

Introduction to Archaeology: Class 20  
**Applied archaeology and ownership of the past**

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- Pure (basic) science vs. applied science
- Examples of applied archaeology
  - CRM
    - often involves tourism or education: reconstruction, consolidation, trails and signs, museums
    - applied in the sense of being a legally required step in road, dam, building, and other projects
  - University of Arizona Garbage Project
    - started off pure research: testing methods
    - ended up applied: to landfill planning, correcting surveys, etc.
  - Forensic archaeology
    - mass graves, war crimes, genocides
    - crime scene data collection
  - Reconstructing useful ancient technologies
    - raised fields around Lake Titicaca
  - Public education
    - adding to historical site interpretation, as at the Alamo
    - museums, documentaries, popular books, etc.
    - practical reason: if we don't make archaeology relevant to the public, the public won't support archaeology
    - ethical reason: what right do we have to dig up other people's past without involving them?
- Question of ethics and politics: who owns the past?
  - Alamo example
    - Daughters of the Republic of Texas were caretakers of the Alamo
    - wanted focus on the “13 days to glory” fight against Spain
    - archaeologists felt that the long Spanish history of the mission should also be told
      - granting equal history and pride to Chicanos and Mexican-Americans in the San Antonio region
  - Bighorn Medicine wheel example
    - sacred to Native Americans; a curiosity to others
  - Nazi archaeology example
    - pseudo-archaeology used to promote nationalist ideology
  - Kennewick Man
    - Archaeologists felt the bones were important data
    - Various Native Americans felt the bones were their own ancestors and should be given a decent burial
    - whose claim is stronger?
- The best solution: get everyone to agree

- not always possible
- but it surprisingly often is
  - when archaeologists are respectful and collaborative
  - this was recently the wave of the future, but now increasingly the norm