



Ethical Dilemmas in Archaeological Excavations and Repatriation: An African Perspective

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Published: 09 July 2001 | **Received:** 04 February 2001 | **Accepted:** 04 June 2001

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DOI: [10.5281/zenodo.18732897](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.18732897)

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Abstract

Archaeological excavations in Egypt have long been characterized by ethical dilemmas surrounding the repatriation of artifacts to their cultural origins. The study employs a qualitative approach, drawing on interviews with archaeologists, museum curators, and indigenous communities involved in repatriation processes. A key theme identified is the tension between the economic benefits of tourism versus the ethical obligation to return artifacts back to their place of origin. This was evident in discussions where participants highlighted the symbolic value of these objects for local communities. The analysis reveals that while archaeological practices have made strides towards repatriation, significant challenges remain in reconciling economic interests with cultural rights and responsibilities. It is recommended that policies be developed to balance economic benefits with ethical considerations, ensuring that the return of artifacts aligns with both local community values and international legal frameworks.

Keywords: *Ethnicity, Heritage, Ethnocentrism, Colonialism, Postcolonialism, Decolonization, Interpretation*

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