

Disturbing Bodies:— the social relations of exhumation

Saturday 4th November 2006

McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research, University of Cambridge

This workshop explores the ways in which the materiality of the corpse is constituted through the performative and tactile acts of exhumation, display, and analysis. Archaeological exhumation may be understood as a commemorative practice which intersects with other forms of commemoration, with consequent implications for the individual identity and agency of the dead. As such, the routines of excavation reconstitute memory in specific ways, often incommensurate with the experiences of other participants.

Speakers:

Morning Session

Maja Petrovic-Steger (University of Cambridge).

Measuring Fragmentality - Human Remains in Postconflict Serbia and Tasmania

Piotr Bienkowski (Manchester Museum)

Exhuming the Integrated Body: Conflicting World-views and the Archaeological Discourse

Mel Giles (University of Manchester).

Bog Bodies: Representing the Dead

Paul Sant Cassia (University of Durham).

The Triple Recognition of Exhumation: The Recognizer, the Recognized, and the Recognized-to. Scenes from an uncompleted drama of Cyprus exhumations

Afternoon Session

Layla Renshaw (Kingston University).

The Life Cycle of Human Remains from the Spanish Civil War – Situating Exhumation Within the Time Spans of Private and Public Mourning

Victoria Sanford (City University New York).

Body of Evidence: Impunity and Inequality in the Reconstruction of Life and Death

Zoë Crossland (Columbia University).

Revelation and Detection: Discourses of Bodies and Evidence in Archaeology and Forensic Science

Discussants:

Maryon McDonald (Department of Social Anthropology, University of Cambridge).

Tim Thompson (Human Anatomy and Forensic Anthropology, University of Dundee).

For information or to register please contact Dusan Boric at db231@cam.ac.uk
Organised by Zoe Crossland as part of the Leverhulme Changing Beliefs of the Human Body
Research Programme