This book examines the problem of the illicit traffic in looted antiquities. One component analyses the current legal structure governing the international movement of looted antiquities. This, it is concluded, is not the most effective method available to control the problem. Flaws in the current system of laws are examined, both in terms of their ex-facie loopholes, and in terms of their broader lack of 'fit' with the market they seek to govern. The second part of the book uses qualitative interview and observational data gathered from meetings with key market figures, and site visits, to construct a scheme for understanding how buyers in the antiquities market make their purchasing choices. This scheme is used to recommend a regulatory structure which would better control the market. The two parts of the study—the legal analysis and the interview data—are woven together throughout, so as to answer most effectively the questions 'what is wrong with the antiquities market?' and 'what can we do about it?'
For the purposes of this analysis, the market in illicit antiquities might usefully be split into three stages: the supply of antiquities emanating from source nations, the demand created by consumers in market nations, and the chain of transportation which links the two. By considering these “divisions of labour”, targeted solutions to the problem may be easier to identify than if the market as a whole is considered. This paper deals only with the supply and demand stages; the transport networks which move illicit goods are discussed in an earlier paper in this series (Mackenzie 2002). His book Going, Going, Gone: Regulating the Market in Illicit Antiquities won the British Society of Criminology Book Prize 2005, and he continues to research and publish in this field. The illicit antiquities market forms part of a broader interest in crimes of the powerful. Further details about Simon and his research can be found on the SCCJR website at www.sccjr.ac.uk. Lectures (1). Transnational crime: trafficking in antiquities. 46 min. Dr. Simon Mackenzie. Going, Going, Gone: Regulating the Market in Illicit Antiquities. Leicester: Institute of Art and Law. (2009) Identifying and preventing opportunities for organized crime in the international antiquities market. In (Ed. S. Manacorda), Organised Crime in Art and Antiquities (pp. 95–108). Mackenzie S, Green P.(2009) Criminalising the market in illicit antiquities: an evaluation of the Dealing in Cultural Objects (Offences) Act 2003 in England and Wales. In: Mackenzie S, Green P. (eds) Criminology and Archaeology: Studies in Looted Antiquities. Hart Publishing, Oxford.