



Archaeological Review from Cambridge

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Beyond the Human: Applying posthumanist thinking to archaeology

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Posthumanism has become an increasingly popular approach across the humanities and social sciences in recent decades, uniting a number of diverse concepts under its aegis. Broadly speaking, these entail a decentring of 'humans' as discrete entities from analyses of wider networks, flows and webs of affect. Ranging from multi-species ethnographies to novel conceptions of astrophysics, posthumanist thought has, perhaps because of its heterogenous nature, made its presence felt throughout the academy and beyond. Archaeology is particularly well-placed to contribute to this burgeoning discussion, with prior theoretical developments, such as symmetrical archaeology and new materialism, already beginning to address similar concerns within the discipline. What, then, can previous archaeological thought contribute to broader posthumanist concerns? And what, in turn, can we as archaeologists learn from this cross-disciplinary conversation?

The *Archaeological Review from Cambridge* has long functioned as an interdisciplinary forum for such theoretically forward-thinking debates. Volume 34.2 therefore invites contributions from both within archaeology, as well as from related disciplines such as anthropology, sociology, history, philosophy or cultural studies. Papers of both a theoretical and empirically-informed nature are encouraged, and may address a variety of posthumanist concerns, particularly with reference to archaeological topics or ideas.

Possible questions to be explored may include, though are not limited to:

- ❖ How can archaeological thinking or perspectives be applied to post-humanist agendas?
- ❖ What can posthumanism contribute to our own archaeological interpretations of the past?
- ❖ How can a decentring of the 'human' lead to novel conceptions of human relationships with animals or plants throughout history?
- ❖ How can the development of specific landscapes be attributed to diverse human and non-human relations extended through time and/or space?
- ❖ How can other object-led approaches in archaeology be articulated within posthumanist frameworks?
- ❖ What new ethical commitments does posthumanism ask of archaeology?

Papers of no more than 4000 words should be submitted to Mark Haughton (mh850@cam.ac.uk) and David K. Kay (dkk27@cam.ac.uk) before **15th February 2019**, for publication in November 2019. Potential contributors are encouraged to register interest early by either submitting an abstract of up to 250 words or contacting the editors to further discuss their ideas.

More information about the *Archaeological Review from Cambridge*, including back issues and submission guidelines, may be found online at <http://arc.soc.srccf.net>.