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Annotation

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McEwan, Dorothy Graves and Kirsty Millican 2012. In Search of the Middle Ground: Quantitative Spatial Techniques and Experiential Theory in Archaeology. *J Archaeol Method Theory* 19. Pp. 491-494.

Landscape archaeologists McEwan and Millican come from different schools of thought. McEwan's approach is grounded in traditional GIS-based predictive modeling, while Millican practices more experiential landscape archaeology. Similar to their own differing interests, the authors identified two main approaches to landscape archaeology: quantitative spatial analysis and GIS-based systems, and experiential or phenomenological approaches. The authors also explained that there is a gap between the two types of methods that continues to increase. Influenced by the numerous conversations in landscape archaeology around the need for collaboration, McEwan and Millican decided to create a space where a "middle ground" could be reached between the different schools of landscape archaeology. McEwan and Millican created a conference wherein landscape archaeologists worked to establish this middle ground through discussion and papers. The conference resulted in a special publication of *Archaeology Method Theory* that explored many different approaches for bridging the gap between the methods.

McEwan and Millican's work contributes to broader conversations throughout academia on the value of combining qualitative and quantitative approaches. The article served as a useful introduction to the quantitative versus qualitative debate happening in landscape archaeology. However, the article seemed to be an introduction to a series of papers published on archaeological methods, and did not go into any detail about the methods themselves. As a cultural anthropology student, it was difficult for me to gain more than a surface-level understanding of the issues raised by the authors.