

# Archaeology

# Definitions

- Study of humanity in the past through material culture
- Duality of material and culture
- What is culture?
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# Development of discipline

- Antiquity collectors
- Museum studies
- First excavations
- Development of methods and theories

# Anthropology and archaeology

- Human subject via material culture
- US tradition

# History and Archaeology

- Earliest periods of history = Prehistory
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# Past meanings of the objects

- Interpretation of the meaning
- Interpretation of the context (wholeness)
- All human action is thus creative and interpretive.
- General rules have to be interpreted in relation to context in the same way that archaeologists have to interpret generalisations in relation to the contexts they are studying

# How is it possible to look at 'their' minds?

- According empiricism and skepticism of Haws (1954) it is possible to reconstruct past technologies and economy, but not ideas or social organizations.
- But archaeologist can reconstruct past conceptual meanings
- To verify our ideas we can use artifacts = real objects which people made

# Approches

- Contextual approach
- Interdisciplinary approach



# Field Archaeology

- Survey (use of non-destructive techniques) to locate the sites
- Excavation (intrusive and destructive techniques)

# Relation to other disciplines

- Archaeology and Cultural Heritage
- Archaeology as Entertainment
- Archaeology and Politics
- Archaeology as Social Science
- Pseudoarchaeologies

# Diversity of archaeologists

- Prehistory
- Egyptology
- Classical
- Assyriology
- Industrial
- Underwater
- Ethnoarchaeology, etc