

Review of: "Environmental Representations in Rocky Records in National Parks in Southeastern Piauí – Brazil"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

The article looks like a long, not very well ordered introduction that stops in many common places about rock art, human-environment relations and heritage, but lacks data to support or to discuss this assertions. Data presentation consists only in a sort of photo-catalogue of rock art in the site mentioned, but lacks any precise analysis, interpretation or further discussion. Crucially, it lacks any approach towards the geometric and mathemathic patterns anticipated in the introduction and later considered in the conclusion.

Although the authors claim to position themselves against Eurocentric, view, they constantly rely, quite heavily, on Western dichotomies and concepts such as nature/society, human/nature, representation, sacralization, heritage, and so on. There is an urgent need for the authors to review anthropological literature stemming from the so-called “ontological turn”, that have some of their bests authors and examples originated, precisely, in Brazil.

The paper also raises some intriguing questions regarding the relation posited between past and present populations. The authors seem to posit that contemporary society lacks regional identity and “ignores its own past” and seem to claim that heritage can “awaken a new society”, while at the same times acknowledge links between contemporary populations and the past. The complexity of contemporary society and populations deserves to be further explored: ¿are we talking about urban Brazilian society? ¿are we talking about local, indigenous populations? ¿which one is ignorant and need to be awaken by archaeological heritage? I think the ethical and political topics regarding heritage, and the relation between archaeology and local communities that has also been abundantly explored by South American and Brazilian authors- should be better acknowledged.