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BOOK REVIEW

Life Beyond the Boundaries: Constructing Identity in Edge Regions of the North American Southwest, edited by Karen G. Harry and Sarah Herr. University Press of Colorado, Boulder, 2018, 400 pp, \$85.00 cloth. ISBN 978-1-60732-666-3.

Reviewed by Susan C. Ryan, Crow Canyon Archaeological Center.

In *Life Beyond the Boundaries*, editors Karen G. Harry and Sarah Herr challenge contributors to consider the identities and social experiences of precontact and protohistoric people who lived outside of defined archaeological core areas in the North American Southwest. The goal of this edited volume is to examine edge areas, or peripheries, as contexts for illuminating structural and social change at various scales. To do so, authors adopt an agency-based approach in which identity is viewed as an active construction—identities can be actively created, shaped, and manipulated. Regions that have been historically underrepresented in the literature, including the Jornada Mogollon, Gallina, and the Pimeria Alta, are explored in depth.

Two major considerations are given to understanding the construction of identities outside of core areas. The first is concerned with whether the region experienced a major migration event and the second factor addresses demography, or the size and density of the population that inhabited the edge area. Both considerations are relevant as they affect the relationships people have with the land, available resources, the scale of social networks, and the sustainability of various economic and social formations. In sum, all of these factors affect how and why social identities are formed, modified, or sustained through time.

The relationship between the two key variables, migration and demography, lead the editors to define four types of edge areas: joint-use territories, frontiers, uncontested areas, and contact zones. Harry and Herr (2018:8) note, "This typology emphasizes the historical contexts and motivations of people living in these edge areas and reflects our desire to disarticulate considerations of edges from interpretations that assume the historical trajectories of these regions are inevitably determined by more powerful and dominant cores."

Joint-use territories refer to areas that have low populations and that were not impacted by migration events yet display a high degree of residential mobility. Situated between densely populated regions, joint-use areas were visited and occupied by numerous groups. However, they don't subscribe to any political or ideological realm of any singular group. Two examples of joint-use territories are presented in this volume by Throgmorton and by Herr and Clark.

Frontiers refer to sparsely populated areas that are located outside of core regions and that have been created by one or more migrations. Populations in these areas tend to be dispersed or decentralized. Frontiers differ from joint-use areas in that population influxes were the result of migrants who arrived with the intent of establishing long-lasting settlements. Four examples of frontier territories are presented in this volume by Peebles and Mills, Fowles, Borck, and Throgmorton.

Uncontested areas refer to places with deep history and continuity of occupation. Having smaller populations than core areas, they lack centralizing bureaucracies, institutionalized leadership, and strong ideological movements. Uncontested areas lack large-scale migrations, and thus strong traditions and communities of practice emerge. Three examples of these areas are presented in this volume by Harry and Watson, Miller, and Gilman.

Contact zones refer to areas where migrants came into contact with existing populations of significant size and density. Incoming and existing populations exhibit strong group identities; this dynamic creates potential for rapid and pronounced change through social negotiations, conflicts, and accommodations. Two examples of contact zones are presented in this volume by Herr and Clark and by Jelinck and Brenneman.

In sum, contributors from various theoretical backgrounds use diverse methodologies to illuminate social structure and identity in the four zones summarized above using data derived from architecture, pottery, lithics, iconography, human remains, and the ethnographic record. This volume successfully addresses understudied areas and contributes to our understanding of low-populated and decentralized regions. Acknowledging that place is a significant factor in identity formation, I recommend this volume to those seeking to further understand edge areas, or peripheries, as contexts for illuminating structural and social change at numerous scales.