



Bioarchaeology: Interpreting Behavior from the Human Skeleton (Cambridge Studies in Biological and Evolutionary Anthropology)

By Clark Spencer Larsen

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Human remains recovered from archaeological sites can help us interpret lifetime events such as disease, physiological stress, injury and violent death, physical activity, tooth use, diet, and demographic history of once-living populations. This is the first comprehensive synthesis of the emerging field of bioarchaeology. A central theme is the interaction between biology and behavior, underscoring the dynamic nature of skeletal and dental tissues, and the influences of environment and culture on human biological variation. It emphasizes research results and their interpretation, covering palaeopathology, physiological stress, skeletal and dental growth and structure, and the processes of aging and biodistance. It will be a unique resource for students and researchers interested in biological and physical anthropology or archaeology.

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Editorial Review

Review

"...informative, educational, and well-written synthesis of current information in the field of bioarchaeology. This volume, which represents to my knowledge one of the only comprehensive syntheses of bioarchaeological methods, techniques, and theory, will be useful both as a standard reference for professionals and as a textbook in advanced courses in bioarchaeology and the interpretation of human skeletal remains...this work is a valuable addition to the libraries of skeletal biologists, archaeologists and bioarchaeologists, paleopathologists, and others interested in studying human remains from archaeological contexts with a bio-cultural perspective. Students will find the text relatively easy to read and comprehend, and will appreciate the emphasis on case studies in understanding the techniques, methods, and theories. Professionals will appreciate the extensive literature reviews Larsen incorporates into the text."-Elizabeth Miller, Society for Archaeological Sciences

About the Author

Clark Spencer Larsen is the Distinguished Professor of Social and Behavioral Sciences and Chair of the Department of Anthropology at Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio. His research is primarily focussed on biocultural adaptation in the last 10,000 years of human evolution, with particular emphasis on the history of health, well-being, and lifestyle. He collaborates internationally in the study of ancient skeletons in order to track health changes since the late Paleolithic. He is the author of 200 scientific articles and has authored or edited 30 books and monographs.

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