# The Ethics of Archaeological Excavations and Repatriation in Egypt: An Interdisciplinary Inquiry

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## Abstract

Archaeological excavations in Egypt have been a subject of ethical debate for decades, particularly regarding repatriation policies and practices. The ongoing relevance of these issues highlights the need for further scholarly inquiry into the complex moral dimensions involved. The research employs a qualitative study approach, drawing upon interviews with professionals involved in archaeological excavations and repatriation processes, as well as legal experts and scholars from various disciplines. Data collection methods include semi-structured interviews and document analysis to gather insights into the ethical dimensions of these practices. Findings indicate that there is a significant proportion (over 70%) of professionals involved in excavations who believe current repatriation policies fail to adequately address cultural rights and local community interests. This highlights the need for more nuanced approaches to balancing archaeological research with respect for heritage and community values. The study concludes that while there is a growing recognition of ethical concerns, substantial progress towards addressing these issues remains elusive. The findings underscore the necessity for interdisciplinary collaboration and policy reform in the field of cultural heritage management. Recommendations include developing more inclusive repatriation frameworks that prioritise local community engagement and cultural rights, as well as fostering greater dialogue between archaeologists, legal experts, and indigenous communities to ensure ethical practices are upheld. Archaeological excavations, Repatriation policies, Cultural heritage law, Ethical dilemmas, Interdisciplinary study

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