



Ethical Dilemmas in Egyptian Archaeological Excavations and Repatriation Contexts: An Action Research Study from an African Perspective

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Abstract

Ethical dilemmas in archaeological excavations and repatriation have become increasingly contentious in Egypt, particularly with regards to the preservation of cultural heritage and the rights of indigenous communities. The study employs a participatory-action research methodology, involving local stakeholders including archaeologists, community leaders, and indigenous cultural representatives. Data collection includes interviews, focus groups, and policy analysis. A key finding is the significant proportion (75%) of respondents expressing concern over the lack of transparent communication regarding excavation plans and their potential impacts on local communities. The research underscores the importance of enhanced ethical guidelines and community engagement in archaeological practices to mitigate adverse effects on indigenous populations and cultural heritage sites. Recommendations include developing comprehensive codes of conduct, fostering collaborative decision-making processes involving all relevant parties, and improving communication protocols between archaeologists and communities.

Keywords: *Cultural Heritage, Ethnography, Methodology, Postcolonial Theory, Decolonization, Power Relations, Community Engagement*

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