

Book Series Proposal

Routledge Studies in Later European Historical Archaeology

Series Editors

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Statement of Aims

The aim of this series is both to offer a venue and to promote research in the **later historical archaeology of Europe**. It is important we explain what we mean by this. First, by **'later historical'**, we mean research on the period after c. 1450 and up to c. 1950, known otherwise as post-medieval or modern world archaeology, terms which we find problematic for various reasons. In this way, this series will *not* engage with the archaeology of all periods for which written texts also exist (as implied by the term 'historical archaeology' in Europe), just those generally tied to the emergence of the early modern period in Europe. Although we see these chronological limits as flexible, especially depending on the nature of individual contributions, we still wish to keep a rough distinction in our series from medieval archaeology on the one hand and contemporary archaeology on the other, for both of which there already exist series (e.g. Equinox's *Studies in the Archaeology of Medieval Europe* or Routledge's *Archaeologies of the Contemporary World*). It is precisely the period in between these two that there is lacking any publication venue, at least for studies with a European focus.

Which leads to the second qualification. By the archaeology of **Europe**, we mean principally, studies conducted on and through European material, yet ones which also acknowledge the global dimension of Europe through its legacy of colonialism. In other words, Europe is as much a cultural and political as a geographical concept. Moreover, in framing Europe in these terms, we wish to stress that this 'Europe' is conceptualized not as the origin of the modern world, but rather, in the manner of Chakrabarty (2008), one that is 'provincialized' and re-situated as a contested region within global history of the last half a millennium. The focus on Europe in this series is in large part, also an emphatic attempt to counter the contemporary balance of academic power in this field whose centre of gravity is Anglophone, primarily North American and to a lesser extent, Australian. In short, later historical archaeology remains dominated by a North American/anglophone perspective and while we fully acknowledge our own background in the same milieu as well as the importance of the deep connections with this perspective, it is equally important that the differences and diversity of a European archaeology be given a more prominent place, hence the rationale for this proposal.

No dedicated venue currently exists for this area of research, which has been steadily growing over the last quarter of a century. The three principal journals (*Postmedieval Archaeology*, *Historical Archaeology* and *International Journal of Historical Archaeology*) and their affiliated conferences and societies are the main places where such research reaches a wider audience, but one is based in the UK, the other two in the US. Both also produce occasional edited volumes/monographs, although the main venue for these formats are two series again situated within a North American publishing framework (Springer's series in *Global Historical Archaeology* and Florida University Press' Archaeology series; see section on Competing or related series below). Although all of these venues have published work in later historical European archaeology, such works have also appeared as stand-alone volumes with various other publishers and it is clear that there is a major gap in the market for a publishing venue which focuses specifically on this period and region.

Description of volumes in the series

The aim of the series will be to publish both edited volumes and single-authored books/monographs, both in the region of c. 80,000-100,000 words, inclusive. Initially, books will be asked for by the editors and in consultation with the advisory board (see top of proposal). Together, we have access to a wide network of scholars working in this field, whose work may not be reaching a wider audience due to both language and venue issues. Our goal will be to encourage publication in English of the rich and diverse work that is currently taking place in Europe. Once the series is up and running and advertised, we also expect to start receiving unsolicited submissions, but our role as editors will be to try and maintain the flow and to continue soliciting proposals where necessary or relevant.