

**DEBATING SPATIAL ARCHAEOLOGY:
International Workshop on Landscape and Spatial Analysis in
Archaeology.
June 2012, Santander (Spain).**

The study of spatiality is one of the most important issues in Archaeology. Since the very first moments of the discipline, the understanding of spatial relations has been a key factor for interpreting past social dynamics. The importance of spatial analyses has led to the appearance of specific issues within Archaeology, such as Landscape Archaeology, Spatial Statistics, Cognitive Archaeology, etc., all of which can broadly be included within the Spatial Archaeology issue. On the other hand, in recent years there has been great improvement in recording methods and analysis tools, mainly thanks to the generalization of GIS, which has contributed to the development of spatial analyses.

However, these methodological improvements and conceptual developments have not always had an accompanying parallel theoretical dissertation about the real application of spatial analyses to archaeological interpretations; spatial analyses usually focus on geographic data and cartographic outcomes which have to be inserted into a previously defined, fixed framework valid in its own right, instead of really trying to link those results with the proposed interpretations. In these cases, space is automatically assumed to be a fully significant concept, either from an economic or relational perspective, but without a serious discussion of what it really means with relation to each particular case.

The main aim of the *Debating Spatial Archaeology* International Workshop is to provide a debate forum where archaeologists can discuss what *space* means in Archaeology, how it is perceived and interpreted by archaeologists, and why. Keeping in mind the need for a connection between methodology issues, analysis results and interpretations, participants are encouraged not only to analyse spatial variability, but to point out the probable reasons for such variability from in terms of social space, as well as to discuss how their spatial analyses can improve the understanding of social and historical dynamics within their case studies.

The main issues to be covered within this workshop will be:

- Beyond archaeological spatial datasets: Old Restrictions and New Opportunities in Archaeological Spatial Information.
- The use of space from an evolutionary perspective.
- People beyond the numbers: the anthropological implications of spatial analyses.

Those interested in these issues are invited to participate with ten-minute oral presentations, plus a five-minute discussion session after each presentation. The workshop will be held at the Facultad de Filosofía y Letras, University of Cantabria, in Santander (Spain), over two days in June 2012 (exact dates still to be confirmed), including a final round table on the second afternoon. A poster area will be also available.

For further information, please don't hesitate to contact us at spatialarchaeology@unican.es, or visit our website www.spatialarchaeology.unican.es.

