

## Foreword

This volume contains the proceedings of the session *Rock Art in the Landscapes of Motion*, organised and chaired by us, together with Heiko Riemer, during the 20th International Rock Art Congress IFRAO that took place in Valcamonica/Darfo Boario Terme, Italy (29th August to 2nd September 2018). The session gathered 24 participants, and 12 presentations were given. The present book consists of eight contributions, which are extended and revised versions of the original papers delivered during the session, preceded by an extensive introduction to its topic.

The motivation behind organising the session and, subsequently, publishing this volume stems from our involvement in archaeological investigations in a specific region, where the question of mobility and movement is particularly relevant. Both Frank Förster and Heiko Riemer have been involved for many years in archaeological research in Egypt's Western Desert, where rock art has long constituted one of the key elements studied by their expeditions. They are also the editors of the book *Desert Road Archaeology in Ancient Egypt and Beyond* (Cologne 2013), which clearly demonstrates their interest in the question of relationships between material culture and mobility. Paweł L. Polkowski's research has been carried out in the Dakhla Oasis, a smaller area within the same geographical region, and one of the great oases in Egypt's Western Desert. His studies have concentrated on rock art corpora of various periods and their embeddedness in the landscape. His current project *Rocks in Motion: Research on the Dakhleh Oasis Petroglyphs in the Context of Paths, Roads and Mobility* addresses some of the key questions raised in this volume, focusing on rock art/movement interrelations and their consequences.

The question of the entanglement of rock art and motion, which we all have tackled independently, has sparked our increasing interest in various theoretical and methodological aspects of this broad topic. Eventually, it led us to Valcamonica where we could discuss manifold research problems and challenging questions and positions during our session. We met other scholars dealing with similar research problems, but not necessarily using the same set of theoretical assumptions. The contents of this book reflect both this general situation and the open-minded scientific atmosphere very well. It not only offers a broad geographical and chronological range of subjects, but also presents different approaches to these subjects. We consider this theoretical non-uniformity to be an advantage, and a peg on which further discussions can hang.

The work on this volume was long and arduous, mostly because it was abruptly paralysed by the COVID-19 outbreak. As the world was struggling, so were we and the contributors. Closed universities, libraries, offices; cut-off from various resources; personal issues, anxiety and worries – all of these and other factors contributed negatively to the process of editing the book. Although we committed to lead the project to a successful end within reasonable time limits, the pandemic and its consequences impacted our work with great force, thwarting our plans relentlessly. Eventually, the project, started in 2019 but arrested in 2020, moved on and the final result is now in the readers' hands.

This is a fitting place to express our immense gratitude to the contributors, who not only decided to share with us their papers and thoughts, but also demonstrated great patience in the wake of the above-mentioned obstacles and delays. We hope that this book will compensate for their effort and longanimity. We also thank Heiko Riemer for his contribution to the organisation of the session and his further help in the editing process. Finally, we wish to thank the BAR editing team, especially Tansy Branscombe and Jacqueline Senior, for their continuous support and smooth collaboration, as well as the anonymous reviewers.

The Editors  
Poznań & Bonn, 30th May 2022