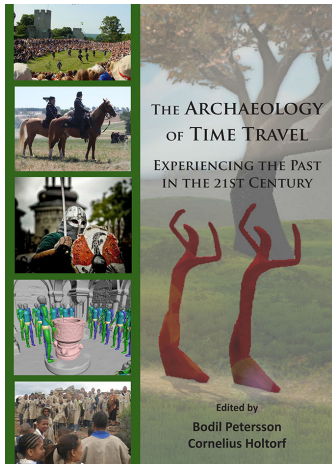


REVIEWS



Clara MASRIERA-ESQUERRA

The archaeology of Time Travel. Experiencing the past in the 21st Century

[Ed. by Bodil Petersson and
Cornelius Holtorf]

Archaeopress

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“The Archaeology of Time Travel. Experiencing the past in the 21st Century”, edited by Cornelius Holtorf and Bodil Petersson by Archeopress, is the outcome of the project “The Archaeology of Time Travel” (2007) developed by Lund University (SE). The main focus of the project was to present and discuss how people experience the past with all their senses (virtually, through augmented reality, in varieties of role-play, or through other immersion techniques). Indeed, it can be considered a handbook of this experiential-centred approach to people’s connections to the pasts.

The structure of the book contributes to a kaleidoscopic treatment of the theory and practice of the archaeology of Time Travel from different perspectives from the same topic and rich discussions. The notion of diversity is the guiding thread of the volume, where it is possible to read a diversity of experiences and various uses of the past. Formally, the book is divided into five parts, each one with two chapters and two comments, discussing the following topics related with Time Travel: the virtual scheme, time travel as educational method, experiencing travelling in the past (reenactment and archaeological open-air museums), the

past on the screen and the past within the present). It is also interesting to know the different perspectives of Time Travel concept from different scholars from different disciplines: archaeology, sociology, education and ethnology.

The archaeology of Time Travel shows a high presence in Northern Europe in a wide range of disciplinary and professional realms; one of the most rewarding results of the project has been the creation of a network of more than 50 researchers and practitioners in Sweden, Scandinavia and across Central and Northern Europe interested in archaeological time travel. Probably the time has come to expand these innovative and thought-provoking proposals to analyse (and apply) experiences of the past to other archaeological traditions and to prove its potential in new cultural contexts.

The three strong ideas from the book are 1) that the interpretation of the past and of the future reflects on the present times' stereotypes and interest topics; 2) the use of the past as a tool to create identity; and, probably the most distinctive feature of the Archaeology of Time Travel is 3) the relevance of holistic experiences of the past through the body and its senses. The last idea can be linked to the pedagogical theory of the American professor Howard Gardner about multiple intelligences. Gardner criticizes the traditional narrow notion of intelligence, and describes seven distinct intelligences through which we can learn, teach and communicate. What we can see in this book is also a range of ways – if interacting with the past beyond the verbal and linguistic – in which other kinds of human capacities, like the Gardner's bodily-kinesthetic intelligence, expand and enhance the diversity of humans' relations with the past, the present and the future.