


Material Girl in a Material World: Exploring the Material Agency of Human Skeletal Remains from Pella, Jordan



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**Content Warning:
Human remains**

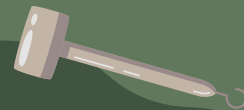


Pella





Research Goals

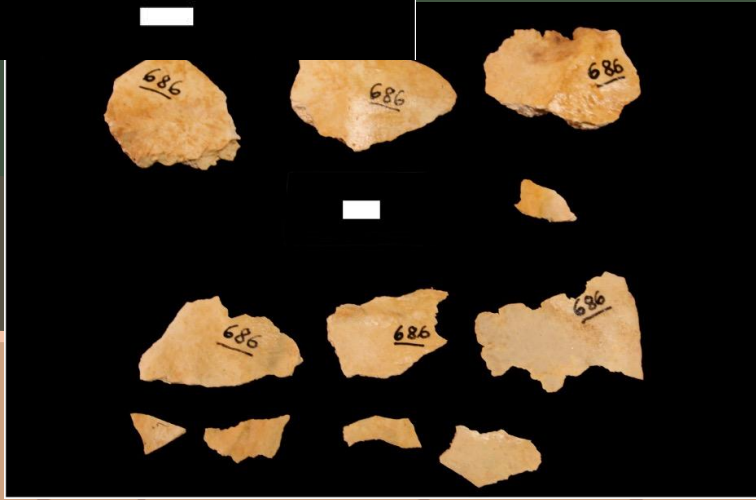
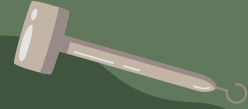


1. What can we learn about the human remains in the Pella collection?
2. How has the meaning attributed to the human remains in the Pella collection changed through time, from the individuals' time of death until now?





Osteological analysis



Material Culture

- **Material Culture:** tools, art, buildings, written records, and any other objects produced or used by humans



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Materiality in Archaeology

- What can it teach us about the past?
- The material record is meaningfully constructed
- The material world has consequences on people's lives



The Agency of Material Culture

- Agency: The power to assert control in one's environment
- Two-way relationship with humans
- Material objects assert agency through **meanings** and **limitations**
- In archaeology: Interpretation

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Applications to human remains

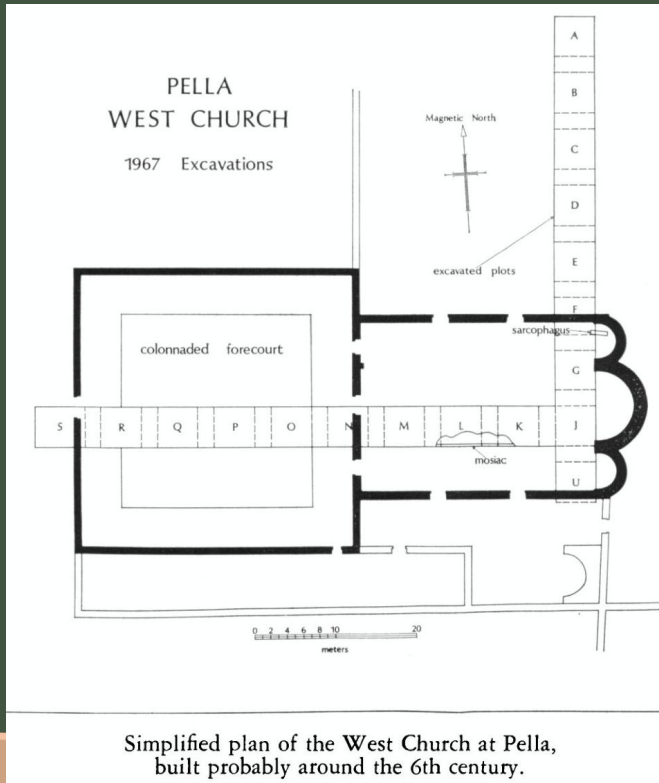
- Humans are not objects
- Interpretations are subject to the same factors as other artifacts



Case Study 1: Tombs



Case Study 2: Cemetery



Case Study 3: Sarcophagus



Conclusion: Modern Era





Thank you

