



Ethical Dilemmas in Egyptian Archaeological Excavations and Repatriation: An African Perspective

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Abstract

Egyptian archaeological excavations and repatriation have been a subject of ethical debate for decades, particularly concerning the rights of indigenous communities to ancestral remains and cultural heritage. The analysis draws upon existing literature, case studies, and input from stakeholders including indigenous groups, archaeologists, and legal experts. A thematic approach is employed to synthesize these elements into a coherent framework for ethical guidance. A key finding is the disparity in representation among communities when decisions about repatriation are made, with some voices more frequently heard than others, potentially skewing outcomes towards less equitable solutions. The analysis reveals significant gaps in current policies that fail to adequately address the diverse and often conflicting interests of various stakeholders involved in archaeological activities within Egypt. Recommendations include strengthening community participation mechanisms, implementing more inclusive decision-making processes, and developing standardised guidelines for repatriation decisions based on ethical principles.

Keywords: *Ethnicity, Heritage, Appropriation, Colonialism, Postcolonialism, Ethnocentrism, Commemoration*

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