

Preface

In November 2011, the Contemporary and Historical Archaeology in Theory (CHAT) group met in Boston at Boston University. CHAT was conceived as a way, through informal annual meetings, to provide opportunities for dialogue among researchers in later historical archaeology and the archaeology of the contemporary world and to promote interdisciplinary exchanges between archaeologists and other scholars. While the group had ventured to Dublin in 2005, this was the first time since its founding in the UK in 2003 that the group held its annual conference in North America.

In recognition of CHAT's temporary migration across the Atlantic, its organizers selected the theme of "People and Things in Motion" for the 2011 conference; the meeting drew over 100 attendees from across the globe and featured 3 days of papers and a keynote address delivered by University of Chicago Associate Professor of Anthropology and 2010 MacArthur Foundation Fellow, Shannon Dawdy. Papers were presented by speakers from six continents, highlighting the truly global nature of the CHAT organization.

Inspired by the quality of the papers delivered at the conference, we invited several of the speakers to revise their papers for publication in a book that explores ways of addressing movement and mobility from archaeological perspectives. Those who accepted our invitation also agreed to subject their revised chapters to a round-robin review process as well as to changes requested by the editors, and the result is the present volume. Shannon Dawdy agreed to read the revised chapters and to prepare a commentary, which appears here as the Afterword.

We would like to thank the CHAT Steering Committee and its Chair, Rodney Harrison, for supporting the conference and encouraging a publication based on its theme of people and things in motion; we also thank all of the conference participants

and the many Boston University graduate students, in particular Brent Fortenberry, who helped organize the conference and who worked tirelessly to make it a success. We also thank the contributors of this volume who were so prompt in preparing their papers for review and in revising them for publication, as well as in responding quickly to our queries about references, illustrations, and other matters.

Boston, MA, USA

Mary C. Beaudry
Travis G. Parno

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Beaudry, M.C.; Parno, T.G. (Eds.)

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