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Places In Mind: Public Archaeology As Applied Anthropology (Critical Perspectives In Identity, Memory & The Built Environment)



Synopsis

This edited volume provides a cross-section of the cutting-edge ways in which archaeologists are developing new approaches to their work with communities and other stakeholder groups who have special interest in the uses in the past.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

'The chapters are exceptionally well written and thought provoking, and the editors have crafted a cohesive work suitable for students and professionals alike with minimal jargon. ... By taking theory into practice and offering concrete examples, this book distinguishes itself in the literature. ... With this volume, Shackel and Chambers have done nothing less than take the application of archeology as applied anthropology and ratchet it up to a productive new level. Heritage professionals and academics teaching graduate courses will find this volume a welcome and valuable resource.' â “
Marco Meniketti, Industrial Archeology

Paul A. Shackel is Professor of Anthropology at the University of Maryland -- College Park. Evre J. Chambers is also Professor of Anthropology at the University of Maryland -- College Park.

This is a fine set of ten case studies, with excellent introductory and concluding chapters, on community-based archaeology. The case studies are largely but not entirely U.S., the exceptions being Ireland and Australia. It is an impressively integrated book, in that the chapters have some common themes, rather than being loosely related. The main themes are: working with and

empowering subordinated groups such as Indian nations and African Americans, making sites and archaeology relevant to diverse audiences, and using archaeology to foster a sense of heritage. The authors generally take a postmodern position, borrowing many ideas from cultural anthropology, which include making archaeology more democratic, collaborative, participatory, interactive, multivocal, socially engaged, community-based, and empowering. I have used this book twice now in a graduate course in applied anthropology, and it has been well-received by students. It shows archaeology students that their work can profit from a knowledge of ethnography, and it shows cultural students that archaeology has a place in community development. I hope it is widely read.

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