

Landscape Archaeology in the Near East

Approaches, Methods and Case Studies

Bülent Arıkan and Linda Olsvig-Whittaker

ARCHAEOPRESS ARCHAEOLOGY



ARCHAEOPRESS PUBLISHING LTD

Summertown Pavilion
18-24 Middle Way
Summertown
Oxford OX2 7LG

www.archaeopress.com

ISBN 978-1-80327-356-3

ISBN 978-1-80327-357-0 (e-Pdf)

© Archaeopress and the individual authors 2023

Cover: Sloped agrarian lands on the southwestern slopes of Larisa East (Külekçi, Kolay and Mater).
Larisa Survey Archive – Sinan Kolay.

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced, or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying or otherwise, without the prior written permission of the copyright owners. This book is available direct from Archaeopress or from our website www.archaeopress.com

Contents

Introduction: Landscape Archaeology in the Near East	1
Bülent Arıkan	
Chapter 1	
Ancient Roads in the Southern Golan Heights: Recent Surveys and Landscape Approach	3
Adam Pažout	
Chapter 2	
Satellite Image and GIS Analysis in Managing and Modelling Risks to Naqsh-e Rostam, Iran	12
Mohammadamin Emami, Azadeh Ghobadi	
Chapter 3	
The role of the River Pyramos in East Plain Cilicia in Shaping the Settlement Pattern	21
Füsun Tülek, Tuba Ökse	
Chapter 4	
Cooperation and Political Relations in the Deep Past: A Reframing	47
Gary M. Feinman, Linda M. Nicholas	
Chapter 5	
Urban and Agrarian Landscapes of Larisa (Buruncuk)	57
Ilgın Külekçi, Sinan Kolay, Gizem Mater	
Chapter 6	
Landscape Archeology of Wādī al-‘ Arab	73
Linda Olsvig-Whittaker, Patrick Leiverkus and Katja Soennecken	
Chapter 7	
The Archaeological Landscape of the Erzurum and Pasinler Plains. Evaluation of the 2001-2002 Surveys	84
Mehmet Işikli, Buket Beşikçi	
Chapter 8	
Cultural Heritage in Landscape: Planning for Development in Turkey	96
Sam Turner, Engin Nurlu, Ebru Ersoy Tonyaloğlu, Nurdan Erdoğan, Mark Jackson, Gündür Varinlioğlu, Tevfik Emre Şerifoğlu, Francesco Carrer, Betül Çavdar, Kübra Kurtşan, Safiye Pınar Tunalı	
Chapter 9	
Patterns of Social Complexity in Evaluation of Gender	110
Selin Gür	
Chapter 10	
The Paleoclimate of the Amuq Plain and the Archaeological Settlement Index: The Assessment of the Long-term Settlement Dynamics Throughout the Holocene	114
Bülent Arıkan	

I dedicate this volume to my spouse Gonca Dardeniz Arıkan, whose love and support has been the ultimate source of joy in my life.

Bülent Arıkan

We also wish to acknowledge the support which SNELA has received from Istanbul Technical University, the German Archaeological Institute, the DEIAHL and the Thyssen Foundation for our conferences in Turkey and in Israel. We thank these organizations for their help.

The Editors

Introduction: Landscape Archaeology in the Near East

Bülent Arıkan

Landscape Archaeology has become one of the most prolific subdisciplines of archaeology. The field started as a *trend* in assessing the spatial associations at local, regional, and supra-regional scales in 1970s (Vita-Finzi, 1970; Hodder, 1976; Clarke, 1977). The first examples of landscape research in archaeology focused on the concept of site catchment; how a particular site interacted with its immediate environment. While underlying assumptions and the overall approach was similar to human geography, this was also the first time that nature-culture interactions were analyzed at a deeper level. In time, direct borrowing of concepts from neighboring fields brought criticisms among archaeologists however intensifying research in this sub-field gradually led to the emergence of various theoretical approaches.

Throughout 1990s and early 2000s, Landscape Archaeology has become the embodiment of the study of cultural landscapes; how natural environment was transformed in time and which changes took place on the natural environment as well as the consequences of such anthropogenically induced transformations (Hood, 1996; Spencer-Wood and Baugher, 2010). The diversification in research brought assessment of material, social, and cognitive aspects of past landscapes. Such different approaches under Landscape Archaeology also brought diverse theoretical constructs such as the concept of social space (Delle, 1998).

The diversification of research and the development of various theoretical perspectives in Landscape Archaeology benefited significantly from the integration of new field and analytical methods in archaeology. From the use of past environmental proxy records such as isotopes and pollens to the introduction of geographical information systems and unmanned aerial vehicles to gather and analyze large sets of data to answer archaeology-driven research questions, Landscape Archaeology has come to represent a well-defined approach within the discipline with her unique sets of methods and theoretical perspectives.

In the Near East, arguably the most prominent figure in Landscape Archaeology is Tony J. Wilkinson (1948–2014). His research on reconstructing how various parts of the Near East evolved geomorphologically and to what extent these past landscapes contributed to the socio-cultural and economic evolution of cultures

(see Wilkinson, 2003) opened numerous venues for researchers with similar interests in the region. Today, his impact on the Landscape Archaeology of the Near East is very much alive and shaping our research agendas. Partially through his attempts to reconstruct past ecosystems around archaeological sites and to reconstruct nature-culture interactions, we have developed *socio-ecological systems research* that specifically focuses on the long-term intended and unintended consequences of anthropogenic land use and land cover changes in the Near East.

This volume is largely shaped by the discussions during the Second International Symposium of the Society for Near Eastern Landscape Archaeology (SNELA), which was held at Istanbul (Turkey) between March 13th and 16th 2019. The meeting had themes of:

- i. long-distance trade patterns and resource use,
- ii. the Holocene environmental change and human adaptations,
- iii. patterns of social complexity and human impacts on ancient environments.

The meeting that lasted for two and a half days brought together researchers from Germany, Iran, Israel, Switzerland, and Turkey. Each theme was discussed in designated sessions where a total of 20 papers were delivered.

This volume contains 10 chapters each of which represents unique approaches in Landscape Archaeology as of the beginning of 2020. Pazout (Ch.1) discusses the significance of roads in understanding past communication among archaeological sites in southern Golan Heights. Emami (Ch.2) used the most advanced tools to identify the risks related to the preservation of Naqsh-e Rostam in Iran. Tülek (Ch.3) offers an extensive assessment of how natural landscape and past settlement systems in east Cilicia Plain evolved. Feinman and Nicholas (Ch.4) discuss the results of collective action and cooperation in terms of the evolution of social complexity in Prehispanic Mesoamerica, which provides an important comparison for the Near East. Külekçi and others (Ch.5) provide a detailed assessment of the landscape around ancient Larissa and how it is possible to identify different

segments of the landscape. Olsvig-Whittaker *et al.* (Ch.6) discuss the ecological particulars of Wadi al-Arab and within the scope of a regional project authors provide the long-term evolution of settlement patterns. Işıklı and Beşikçi (Ch.7) provide an assessment of the human-environment interaction in northeast highlands of Anatolia, which is a relatively less known region that has significant ties with the Caucasus. Turner and others (Ch.8) emphasize the role of landscape research in preserving and maintaining cultural heritage, which may be at risk due to modern land development projects. Gür (Ch.9) offers a detailed assessment of social complexity and the role of gender in the Cilician Plain, especially from the perspective of households. Finally, Arıkan (Ch.10) provides the long-term changes in the settlement patterns of the Amuq Plain.

This volume is intended to provide a general guide to researchers with wide range of interests. For specialists, this volume will be a valuable reference to follow the most recent developments in the field. For non-specialists, contributions here will provide them with detailed glimpse into persistent themes in the Landscape Archaeology of the Near East.

Bülent Arıkan

Istanbul, June 2022

References

- Clarke, D.1977. *Spatial Archaeology*. Boston, Academic Press
- Delle, J.A.1998. *An Archaeology of Social Space: Analyzing Coffee Plantations in Jamaica's Blue Mountains*. New York, Plenum Press
- Hood, E.J. 1996. Social relations and the cultural landscape, in Y. Rebecca and K. Bescherer Metheny (eds) *Landscape Archaeology: Reading and Interpreting the American Historical Landscape*. Knoxville, The University of Tennessee Press: 121-135
- Orton, C. and I. Hodder. 1976. *Spatial Analysis in Archaeology*. Oxford, Oxford University Press
- Spencer-Wood, S.M. and S. Baugher. 2010. Introduction to the historical archaeology of powered cultural landscapes. *International Journal of Historical Archaeology* 14: 463-474
- Vita-Finzi, C., E.S. Higgs, D. Sturdy, J. Harriss, A.J. Legge and H. Tippet, 1970. Prehistoric economy in the Mount Carmel area of Palestine: Site catchment analysis. *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society* 36: 1-37
- Wilkinson, T.J. 2003. *Archaeological Landscapes of the Near East*. Tucson, University of Arizona Press