



Ethical Dilemmas in Archaeological Excavations and Repatriation Practices: An African Perspective in Egypt

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Abstract

The study examines ethical dilemmas in archaeological excavations and repatriation practices within Egypt's cultural heritage sector. The study employs a participatory action research approach involving interviews with key stakeholders including archaeologists, museum curators, and community representatives. Focus groups were conducted to gather insights from various cultural sectors and public opinion. A significant proportion (75%) of participants expressed concerns about the equitable distribution of benefits from archaeological discoveries among local communities versus national museums. The research highlights the need for more inclusive decision-making processes that prioritise community involvement in repatriation decisions. Recommendations include establishing a transparent dialogue framework and fostering collaboration between stakeholders to ensure ethical practices are upheld in future excavations and repatriation efforts.

Keywords: *African Studies, Ethnography, Participatory Action Research, Heritage Management, Cultural Relics Protection, Ethical Theory, Indigenous Knowledge Systems*

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