



# The Ethics of Archaeological Excavations and Repatriation in Egypt: An African Perspective

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## Abstract

The study examines the ethical dilemmas surrounding archaeological excavations and repatriation in Egypt from an African perspective. An ethnographic approach involving interviews with stakeholders including archaeologists, museum curators, community leaders, and academic researchers. Data collection was conducted through semi-structured questionnaires and in-depth interviews to capture diverse viewpoints on ethical conduct and repatriation processes. Findings indicate that there is a significant gap between the expectations of local communities regarding their rights over cultural heritage sites and the current practices of excavation and repatriation, with a notable emphasis on the need for greater transparency and consultation in decision-making processes. The study concludes that while there are ethical challenges in balancing archaeological research needs with community rights, increased engagement and communication can lead to more equitable outcomes. Recommendations include enhanced collaboration between governmental bodies, academic institutions, and local communities for the development of comprehensive repatriation policies. Additionally, a framework for transparent decision-making processes should be established.

**Keywords:** *Ethnicity, Heritage, Anthropology, Colonialism, Postcolonialism, Ethnohistory, Archaeology*

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