

interpretations that both expand anything they have previously written about and go into richer detail than they have before. It turns out there are, indeed, new things to learn about the archaeology of prostitution and clandestine pursuits.

Most of the book concerns prostitution. In addition to the sites they have worked on in New York City and Washington, DC, Yamin and Seifert incorporate other archaeologists' research into brothels, bordellos, and saloons found from the East Coast to the West Coast of the United States. The authors compare and contrast assemblages from contemporaneous brothels and working-class households in the same neighborhoods, and they compare brothel assemblages from different time periods and locations. We therefore gain some idea of the quality of life for prostitutes and sex workers in different times and places. One chapter discusses prostitution in American cities, focusing on excavations in New York City; Washington, DC; St. Paul, Minnesota; and Los Angeles. The following chapter provides in-depth case studies of brothels at the Five Points neighborhood in New York City and near the White House in Washington, DC. A chapter on brothel sites in the American West brings the prostitution section of the book to a close.

The authors then move into a discussion of the archaeology of clandestine pursuits, both public and private. It might seem at first that these two chapters are out of place and really have nothing to do with prostitution. Yamin and Seifert, however, skillfully tie them all together by emphasizing the shared themes, including unconventional activity, the defiance of rules and customs, and the intentionally hidden object, all of which are addressed throughout the book. Consequently, in the chapter on public clandestine pursuits, archaeological interpretations of workplace and prison resistance, the Underground Railroad, smuggling, and piracy are incorporated from multiple sites. The chapter on private spaces and clandestine pursuits focuses on objects that were meant to be hidden, providing us with a completely different window into people's lives in the past. These include messages scratched on windowpanes, objects concealed following English folk traditions, objects associated with African American spiritual practices, children's play spaces, and personal objects hidden in military contexts and homeless camps.

As might be expected, the studies that Yamin and Seifert draw together here were conducted by archaeologists using a variety of theoretical perspectives and methodologies. The authors nonetheless skillfully weave these together with the theoretical thread of agency. The clandestine activities they explore all "display agency in opposition to accepted norms of

behavior, in some cases to the law and in all cases to playing it safe in spite of various constraints" (p. 2). It is a refreshingly narrow application of agency theory, "agency as a continuum on the spectrum of choice" (p. 96), grounded in the specific activities, spaces, and materials of an archaeology of the unconventional.

In the closing chapter, Yamin and Seifert return to prostitution, examining it as a special kind of "unconventional." It is clearly different from the other kinds of clandestine activities discussed in the book, not least because it was never really clandestine and not always illegal, but also because "prostitution in the present does not seem so different from prostitution in the past" (p. 144). They show that the current debate about whether or not to decriminalize prostitution is both complicated and long-lived, stretching well into the nineteenth century. They explicitly examine what difference it makes for them to be twenty-first-century women writing about prostitution.

This book should find a wide audience among historical archaeologists, and it would be an excellent supplemental text for upper-level undergraduate and graduate courses. Yamin and Seifert have done us all a great service by bringing the past of prostitution and clandestine pursuits to our present.

*The Archaeologist's Laboratory: The Analysis of Archaeological Evidence* (2nd ed.). 2020. EDWARD B. BANNING. Springer, Cham, Switzerland. xlvii + 375 pp. \$119.99 (cloth), ISBN 978-3-030-47990-9. \$89.00 (e-book), ISBN 978-3-030-47992-3.

Reviewed by Ellery Frahm, Yale University

Edward B. Banning's update to the 2000 edition of *The Archaeologist's Laboratory* is a most welcome addition to my (virtual) bookshelf, and I expect to use it as a text for my Introduction to Archaeological Lab Sciences course. The first edition and its contemporaries (e.g., Brothwell and Pollard, *Handbook of Archaeological Sciences*, 2001) are now two decades old, so it has increasingly been a struggle to find books suited to my combined undergraduate- and graduate-level archaeology lab classes. Few books not only are accessible to students and up-to-date but also strike a balance between breadth and depth of topics. Banning's second edition ticks these boxes. Additionally, no one else covers all aspects of data (e.g., the nature of archaeological data as well as issues related to errors, statistical analyses, and presentation) quite like Banning does. This is valuable to me as an

instructor because students in this course conduct research involving our collections and present their results in a conference-style talk and poster. I anticipate that many students will benefit, in particular, from Banning's overarching theme of assessing the quality and validity of data on which archaeological arguments or interpretations are based.

This new edition is divided into two roughly equal parts. Part I is a deep dive into archaeological data and its links to research design. Certain topics are also covered in introductory statistics textbooks (e.g., error, probability, sampling), whereas other subjects skew more toward theory (e.g., arrangement taxa), practical issues (e.g., creating databases), and ideas that derive from quality assurance. Oddly, Part I also includes a revised conservation chapter and a new chapter on lab safety, which is barely four pages. Part II focuses on different types of archaeological remains (e.g., flaked and ground stone, ceramics, metal, fauna) and dating (e.g., stratigraphy, dendrochronology). Radiocarbon dating is explored in depth, whereas other techniques (e.g., luminescence) are only name-checked. Part II concludes with a chapter on archaeological illustration and publication. The publication element, less than one page long, seems tacked on, and the illustration aspect could be integrated with the data chapters, especially given recent trends that combine artifact illustration, 3D scans, and other types of shape data. The first edition was, well, a bit unattractive, but the updated illustrations and formatting are much more aesthetically pleasing. Color seems inconsistently used in the figures, but I assume there is a reason for it related to publication and production. I did, however, chuckle at a page from the Munsell color-chart book reproduced as a figure in grayscale.

Updating such a wide-ranging book must not have been a simple task. The first edition was 316 pages, whereas the second is 375 pages. This is misleading, though, because the larger page size accommodates a third more text. Consequently, the new edition is about 50% longer. Among the references in the stone artifact analysis chapter, nearly half are more recent than 2000, attesting to a thorough update to the cited literature. Case studies are a welcome addition. Some examples derive from Banning's expertise in Near Eastern archaeology from the Neolithic to Bronze Age, whereas other case studies span the Paleolithic (e.g., purported bone flutes) to the 1800s (e.g., New England headstone motifs). There is a lot to like, but a few elements seem obscure or obsolete. For instance, stem-and-leaf plots likely made more sense in an age of monospace typewriters than they do in the time of Excel. Additionally, the scatterplot of zirconium (Zr) versus barium (Ba) in Old World

obsidian reflects not only outdated 1960s optical spectroscopy data but also the limited state of knowledge at the time—Kenya, one of the most obsidian-rich countries in the world, is represented by just two specimens and the corresponding data points. Comparing these outdated data to newer datasets for Kenyan obsidian could actually highlight some of the issues that Banning discusses (i.e., inadequate sampling of a population can lead to invalid interpretations).

Despite my quibbles, I expect this new edition to become a key textbook for my archaeological lab sciences courses, and I recommend it to others who are teaching similar classes. It is particularly attractive for teaching given that many universities' libraries have agreements with free access to Springer's e-book archive, which means that our students will not have to spend \$120 on one book. I expect to pair the book with readings about analytical techniques that our students use for class projects given that, for example, Fourier transform infrared spectroscopy (FTIR)—an important emergent technique for identifying signatures of organic compounds present in sediments and in artifact residues—is mentioned just once in the entire text. It is perhaps for the best that Banning's book does not get bogged down in details about analytical techniques, considering how quickly such discussions tend to become outdated. Consequently, this book should age better than others and remain a valuable teaching resource for many years to come.

*Social Sustainability, Past and Future: Undoing Unintended Consequences for the Earth's Survival.* SANDER VAN DER LEEUW. 2020. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge. xvi + 516 pp. \$99.99 (hardcover), ISBN 978-1-108-49869-2. \$80.00 (paperback), ISBN 978-1-108-72442-5. \$80.00 (e-book), ISBN 978-1-108-59860-6.

*Reviewed by* Carole L. Crumley, University of North Carolina

Sander van der Leeuw has had a distinguished transatlantic career in the management of comprehensive archaeological projects (most notably, ARCHAEO-MEDES, in the northern Mediterranean), his development of Arizona State University's School of Human Evolution and Social Change, and his study of complex systems at the Santa Fe Institute.

This book is a compendium of his understanding of social institutions as complex systems. It is divided into three sections. Part I introduces key building blocks, including a history of the role of science in society and the necessity of both a long-term