

Introduction to Archaeology

Fall 2024
Lecture 8 (9/26)



Week 4

Archaeology Today

- Tuesday
 - Unsettling the Past (2hrs)
 - Discussion Questions (website)
 - Thursday
 - Review Archaeology as History
 - Videos: Simple Archaeology
 - WE3 Due
 - Research Design
 - Handout: Site Report Essay
-

History of Archaeology

- Antiquarians (17th/18th c.) **collecting**
- Culture History (mid 19th to mid 20th) **describing**
- Processual/New Archaeology (1960s to current) **explaining**
- Post-processual (1980s to current) **interpreting/critiquing**
 - Interpretivist or social archaeology
 - Indigenous, Black/Diasporic, Feminist, Queer, Marxist, Contemporary, Collaborative, Community-Based...



Processualism/New Archaeology (1960-) [[video](#)]

Context

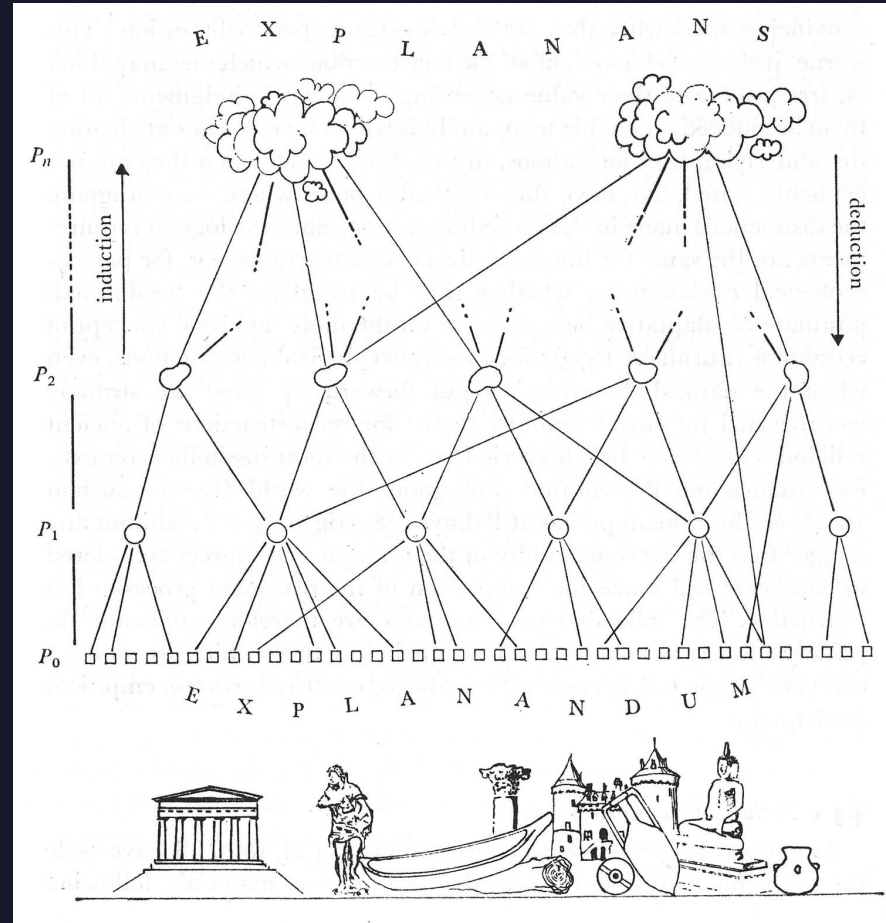
- Post WW2- power of science & empiricism/objectivity
 - “Loss of innocence”
- Growth of cultural anthropology, “document” the world

Archaeology

- Focus on [explanation \(culture process\)](#), not just description
- Model building & hypothesis testing
- Universal explanations/laws for human behavior (e.g. why cities?)
- Focus on the material > social world (economics, environment, etc.)
- Radiocarbon dating & global chronologies for comparative work
- Multidisciplinary field & labwork

Research Design

Deductive & Inductive Reasoning...



Campanaro, Danilo Marco. "Inference to the Best Explanation (IBE) and Archaeology: Old Tool, New Model." *European Journal of Archaeology* 24, no. 3 (2021): 412–32. <https://doi.org/10.1017/ea.2021.6>.

Post-Processualism/Interpretivism (1980-) [[video](#)]

Context

- Postmodernism! (question everything... can we be “objective”?)
- Criticisms
 - Research bias (e.g. gender, race)
 - Other frameworks/ stakeholders
 - Can we talk about “laws” of human behavior?
 - Expanded research questions: ethnicity, gender, ritual

Archaeology

- [Critique!](#) & challenges to the objectivity of science (bias?)
- Shift from focus on the material world to ideas/ideology
- Neo-Marxism & social awareness (everything is political!)
- Focus on unique elements vs. “universal laws of human behavior”
- Today: many types of archaeology

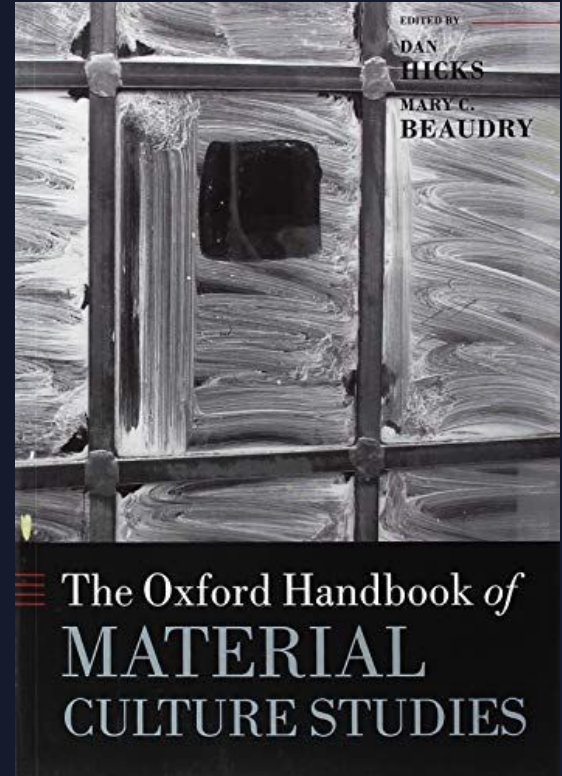
Material Culture [Video]- theoretical concept/intervention

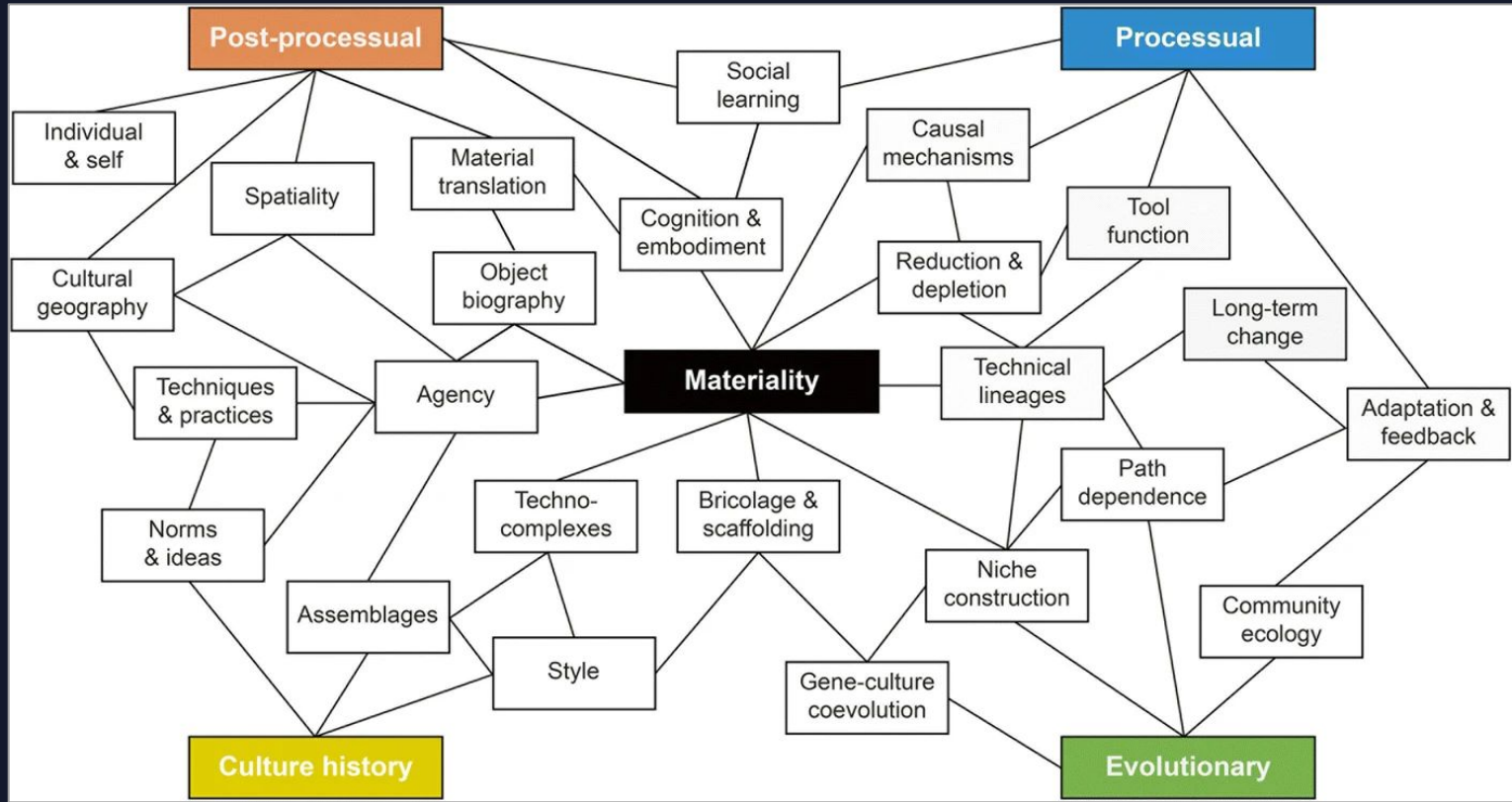
Objects (& people & landscapes) have lives... biographies that change in use & meaning over time

- Agency
- Power



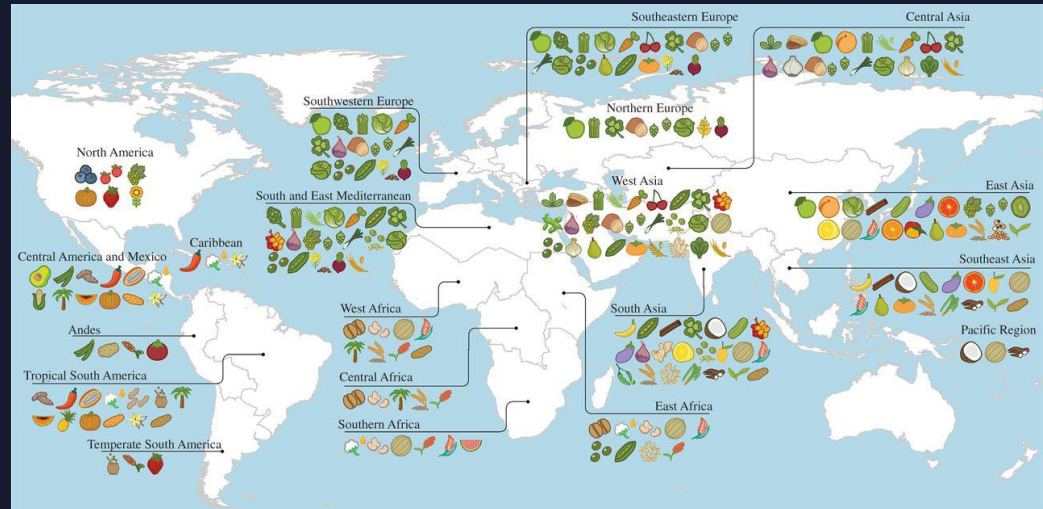
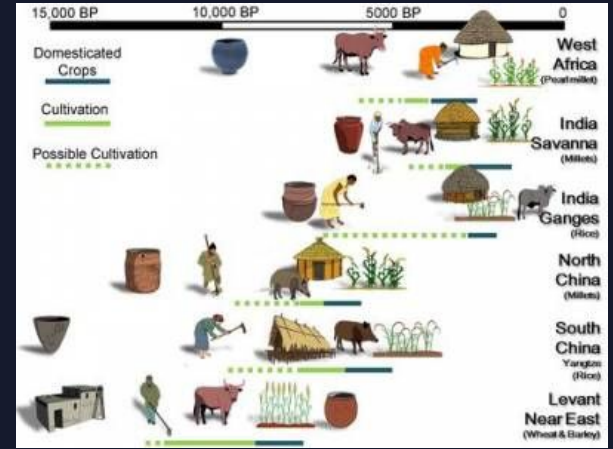
2002 & 2018





Origins of Agriculture... [Interactive Map!]

- Antiquarians
- Culture History
- Processualism
- Post-processualism



Week 5

Archaeological Evidence

- Locating sites, high & low tech survey
 - Google Earth Site Report!
 - Excavating Sites
-