Here, using a case study of the Mesolithic in the northern Irish Sea basin, I hope to illustrate the possibilities for interpretation which arise from considering the phenomenological concepts of background, disclosure, equipmental totality and narrative identity. The scope of these, I will argue, extends beyond considerations of landscape, and is relevant for exploring in practice the wide ranging material dimensions of the fluid and intersecting scales of Mesolithic daily life.

Phenomenology and Practical Knowledge in Contemporary Academic Contexts
Condule Hansen, Waterford Institute of Technology

This paper critically examines the current academic approach to phenomenology as a methodology, which has entered a variety of disciplines in the humanities. While, in archaeology as well as other disciplines, the validity of a phenomenologically informed research approach has been to constantly defend against positivist views, there has been little discussion about the legitimisation of traditional academic knowledge. In "The Postmodern Condition", Lyotard discusses knowledge as a practice, and legitimisation in a postmodern context, arguing for positivism as a valid scientific approach (Lyotard, 1984). Through their current investigations of alternative paradigms, archaeologists can contribute to this debate.

Archaeologists’ direct contact with a physical medium, namely the archaeological record as a source of knowledge, is paralleled in more obviously practice-based academic disciplines, such as art and design. In an academic context where the emphasis on academic practice is usually complemented practical work with a portfolio and a research log, these relatively new academic disciplines are often termed "theorising practice" and are now at a critical point in defining their philosophical frameworks.

Some of the current theoretical developments in practice-based research will be introduced in this paper to illustrate the appropriateness of adopting a phenomenological position when approaching material culture, practical processes and social practices.

Broken Hones: Knap of Howar, phenomenology and the 'logic' of practice
Giles Carey, Surrey County Council

Phenomenological approaches have opened up a whole other avenue of thought in considering prehistoric landscapes. How to interpret a word when it comes to considering Neolithic house sites? Phenomenology has largely been considered as a single theory of a recourse to a first-order understanding of the world, in which the body provides the "ontological ground for all feeling and knowing" (Tilley, 2004: 29). However, this "excludes any inquiry as to its own social conditions of possibility" (Balibar & Nancy, 1992: 26). It is through practice that "bodily engagements are created, 'defined' and 'challenged' space. Understanding how bodily engagement can be read in the archaeological record could lead to wider understandings of Neolithic house space as an arena of conflict rather than a cosmological entity.


The Question Concerning Archaeology
Gonzalo Velho, Instituto Politécnico de Tomar

The title of this paper follows Heidegger’s essay “The Question Concerning Technology”. From my point of view archaeology suffers from a question linked to technology, which Heidegger also developed in the essay “The Thing.” Beneath the “great story of technological evolution” archaeology has developed mainly as a “great story of technology and materiality.” Maybe the best example can be seen in Leroi-Gourhan’s concepts of “Tendence” and “Fail.” In this sense archaeology contributed to a view were technology overcomes human being. This may also be exemplified by some studies which claims to estimate human being through materiality. As archaeologists may argue that we study arts and crafts rather than modern technology, and that in this sense it’s more human. This would be in close contact with a Heideggerian call for a “return to the basics (origins)” From my point of view this argument offers even more dangers which are necessary to expose. Coming from a country which still suffers under fascist dictatorship, I wish to denounce some of the dangers of this practice. Salazar’s dictatorship was based on the beauty of arts and crafts, living in the country, nature, and practice as the ultimate medium for overcoming the anguish of modern life and thinking, ideas present in Pessoa’s heteronym Alberto Casio. All this condemn Portuguese people to become the rural picturesque playground of Europe for half a century. Today we still pay the price.