

Review of: "One Archaeology of Knowledge Constructs"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

ONE ARCHAEOLOGY OF KNOWLEDGE CONSTRUCTS

By

Diogo Menezes Costa

Reviewed by Jessica Christie, East Carolina University:

The article *One Archaeology of Knowledge Constructs* by Diogo Menezes Costa is a critical theoretical endeavor to test the limitations and assumptions of archaeological knowledge.

His essay is well organized beginning with abstract and introduction which prepare the reader what to expect in the body of the article. Menezes Costa first analyzes the symbolic aspects of archaeological knowledge by paraphrasing from the work of the thinker A. Gallay who published in the late 1980s and early 1990s. The second section explores the ideological inferences of archaeological constructions by leaning heavily on the writings of J.C. Gardin, also published in the 1980s to mid-1990s. Menezes Costa leads these discussions to results or conclusions summarized as "a symbolic and ideological archaeology of inequality", according to which archaeologists play central and dominant roles in the power constellations of knowledge constructions; or power hierarchies in which subaltern groups consistently assume inferior positions. Menezes Costa advocates libertarian academic discourse.

My opinion is that the arguments made by the author are well taken and relevant but not new. In contemporary archaeology, any reputable PI has to take all these points into consideration when formulating their research questions, writing funding proposals, and establishing community partnerships. My own experiences come from Indigenous archaeology. What matters and what is of true interest is how such power relations play out in specific and real case scenarios of community archaeology; how new alliances are formed and Indigenous and Western scientific knowledge systems are interwoven. I feel a purely theoretical discourse is not very useful because it is not grounded in lived experience.

