

The second part of the book, titled “Community Health,” comprises of diachronic evaluations of health and disease trends in different mainland and insular populations across East Asia as a consequence of subsistence shifts, interpersonal conflict, or distance from the center of political power. Skeletal analyses include nutritional indicators of stress from mean adult stature, sexual dimorphism, and linear growth, as well as diet composition from oral health and patterns of dental attrition. Authors examined systemic stress during childhood development via frequencies of cribra orbitalia, porotic hyperostosis, and linear enamel hypoplasias. Mechanical stress assessments were carried out by studying the incidence of degenerative conditions of the spine and appendicular joints. Lastly, trauma and infectious disease in the form of periosteal reaction were also evaluated as population-wide indicators of relative quality of life.

In the last chapter, the editors sum up chapter conclusions in the context of migration, cultural interaction, and community health across this ecologically diverse territory. They remark the difficulty of distinguishing general, diachronic trends of stress and disease, especially because skeletal collections from large parts of Central and South China have not yet been studied. Further issues include population movement in Northwest China during the Neolithic resulting in genetic heterogeneity, and also whether northern populations provided genetic contributions to Southeast Asian peoples. These issues and many others still remain to be solved.

The most ambitious chapter is that of Pechenkina, Ma, and Fan, who examined population health by utilizing previously published data from 48 sites in North China, Japan, and Thailand. Such a large-scale comparative article is groundbreaking in many ways, as research in East Asia is often published within smaller journals in the regional language and thus goes largely unnoticed by the larger scientific community. In their study, the authors identify different health trajectories according to ecological setting and subsistence strategy. They posit that higher sexual dimorphism over time across all regions was the result of increasingly diversified gender roles rather than a combination of improved health status and reduced effect of female systemic stress buffers. They also confirm previous studies that assert differential carious rates in populations according to the type of cereal grain being consumed. Lastly, they identify decreasing community health in the Yellow River basin of China with the adoption of agriculture. This differs from Southeast Asian sites, where stature instead increased over time, or in Japan, where rates of acquired anemia remained constant during this period, although oral health was affected.

One particular issue I encountered with this volume was that the research papers were originally presented during the 2007 conference of the American Association of Physical Anthropologists, which considerably predates its release six years later. Thus, I was disappointed to discover whilst examining the book’s bibliographies that three chapters had not been updated since their original versions and a further two chapters only received a minor update in 2008 from their authors who cited themselves.

Moreover, I should also note that biological anthropology has evolved through the years, building on previous, time-tested methodologies and adopting cutting-edge approaches from other fields of study. These methods include ways to assess diet composition from carbon and nitrogen stable isotopes, discern population admixture from ancient DNA, or interpret routine activities from biomechanical analyses. However, although these techniques have been employed to examine human remains in East and Southeast Asia for several years and were reviewed by Pechenkina and Oxenham, Lee and Pietrusewsky, none of the authors in the book employed them in their analyses to strengthen their conclusions.

Nonetheless, I should emphasize the essential place of “Bioarchaeology of East Asia” within the field of osteoarchaeology, as it is the first compilation of health and population history studies to focus exclusively in East Asia. With this publication, the editors successfully generate awareness of scholarly research on human remains in this region. Readers interested in larger-scale trends of human migration and development of civilization in this region will be pleased to notice the underlying theme of the book, which attempts to tackle important topics related to the dynamics of population spread, cultural contact, subsistence shifts, and how each is connected to regional diachronic health trends across a region that has recently advanced to the forefront within the global scientific community. It is my hope that this volume motivates future works that focus on answering the questions posed by the editors as well as presenting skeletal research in regions that could not be extensively covered within this volume.

Mauricio Hernandez

Peres, Tanya M. (ed.): Trends and Traditions in Southeastern Zooarchaeology. Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 2014. 224 pp. ISBN 978-0-8130-4927-4. Price: \$ 79.95.

This volume on southeastern zooarchaeology is an effort to integrate the growing diversity of approaches for analyzing and interpreting faunal remains. As Peres notes in her introductory chapter on the development and practice of the subdiscipline, southeastern zooarchaeology has made remarkable strides over the last 50 years, eschewing the presence/absence species lists of the early practitioners for lines of inquiry that, as presented in the case studies here, include “the use of archaeofaunal remains to understand past socioeconomic systems and food preferences, the roles of animals in domestic and ritual life, and the utility of animals to aid in interpreting past environments” (9). In line with the broad range of themes, the individual case studies also encompass a considerable amount of time that spans from the Archaic period through the Civil War, and focus on both vertebrate and invertebrate remains.

The majority of the chapters conceptually and analytically build on the tradition of zooarchaeology fostered by Elizabeth Wing and Paul Parmalee, to whom this collection is dedicated. Although primarily descriptive, Walker and Windham’s contribution on Woodland and Mississippian

pian period dog burials at the Spirit Hill site in Alabama provides a useful comparative baseline through their presentation of detailed contextual and morphometric data. More synthetic in her approach, Peres' examination of Kentucky Upland foodways dissects established ideas about this area's subsistence practices by examining four contemporary farmsteads of varying socioeconomic distinction. Employing the DIVERS statistic to refine diversity and equitability indices, her results show that these regional foodways are less cohesive than previously recognized and heavily influenced by access to resources and economic status. Likewise, Sichler's analysis of the diets of Confederate guards at the Florence Stockade in South Carolina indicates a lower degree of uncertainty than that implied in historical documents. By quantifying the distribution of elements for cows and pigs, among a number of other secondary measures, she is able to demonstrate that the guards enjoyed a relatively plentiful, high-quality diet.

It is a formidable task to venture beyond the biological and ecological paradigms that have informed many faunal analyses in the region and incorporate perspectives with greater theoretical and applicable currency. This is not to deny the utility of paleoenvironmental reconstructions, such as Peacock, McGregor, and Dumas' chapter on the distribution of *Rangia cuneata* along the Tombigbee River, as they are necessary for understanding, at least in part, the physical worlds that people inhabited in the past. Furthermore, paleoenvironmental reconstructions can also be used for what the authors term "applied zooarchaeology" (201), wherein the past distribution of species may be amenable to contemporary conservation and/or restoration efforts. In this sense, then, understanding paleoenvironments can be treated as a means to an end rather than the final product, for too often it seems that these conditions and circumstances are not related back to tangible human experiences in more socially meaningful ways. Moving beyond subsistence and economy-focused analyses appears to be the direction, however, that zooarchaeologists elsewhere are heading towards, perspectives that require a reconsideration of the different sources and causes of practical variation and an abandonment of dichotomous thinking (e.g., culture vs. nature, subject vs. object).

The three remaining chapters in this volume fit comfortably within these growing trends by recognizing the multiplicity of relationships between humans and animals. Meyers' consideration of the production and exchange of Mississippian shell beads at frontier sites highlights the need to account for the modified by-products of animal remains, in addition to dealing with multiple scales of analyses. Somewhat complementary to Meyers' chapter, but considerably more humanistic in its framework, Deter-Wolf and Peres track the genealogy of shell symbolism throughout the greater Southeast over approximately 5,000 years. They draw extensively on ethnohistoric literature and large-scale archaeological patterning to address the role of shellfish in the built landscape, identity, and power relations, and iconography and ritual. But as Claassen highlights in her chapter on animal-related ritual, it is not enough to recognize animals as symbols, particularly because native peoples approached (and con-

tinued to do so) certain animals as persons with the ability to influence human-animal relationships. She reexamines a number of taken-for-granted categories of variation such as burning, breakage, context of deposition, species combinations, element representation, size and age, and so-called "commensals" to draw out protocols for identifying ritual practices. These protocols have been informed by an exhaustive review of ethnohistoric and ethnographic literature, direct ethnographic experience, and an intimate understanding of archaeological patterning.

Ultimately, Claassen commits to a posthumanistic perspective that echoes the sentiments expressed in the December 2013 issue of *Archaeological Dialogues*, which sets the agenda for carrying out a social zooarchaeology that moves beyond perspectives perpetuating animals as passive recipients of human behavior and practice. No doubt, this book is a substantial step in that direction, but ultimately success may hinge on the relational ontological turn that Western thinkers find hard to accept.

Meggan E. Blessing

Przyrembel, Alexandra: Verbote und Geheimnisse. Das Tabu und die Genese der europäischen Moderne. Frankfurt: Campus Verlag, 2011. 416 pp. ISBN 978-3-593-39419-0. Preis: € 39.90

Der vorliegende Band ist von der Autorin ursprünglich als Habilitationsschrift eingereicht worden. Aus dem Titel des Werkes lässt sich entnehmen, dass zwei Themenkomplexe miteinander verknüpft werden. Es geht, ausgehend von der europäisch-überseeischen Begegnung ab dem 18. Jh. und die von Entdeckern und Missionaren gemachten Erfahrungen und mitgebrachten Konzepte, um deren Auswirkungen auf die Entwicklung der europäischen Moderne im 19. und 20. Jh., wobei u. a. der Entstehung der Fächer Ethnologie und Psychoanalyse ein Hauptaugenmerk geschenkt wird und anhand zweier Phänomene, der Sozialreformbewegung und der Tierschutzbewegung, der Eingang von Meidungsstrategien in die europäische Kultur illustriert wird. Die beiden genannten Phänomene klingen vordergründig weit auseinanderliegend, aber es gelingt der Autorin, anhand dieser beiden sehr bewusst gewählten Beispiele zu zeigen, auf welcher unterschiedlichen Ebenen man das Thema "Tabu" abhandeln kann – und muss, will man zu einer sowohl in die Breite als auch in die Tiefe gehenden Ahnung der Bedeutung dieses Konzeptes innerhalb der neuzeitlichen europäischen gesellschaftlichen Entwicklung gelangen. Kurz, es ist ein Werk, welches mehrere Ebenen zu verknüpfen sucht. Vorweg kann gesagt werden, dass dies der Autorin Alexandra Przyrembel in ausgezeichneter Weise gelingt. Das Buch ist in drei Teile mit jeweils mehreren Unterkapiteln gegliedert.

Der 1. Teil widmet sich dem Konzept des Tabu, wie es die europäischen Entdecker bei ihren Expeditionen zur pazifischen Inselwelt auf den Inseln Polynesiens erleben konnten. Es sind aber nicht nur die Beschreibungen von Entdeckern und Forschern, die ihren Weg nach Europa gefunden haben und die hier skizziert werden, sondern mehr noch der Umgang der Missionare vor Ort im Pazifik mit