

## BOOK REVIEW



### *Rethinking Anthropological Perspectives On Migration*

Edited by Graciela S. Cabana and Jeffery J. Clark.  
University Press of Florida, 2011, 350 pp. \$79.95, cloth.



Two decades ago, migration returned as a subject of archaeological interest and since then there has been an outpouring of studies of ancient population movement. Migration has been especially embraced by Southwestern archaeologists who have made important advances in both theory and method. Of the several books on migration that were published in the past few years, this is one of the best. It was edited by a biological anthropologist (Cabana) and a Southwestern archaeologist (Clark). They have brought together scholars from all four fields of anthropology – archaeology, linguistics, ethnology, and biological anthropology – to develop new perspectives on migration. The editors have made a considerable effort to create a coherent volume and the chapters, in general, fit well together and develop a consistent theme from the introduction, which lays out the problem to be considered, through the excellent concluding chapter. The book is well-produced with a good layout and clear illustrations.

The book consists of four parts. Part I *Setting the Stage* contains the (unnumbered) Introduction by Cabana and Clark and Chapter 1 by Cabana. The Introduction affirms that migration is a pervasive human activity, as important today as it was in the past, and sets as the goal of the volume "... to infuse anthropological studies of past migration with new questions and new approaches that emerge from the collective effort of researchers in the various sub-disciplines (pg. 10)." The goal is effectively accomplished. There are few subjects in anthropology today that would admit such cross-sub-disciplinary examination and it is heartening to see the success of this endeavor. The authors engaged in collaborative discussion, but could not agree on a common definition of migration, perhaps not surprising given the number of disciplines involved. Cabana and Clark offer a "minimal definition," leaving the other authors free to embellish or develop it in ways that are most appropriate for their purpose (as indeed they do). Chapter 1 is an historical look at the relationship between migration and culture change which is intended to problematize the study of migration.

Part II, *Archaeological Approaches*, contains four articles by Southwestern archaeologists. Each one is a solid contribution to both migration studies and Southwestern archaeology. In Chapter 2, Bernardini explores the fluidity of social boundaries and the nested nature of identity evident in Native American oral traditions as a contrast to the static culture areas defined by early archaeologists. In Chapter 3, Fowles perceptively asks us to consider whether movement was the normal state for Southwestern groups and settlement actually a disruption of those normal patterns. Darling's Chapter 4 explores migration among the O'odham of southern Arizona and the ways that in traditional songs, expressing cognitive geography, were transformed during migration. Clark redefines migration in Chapter 5 and provides a rich exploration of two migrations to southern Arizona. In the process, he shows us how to break down migration into workable topics.

Part III, *Archaeolinguistic Approaches* contains two papers. Using an innovative focus on the conceptual metaphor, archaeologist Scott Ortman (Chapter 6) finds ancient Mesa Verde metaphors in modern Rio Grande Pueblo languages. Shifting focus to Mesoamerica, Beekman and Christensen emphasize the difficulties with identifying migration in complex societies and urge the use of multidisciplinary approaches. *Ethnolinguistic Approaches* comprise Part IV. In the first of three papers in this section, Hill (Chapter 7) uses linguistic paleontology to document two migrations of Uto-Aztecan speakers, from northwestern Mesoamerica to the Colorado Plateau and from the Colorado Plateau to coastal southern California. In Chapter 7, Fowler uses a variety of data, including documentary, linguistic, and oral traditions, to examine the Numic expansion, advocating a micro-scale approach to this long-standing problem. Chapter 10 by Ehret shifts the reader to eastern Africa and uses word-borrowing and archaeology to look at the historic movements of the Maa people.

Part V, *Bioanthropological Approaches*, contains five short papers that examine migration using genetics, biogeochemistry, and modeling. Knudson (Chapter 11) uses strontium isotopes to explore the possibility of Tiwanaku colonists populating different parts of the south-central Andes. Fix (Chapter 12) uses genetics to examine movements among Semai of Malaya, concluding that studies using anthropological genetics should consider different forms of migration, as well as other evolutionary forces for explaining spatial genetic patterns. Bolnick (Chapter 13) considers migration from the perspective of molecular anthropology, examining gene flow among ancient Hopewell communities, as well as the broader question of migration and postmarital residence in eastern North America. The last two papers in Part V, by Frankenberg and Konigsberg (Chapter 14) and Hunley (Chapter 15) use modeling to evaluate different approaches to identifying migration.

Part VI, *Lessons from Contemporary Migration*, contains a single paper by a cultural anthropologist. Tsuda (Chapter 16) provides a useful and thought-

provoking analysis of the extent to which the concepts and theories developed in studies of modern migration can be applied to the past. He concludes that they can and underscores the similarities and differences between migrations then and now. This contribution has many insights for archaeologists attempting to studying migration in the past.

*Rethinking Anthropological Perspectives on Migration* brings all four sub-disciplines of anthropology together to work on a single topic. The reader is left with a good understanding of the goals and methods applied to the study of migration in each field. Several of the papers use methods from more than one sub-discipline, an encouraging sign that the four-field approach is still effective. This is a volume that every scholar of migration will want to read. While they may want to focus only on those sections that fit their sub-disciplinary interests, they will be rewarded by reading of the entire volume.

