

ARCHAEOLOGISTS WITH ATTITUDE



[Colin Renfrew in Stanford.](#)

Here to join me and Bill Rathje in a conversation about archaeology, for our book *Archaeologists with Attitude*.

Gave a fascinating talk this evening – “The Sapient Paradox: cognitive archaeology from institutional facts to material realities”.

He sketched out his interest in what he called material engagements – how people get on with things, and how things are active in making people what they are. And, in sketching a cognitive evolution that stressed sedentary life as a moment of radical change in people’s dealings with things, he drew on contemporary art.

[Antony Gormley’s](#) interest in material corporeality and anthropometrics (see my blog from last year)

[Richard Long’s](#) work on place, human scale, practice, monumentality.



He is exploring what I am calling the archaeological – taking up exactly the kind of interest I was proposing in my book *Experiencing the Past*, back in 1991.