

Edited by

Robert W. Preucel and Stephen A. Mrozowski

Contemporary Archaeology in Theory

The New Pragmatism, *Second Edition*

 WILEY-BLACKWELL

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For Leslie and Ammie

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Preface

If edited books are collaborative projects, edited Readers are even more so. Throughout the process of organizing and writing this Reader, we have explored our own deeply held commitments and challenged each other to broaden our horizons. Given our backgrounds in prehistoric and historical archaeologies, we were particularly intrigued by the idea of breaking down these categories and exploring the implications of deep time and the search for a deeper history. In addition, we both have considerable experience working with Native American communities and are strong advocates of indigenous archaeologies. We are both committed to increasing the numbers of Native American archaeologists as well as transforming our profession in ways that acknowledge the rights and interests of Native American peoples. In many ways, our collaboration has been and continues to be a transformative process. We would be remiss, however, if we didn't thank the person who brought us together, namely Craig Cipolla. Craig was a Masters student with Steve at the University of Massachusetts at Boston and is currently a doctoral candidate with Bob at the University of Pennsylvania. Craig's interest and enthusiasm for all things theoretical helped to spark discussions between us that led to our collaboration on this book.

We are especially grateful to the individual authors who have agreed to allow their publications to be reprinted in our book. They have been extremely supportive and generous without any knowledge of exactly how we would represent their work. We have chosen to use their writings to provide a context for exploring the articulation of different theories and their real-world applications and consequences. But, in the end, these chapters must stand on their own. They were not produced for this Reader, but rather for different contexts - a specific book, a given

journal article, a particular interview. We have extracted them for our purposes and used them to make specific points about what we are calling “the new pragmatism,” the increasing professional commitment to the practice of socially relevant archaeology. But because of their preexistence, they retain the ability to “talk back” and actively resist the interpretations we offer. This quality can be understood as their partial objectivity.

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Each of us has had a deep interest in theoretical questions during the course of our careers. Throughout that journey we have been influenced by our peers, our students, and our mentors. Each of us has incurred special debts we would like to acknowledge. Bob would like to thank Asif

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