

Special Issue

Archaeology and Agriculture

Message from the Guest Editor

Agriculture is one of the most widespread and successful adaptive strategies in human history. Over millennia, agriculture and domestication have provided a steady source of subsistence. Often seen as a granted asset in modern societies, agriculture has only emerged relatively recently in human history, with the climatic stability of the Holocene. In fact, recent climate trends show the vulnerabilities of modern agricultural systems while pointing to their contribution to environmental deterioration. As we enter a period of great climatic uncertainty in the Anthropocene, this volume explores various early and pre-industrial forms of agriculture across climates and environments worldwide. From tropical deserts and forests to temperate mountains and plains, from the Neolithic to the Colonial period, this volume provides a broad overview of pre-industrial strategies, solutions, and excesses in agriculture. We are convinced that lessons learned from archaeological research on agriculture can inform the agricultural sector today towards sustainable food production for present and future generations.

Guest Editor

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