



Remote Sensing of Past Human Land Use

Guest Editors:

Prof. Dr. Jesse Casana

Department of Anthropology,
Dartmouth College, 3 Tuck Drive,
Hanover, NH 03755, USA

Dr. Elise Jakoby Laugier

Ecology, Evolution, Environment,
and Society Program,
Department of Anthropology,
Dartmouth College, 3 Tuck Drive,
Hanover, NH 03755, USA

Deadline for manuscript
submissions:

closed (15 August 2021)

Message from the Guest Editors

Archaeological traces of ancient land use practices offer revealing evidence regarding past systems of settlement and subsistence, environmental entanglements, and perspectives on labor, gender, and power. Nevertheless, relict traces of land use practices are among the most difficult features to resolve using traditional archaeological field methods, as these ephemeral features are often preserved only as subtle differences in soil composition, topographic expression, or vegetation health. Furthermore, land use features often extend over enormous areas of the landscape, rendering them particularly susceptible to destruction through modern agriculture or urban development. Fortunately, a suite of emerging remote sensing technologies and approaches, including landscape-scale terrestrial geophysics, multi-sensor drone-based imaging, and analysis of multi-temporal aerial and satellite imagery, are now transforming how we explore archaeological landscapes. This Special Issue showcases new research that deploys innovative approaches to archaeological remote sensing as a means to discover, document, and interpret ancient land use features.

More information:

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Prof. Dr. Dongdong Wang

Institute of Remote Sensing and
Geographic Information Systems,
Peking University, Beijing, China

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Remote Sensing Editorial Office
MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5
4052 Basel, Switzerland

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