

# Seriation Stratigraphy And Index Fossils The Backbone Of Archaeological Dating

Seriation, Stratigraphy, and Index Fossils -

Michael J. O'Brien 2007-05-08

It is difficult for today's students of archaeology to imagine an era when chronometric dating methods were unavailable. However, even a casual perusal of the large body of literature that arose during the first half of the twentieth century reveals a battery of clever methods used to determine the relative ages of archaeological phenomena, often with considerable precision. Stratigraphic excavation is perhaps the best known of the various relative-dating methods used by prehistorians. Although there are several techniques of using artifacts from superposed strata to measure time, these are rarely if ever differentiated. Rather, common practice is to categorize them under the heading 'stratigraphic excavation'. This text distinguishes among the several techniques and argues that stratigraphic excavation tends to result in discontinuous measures of time - a point little appreciated by modern archaeologists. Although not as well known as stratigraphic excavation, two other methods of relative dating have figured important in Americanist archaeology: seriation and the use of index fossils. The latter (like stratigraphic excavation) measures time discontinuously, while the former - in various guises - measures time continuously. Perhaps no other method used in archaeology is as misunderstood as seriation, and the authors provide detailed descriptions and examples of each of its three different techniques. Each method and technique of relative dating is placed in historical perspective, with particular focus on developments in North America, an approach that allows a more complete understanding of the methods described, both in terms of analytical technique and disciplinary history. This text will appeal to all archaeologists, from graduate students to seasoned professionals, who want to learn more about the backbone of

archaeological dating.

**Archaeology: The Key Concepts** - Colin

Renfrew 2013-09-05

An invaluable resource, providing an up-to-date and comprehensive survey of the key terms used in this discipline today.

*The Quality of the Archaeological Record* -

Charles Perreault 2019-09-16

Paleobiology struggled for decades to influence our understanding of evolution and the history of life because it was stymied by a focus on microevolution and an incredibly patchy fossil record. But in the 1970s, the field took a radical turn, as paleobiologists began to investigate processes that could only be recognized in the fossil record across larger scales of time and space. That turn led to a new wave of macroevolutionary investigations, novel insights into the evolution of species, and a growing prominence for the field among the biological sciences. In *The Quality of the Archaeological Record*, Charles Perreault shows that archaeology not only faces a parallel problem, but may also find a model in the rise of paleobiology for a shift in the science and theory of the field. To get there, he proposes a more macroscale approach to making sense of the archaeological record, an approach that reveals patterns and processes not visible within the span of a human lifetime, but rather across an observation window thousands of years long and thousands of kilometers wide. Just as with the fossil record, the archaeological record has the scope necessary to detect macroscale cultural phenomena because it can provide samples that are large enough to cancel out the noise generated by micro-scale events. By recalibrating their research to the quality of the archaeological record and developing a true macroarchaeology program, Perreault argues, archaeologists can finally unleash the full contributive value of their discipline.

ARCHAEOLOGY - Volume I - Donald L. Hardesty

2010-06-15

Archaeology is a component of Encyclopedia of Social Sciences and Humanities in the global Encyclopedia of Life Support Systems (EOLSS), which is an integrated compendium of twenty one Encyclopedias. Archaeology is a road for traveling into the past that is independent of and complementary to documents and memory. The archaeological record provides historical perspectives on variability and change in human life support systems with the potential for use in planning for future sustainable development.

The Theme is organized into four different topics which represent the main scientific areas of the theme: - Foundations of Archaeology; - The Archaeology of Life Support Systems; - World Cultural Heritage; - Preserving Archaeological Sites and Monuments which are then expanded into multiple subtopics, each as a chapter. The first topic deals with historical, methodological, and theoretical foundations of archaeology. The second topic explores the archaeological record of human life support systems and includes chapters on foraging, food production such as farming and nomadic lifestyles, civilizations, water-management systems, and sustainability. World cultural heritage is the third topic.

Finally, the fourth topic covers the preservation of cultural memorials such as archaeological sites, landscapes, and monuments. These two volumes are aimed at the following five major target audiences: University and College Students Educators, Professional Practitioners, Research Personnel and Policy Analysts, Managers, and Decision Makers, NGOs and GOs.

*Computational Intelligence in Archaeology* - Barcelo, Juan A. 2008-07-31

Provides analytical theories offered by innovative artificial intelligence computing methods in the archaeological domain.

**Measuring the Flow of Time** - James A. Ford 1999

This collection of Ford's works focuses on the development of ceramic chronology--a key tool in Americanist archaeology.

*International Handbook of Historical Archaeology* - Teresita Majewski 2009-06-07

In studying the past, archaeologists have focused on the material remains of our ancestors. Prehistorians generally have only artifacts to study and rely on the diverse

material record for their understanding of past societies and their behavior. Those involved in studying historically documented cultures not only have extensive material remains but also contemporary texts, images, and a range of investigative technologies to enable them to build a broader and more reflexive picture of how past societies, communities, and individuals operated and behaved. Increasingly, historical archaeology refers not to a particular period, place, or a method, but rather an approach that interrogates the tensions between artifacts and texts irrespective of context. In short, historical archaeology provides direct evidence for how humans have shaped the world we live in today. Historical archaeology is a branch of global archaeology that has grown in the last 40 years from its North American base into an increasingly global community of archaeologists each studying their area of the world in a historical context. Where historical archaeology started as part of the study of the post-Columbian societies of the United States and Canada, it has now expanded to interface with the post-medieval archaeologies of Europe and the diverse post-imperial experiences of Africa, Latin America, and Australasia. The 36 essays in the *International Handbook of Historical Archaeology* have been specially commissioned from the leading researchers in their fields, creating a wide-ranging digest of the increasingly global field of historical archaeology. The volume is divided into two sections, the first reviewing the key themes, issues, and approaches of historical archaeology today, and the second containing a series of case studies charting the development and current state of historical archaeological practice around the world. This key reference work captures the energy and diversity of this global discipline today.

**A Critique of Archaeological Reason** - Giorgio Buccellati 2017-04-24

This book defines the concept of 'archaeological reason', and provides a new approach to archaeological excavations, philosophical hermeneutics, and digital theory.

**Northwest Anthropological Research Notes** - Roderick Sprague

Radiocarbon Dating in Eastern Washington and in Western Washington - R. Lee Lyman Religious

Background of Salish Aesthetics - Helmi Juvenon  
Abstracts of Papers Presented at the 52nd  
Annual Northwest Anthropological Conference,  
Newport, Oregon, 1999 A Summer Trip Among  
the Western Indians - Stewart Culin

**21st Century Anthropology: A Reference  
Handbook** - H. James Birx 2010

**Pattern and Process in Cultural Evolution** -  
Stephen Shennan 2009

This volume offers an integrative approach to the application of evolutionary theory in studies of cultural transmission and social evolution and reveals the enormous range of ways in which Darwinian ideas can lead to productive empirical research, the touchstone of any worthwhile theoretical perspective. While many recent works on cultural evolution adopt a specific theoretical framework, such as dual inheritance theory or human behavioral ecology, *Pattern and Process in Cultural Evolution* emphasizes empirical analysis and includes authors who employ a range of backgrounds and methods to address aspects of culture from an evolutionary perspective. Editor Stephen Shennan has assembled archaeologists, evolutionary theorists, and ethnographers, whose essays cover a broad range of time periods, localities, cultural groups, and artifacts.

*Seriation in Combinatorial and Statistical Data Analysis* - Israël César Lerman 2022-03-04

This monograph offers an original broad and very diverse exploration of the seriation domain in data analysis, together with building a specific relation to clustering. Relative to a data table crossing a set of objects and a set of descriptive attributes, the search for orders which correspond respectively to these two sets is formalized mathematically and statistically. State-of-the-art methods are created and compared with classical methods and a thorough understanding of the mutual relationships between these methods is clearly expressed. The authors distinguish two families of methods: Geometric representation methods Algorithmic and Combinatorial methods Original and accurate methods are provided in the framework for both families. Their basis and comparison is made on both theoretical and experimental levels. The experimental analysis is very varied and very comprehensive. Seriation in

Combinatorial and Statistical Data Analysis has a unique character in the literature falling within the fields of Data Analysis, Data Mining and Knowledge Discovery. It will be a valuable resource for students and researchers in the latter fields.

**Tools for Constructing Chronologies** - Caitlin E. Buck 2012-12-06

The first book to group together and analyze all the chronology construction methods used in different disciplines, this book will appeal to a wide range of researchers, scientists and graduate students using chronologies in their work; from applied statisticians to archaeologists, geologists and paleontologists, to those working in bioinformatics and chronometry. It is truly interdisciplinary and designed to enable cross fertilization of techniques.

*Cognitive Perspectives on Israelite Identity* - Dermot Anthony Nestor 2010-04-08

It presents a vision of Israel as an epistemological rather than an ontological entity; a perspective on the world rather than an entity in it. >

*Archaeological Chemistry* - Zvi Goffer 2006-08-04

The chemical study of archaeological materials *Archaeological Chemistry, Second Edition* is about the application of the chemical sciences to the study of ancient man and his material activities. The text of the book centers on the use of chemical methods, but also refers to the contributions of physics, biology, and genetics to archaeological research. Subjects discussed in the book include the determination of the nature of ancient materials, their provenance and age, the technologies used for the production of man-made materials, and the analysis of ancient human and animal remains (such as bone, dried blood, and coprolites), which yields information on ancient diets, kinship, habitancy, and migratory patterns. New developments in analytical chemistry and in related disciplines, which have contributed to archaeological research since the first edition of the book was published, are dealt within this edition, which also includes: \* Updated information on the study of the nature, age, and provenance of ancient materials \* New sections on organic, biological and genetic studies \* Glossary \*

Extensive bibliography The book is intended primarily for archaeologists, physicalanthropologists and students of archaeology and physicalanthropology, but will also be of use to conservators, curators, and art historians. Natural scientists reading it will become acquainted with advances in archaeological research which were made possible only by the application of chemical, physical, and biological methods and techniques.

**Archaeology in Practice** - Jane Balme  
2009-02-09

Archaeology in Practice: A Student Guide to Archaeological Analyses offers students in archaeology laboratory courses a detailed and invaluable how-to manual of archaeological methods and provides insight into the breadth of modern archaeology. Written by specialists of material analyses, whose expertise represents a broad geographic range Includes numerous examples of applications of archaeological techniques Organized by material types, such as animal bones, ceramics, stone artifacts, and documentary sources, or by themes, such as dating, ethics, and report writing Written accessibly and amply referenced to provide readers with a guide to further resources on techniques and their applications Enlivened by a range of boxed case studies throughout the main text

*Cave Archaeology of the Eastern Woodlands* - David H. Dye 2008

Patty Jo Watson's prolific career began in the early 1950s as an energetic graduate student at the University of Chicago and culminated with her induction into the National Academy of Sciences and subsequent retirement from Washington University in 2003. During that time her groundbreaking research impacted multiple fields within the discipline of archaeology, but her astonishing research into the underground caves of the eastern United States recognizes her as one of the world's leading experts on cave archaeology. In honor of Dr. Watson and her monumental achievements in the field, twenty-two established scholars present in this volume new and insightful research into prehistoric and historic use of southeastern dark zones. *Cave Archaeology of the Eastern Woodlands*, edited by David H. Dye, explores how prehistoric and

historic peoples utilized caves as a means to further their economic growth and represent cultural values within their societies. The essays range in topics from early gypsum mining to rare American Indian cave art, from historic saltpeter extraction to current archaeobotanical and paleofecal research. Dye and the contributors contend that studies of deep zone caves reveal multiple insights into the values, beliefs, and cultural lifeways of ancient and historic peoples. In addition to presenting new research in the field, contributors also place particular emphasis on Dr. Watson's influential cave research and how it has molded their own work. The essays convey a sense of wonder at the unique and sometimes harrowing world of caves, and readers will get a sense of why Native Americans regarded the Underworld or Beneathworld as a supernatural realm to be tread upon with great respect and caution. This volume of uniformly excellent essays will no doubt be a lantern that sheds light onto the all too secret world of underground caves. David H. Dye is professor of archaeology in the Department of Earth Sciences at the University of Memphis and a former student of Patty Jo Watson's. He is author of *Cycles of Violence: An Archaeology of Peace and War in Native Eastern North America*, coeditor, with Richard J. Chacon, of *The Taking and Displaying of Human Body Parts as Trophies by Amerindians*, and, with Cheryl Anne Cox, of *Towns and Temples Along the Mississippi*.

*The Oxford Companion to Archaeology* - Neil Asher Silberman 2012-11

'The Oxford Companion to Archaeology' is an up-to-date reference work on virtually every aspect of this fascinating field. Entries range from the broad overviews, to treatments of particular themes, to discussions of peoples, and societies.

**Handbook of Archaeological Methods** - Herbert D. G. Maschner 2005

The Handbook of Archaeological Methods comprises 37 articles by leading archaeologists on the key methods used by archaeologists in the field, in analysis, in theory building, and in managing cultural resources. The book is destined to become the key reference work for archaeologists and their advanced students on contemporary archaeological methods.

**The Oxford Handbook of Archaeological Ceramic Analysis** - Alice M. W. Hunt 2017

This volume draws together topics and methodologies essential for the socio-cultural, mineralogical, and geochemical analysis of

archaeological ceramic, one of the most complex and ubiquitous archaeomaterials in the archaeological record. It provides an invaluable resource for archaeologists, anthropologists, and archaeological materials scientists.

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