list of contributors

Axel Christophersen was Director of NTNU University Museum from 2001 to 2013. His research interests are Viking Age and early medieval urban development in Scandinavia, handicraft production and exchange, state formation processes, cultural landscapes and social spaces, within which fields he has published extensively. In recent years he has also been engaged in heritage in conflict, materiality and cultural-memory studies, and has carried out projects focusing on the use of photography as a tool for heritage awareness building in Afghanistan, Tibet, China and Myanmar.

Jeffrey Fleisher (BA, MA, Ph.D., University of Virginia) is an Associate Professor in the Department of Anthropology at Rice University in Houston, Texas. He has conducted archaeological research in Africa, North America and the Middle East. His regional speciality is the ancient Swahili coast of eastern Africa, focusing on the development of first- and second-millennium urban centres there. Past research has focused on the ancient settlements of rural and non-elite Swahili, and their connections and contributions to urban development. Currently, he directs a long-term project at the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Songo Mnara in southern Tanzania, focusing on the use of open and public space.

Sven Kalmring is a Researcher at the Centre for Baltic and Scandinavian Archaeology, and since 2011 has been Guest Researcher at the Archaeological Research Laboratory at Stockholm University. Previously he worked in the High-Tech in Hedeby project at the Archäologisches Landesmuseum of the Stiftung Schleswig-Holsteinische Landesmuseen Schloss Gottorf, and wrote his Ph.D. thesis on the harbour of Hedeby. His research interests are maritime archaeology, early medieval harbours, trade and exchange in the Viking Age and urbanization in northern Europe. He has published on such sites as Hedeby, Schleswig, Birka and Dorestad, and excavated in Hedeby and Birka, as well as in Iceland.

Leo S. Klejn was born in Vitebsk in 1927 and studied philology and archaeology at Leningrad University, under Vladimir Propp and Mikhail Aratmonov. A lifelong critic of orthodox archaeological opinions in the Soviet Union, Klejn was made to suffer for his independence when he was imprisoned on trumped-up charges in 1981. Since the fall of the Soviet Union in 1991 Klejn has been able to express himself with greater freedom and is enjoying a very productive retirement. Klejn has written not only on archaeology but also on the composition of the Iliad and on pagan Slavic religion. However, his main discipline is archaeology. He has written on the history of archaeology and on the origins of Indo-European-speakers; in theoretical archaeology he has written about typology, ethnogenesis, the relation between archaeology and history, and the nature of theory itself.

Torill Christine Lindstrøm is Professor at the Department of Psychosocial Science, University of Bergen, Bergen, Norway. She has a Ph.D. in biological and medical psychology, and is a member of the European Association of Archaeologists (EAA) and of the International Association of Classical Archaeology (AIAC). The topics of Lindstrøm’s psychological publications range from ghosts to immunoglobulins. Lindstrøm’s archaeological publications and research are on various topics and from several periods, with an emphasis on animals in archaeology (in art, in transformation phenomena, in Roman arenas), and on Roman archaeology (facial expressions, painting, Dionysianism). She uses transdisciplinary approaches, and applies psychological perspectives to archaeological themes. She has a profound interest in theory and philosophy of science.

Ulrich Müller is Professor and Chair of Early Historical, Medieval and Post-medieval Archaeology at the Institute for Pre- and Protohistoric Archaeology, University of Kiel, with a focus on medieval and early modern times. His work includes several studies on medieval urbanity, craft and trade, and social-practice theory. He is an editor of *Zeitschrift für Archäologie des Mittelalters* and has published works on networks and centrality in medieval Europe.

Johan Normark is a Researcher at the Department of Historical Studies at the University of Gothenburg, Sweden. Geographically his focus is the Cochuah region in southern Mexico, from the Middle Formative to the Caste War. Thematically his focus is on ontological aspects of the archaeological record. Recent research projects have focused on Maya causeways, climate change and settlement change around caves, water as an archaeological object, the 2012 phenomenon, early Maya–Spanish encounters in Yucatan, and multiscalar relations between time and objects.

Bjørnar Olsen is Professor in Archaeology at the Department of Archaeology and Social Anthropology, University of Tromsø, Norway. His research interests include contemporary archaeology, memory, thing theory and Sámi studies. Among his latest books are *In defense of things. Archaeology and the ontology of objects* (2010), and *Ruin memories. Materialities, aesthetics and the archaeology of the recent past* (2014, editor with Þóra Pétursdóttir).

Monica L. Smith is an archaeologist of complex societies with a particular focus on urbanism and daily life in the past. She is the author of *A prehistory of ordinary people* (2010) and editor of *The social construction of ancient*
cities (2003). Along with her colleague Rabindra Kumar Mohanty she has been codirecting excavations in India at the ancient city of Sisupalgarh and the nearby town of Talapada.

LuAnn Wandsnider is Professor and Chair in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln. Her current research focuses on the role of material culture in community formation in the Hellenistic and Roman eastern Mediterranean and the historic Great Plains of North America.

Christopher Witmore is Associate Professor of Archaeology and Classics in the Department of Classics & Modern Languages & Literatures at Texas Tech University, USA. His research interests include Mediterranean archaeology, especially Greece, things, landscape and chorography, and the science studies of archaeology. He is co-author of Archaeology. The discipline of things (2012, with B. Olsen, M. Shanks and T. Webmoor) and co-editor of Archaeology in the making (2013, with W. Rathje and M. Shanks).
Performing towns. Steps towards an understanding of medieval urban communities as social practice
Axel Christophersen

On critical approaches, unintended consequences and the data of everyday life in ‘performing towns’
Jeffrey Fleisher

Urbanity by its ‘smallest units’. Comments on ‘performing towns’
Sven Kalmring

Steps towards understanding medieval urban communities as social practice
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Towns and cities. A commentary on ‘performing towns’
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On complementarity of practice, scale and structure. Scalar aspects of social/material space in Anatolian peri-urban contexts in antiquity
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In conversation with Leo S. Klejn
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