TODAY

BY CORNELIUS HOLTORF
AND DANIEL LINDSKOG
ABOUT THE AUTHORS

CORNELIUS IS A PROFESSOR OF ARCHAEOLOGY AT LINNAEUS UNIVERSITY IN SWEDEN. HE LIVES IN KALMAR. HE SPENDS A LOT OF TIME SITTING AT HIS COMPUTER WRITING EMAILS AND PAPERS.

IN THIS LITTLE BOOK WE SHOW YOU HOW ARCHAEOLOGISTS ARE WORKING TODAY USING NEW APPROACHES.

DANIEL IS A PROFESSIONAL ILLUSTRATOR WITH A DEGREE IN ARCHAEOLOGY. HE LIVES IN MALMÖ WHICH IS ALSO IN SWEDEN. HE SPENDS MUCH OF HIS TIME HUNCHED OVER THE DRAWING BOARD.

ARCHAEOLOGISTS ARE ALIVE LIKE YOU ARE. THEY ARE INTERESTED IN FINDING OUT MORE ABOUT TOPICS THAT ARE IMPORTANT TO OUR SOCIETY TODAY.

What can we learn from archaeologists about our own time?
Archaeologists can teach us a lot about our own time. The architecture of zoos reflects how people have been thinking about nature in different ways: from a performance to be watched to a habitat to get immersed in, with creatures to care for.

At Gorge Wildlife Park in Adelaide, Australia, Cornelius’ daughter Melanie got to hold a koala in 2017.

Disney’s Animal Kingdom opened in 1998 in Florida, USA. On the Kilimanjaro Safari visitors will encounter various African animals in shared enclosures with hidden fences.

The Lion House in Tierpark Berlin, Germany, is from 1963. It lets predators perform on a stage for human audiences.
ARCHAEOLOGISTS MATS BURSTRÖM, HÅKAN KARLSSON AND HISTORIAN TOMÁS DIEZ ACOSTA HAVE BEEN STUDYING WHAT REMAINS TODAY OF THE SOVIET MISSILE BASES WHICH WERE CONSTRUCTED ON CUBA DURING THE 1962 MISSILE CRISIS.

IN SANTA CRUZ DE LOS PINOS THEY DISCOVERED HOW LARGE SECTIONS OF CONCRETE HAVE BEEN REUSED AS CATTLE PENS. FROM THEIR FIELDWORK WE CAN LEARN HOW THE “CUBAN MISSILE CRISIS”, WHICH NEARLY LED TO THE OUTBREAK OF A NUCLEAR WAR, CHANGED LIFE IN THE SURROUNDING VILLAGES.

Is there anything we can do when historical buildings have been destroyed in wars?
HISTORICAL BUILDINGS ARE OFTEN REBUILT. ARCHAEOLOGISTS RESTORED THE ARCH IN PALMYRA, SYRIA, IN THE 1930s. AFTER IT WAS DESTROYED IN 2015, THEY WILL EVENTUALLY RESTORE IT AGAIN.
What does it mean to reconstruct the past?

In Hangzhou, China, inhabitants and visitors enjoy experiencing the Eiffel Tower inspired by the tower in Paris, France.

More important than dating sites is whether they exude "pastness". Pastness requires the presence of some or all of the following characteristics:

1. Visible signs of decay
2. Matching expectations
3. Plausible history
“What about us?”

Using their own bodies, people recreate the past to understand and experience what life was like, e.g. during the Battle of Gettysburg in Pennsylvania, USA. Historian Marie Bennedahl promotes equal opportunities by investigating gender roles in historical reenactment.
KALMAR COUNTY MUSEUM HAS BEEN USING TIME-TRAVELS TO FOSTER POLITICAL DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN AFRICA.

UGANDA BECAME INDEPENDENT FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM IN 1962. SIXTY YEARS LATER, UGANDANS RESTAGED A POLITICAL RALLY FROM 1954 NEAR THE FAMOUS “FREEDOM TREE” IN ENTEBBE. BY RESEARCHING AND RELIVING THIS MOMENT, THE COMMUNITY COULD DISCUSS THE MEANING OF FREEDOM AND INDEPENDENCE, INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITIES AND JOINT ASPIRATIONS FOR SOCIETY, BOTH THEN AND TODAY.

Does archaeology have other benefits in the present?
OSTEOARCHAEOLOGIST CLARA ALFSDOTTER STUDIES DEAD BODIES TO HELP SOLVE MURDER CASES AND MISSING PERSON INVESTIGATIONS.

ARCHAEOLOGIST FREDRIK GUNNARSSON INVESTIGATES HOW DIGITAL DATA DERIVED FROM EXCAVATIONS CAN STIMULATE AUDIENCES TO ATTEND TO SOCIAL CONFLICTS AND FEEL EMPATHY WITH HUMAN BEINGS IN THE PAST.
ARCHAEOLOGY CAN CONTRIBUTE TO SEVERAL GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND HELP CREATE A BETTER WORLD FOR ALL.
WHAT IS FUTURE ARCHAEOLOGY?

PLANNED REPOSITORY OF NUCLEAR WASTE AT FORSMARK, SWEDEN. IT MUST LAST FOR 100,000 YEARS.

ANTICIPATING AND PLANNING WHAT PEOPLE IN THE FUTURE WILL BE ABLE TO FIND.

SPACE MESSAGE, VOYAGER

LONG-TERM STORAGE INVOLVES COMMUNICATING WITH FUTURE GENERATIONS. WHAT DID WE LEAVE BEHIND FOR THEM? WHY?
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EVERYBODY CAN CREATE CERAMIC TILES FOR THE MEMORY OF MANKIND IN HALLSTATT, AUSTRIA.

"Nothing is more difficult to predict than the past and nothing ages faster than the future."

ASSUMPTIONS, NARRATIVES OF THE PAST

ASSUMPTIONS, NARRATIVES OF THE FUTURE

1. POSSIBLE PAST
2. PLAUSIBLE PAST
3. PREFERRED PAST

PROBABLE PASTS

PROBABLE FUTURES

4. POSSIBLE FUTURE
5. PLAUSIBLE FUTURE
6. PREFERRED FUTURE

BUT MY LOCAL MUSEUM DOES NOT DISPLAY ANYTHING ABOUT SUCH THINGS...
CONTEMPORARY ARCHAEOLOGY CAN BE FOUND IN MANY PLACES
INTERESTING PLACES TO VISIT:
Indiana Jones Adventure ride, Disneyland and Tokyo DisneySea, Japan
Egyptian Temple, Antwerp Zoo, Belgium
City of the Pharaoh, 1923 movie set, Guadalupe Dunes-Centre, California, USA
Nuclear power plant remains, Chernobyl, Ukraine
Guédelon, Medieval castle, Burgundy, France

GREAT BOOKS TO READ:
Bianca Bosker (2013) Original Copies
Gregory Benford (1999) Deep Time
Caitlin DeSilvey (2018) Curating Decay
Richard Gould (2007) Disaster Archaeology
David Macaulay (1979) Motel of the Mysteries

MEMORABLE FILMS TO WATCH:
Woody Allen (dir.) The Purple Rose of Cairo (1985)
Franklin Schaffner (dir.), The Planet of the Apes (1968)

INSIGHTFUL WEBPAGES TO EXPLORE:
Archaeogaming: https://archaeogaming.com
Art/Archaeology: https://www.artarchaeologies.com
Bridging Ages: http://www.bridgingages.com
Memory of Mankind: https://www.memory-of-mankind.com
Space Age Archaeology: http://zoharesque.blogspot.com
UNESCO, Culture for the 2030 Agenda: https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000264687

PLACES TO MEET:
Contemporary and Historical Archaeology in Theory (CHAT) Conference:
http://chat-arch.org
The ideas and opinions expressed in this colouring book are those of the authors: they are not necessarily those of UNESCO and do not imply any commitment by the Organization.