

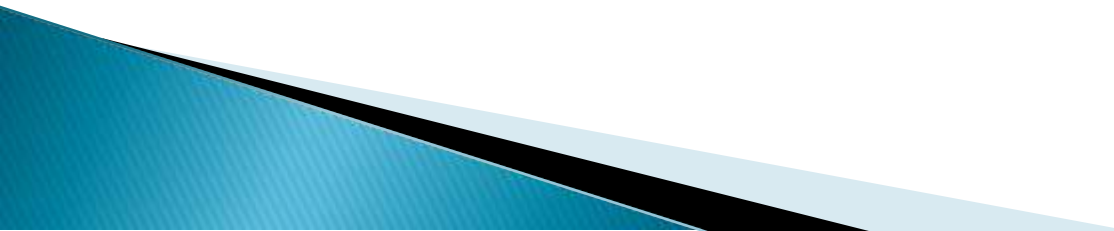
HIS6E01 –PRINCIPLES AND METHODS OF ARCHAEOLOGY –ELECTIVE COURSE

MODULE–1

TOPIC– NEW/PROCESSUAL ARCHAEOLOGY

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- ▶ A school of archaeologists led by Louis Binford & David Clark– championing for the cause of archaeology as a scientific discipline– approach goes under the name "New Archaeology"
- ▶ In "Analytical Archaeology"(1968)– David.L.Clark– demonstrate how with the improved methods of data retrieval, analytical taxonomy, classification,integration,& synthesis, archaeologists would be able to devise, models or hypotheses & transmit these models to experimental aspects for further testing & modification– hypotheses elevated to theories & ultimately, theories to synthesizing principles

- ▶ To this school the impressive progress that archaeological methods have made would enable it to make a departure from the purely historical or descriptive nature & enter into field where it can formulate general theories
 - ▶ To Clark– Archaeology is a discipline in its own right because it alone provides the conceptual apparatus for analysing this peculiar data, different from that required for the study of history in its limited sense
 - ▶ Other proponents– K.V.Flannery, Frank Hole etc
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- ▶ Ultimate goal of scientific archaeology– to formulate general theories to explain & predict major transformations, cultural processes & human behaviour
- ▶ Binford– the archaeologists data is mainly material remains of a culture, he can infer even the nonmaterial aspects & indeed the cultural system by studying "the entire range of determinants which operate within any socio–culture system, extinct or extant"
- ▶ to him limitations of our knowledge of the past lie in the inadequacy of our research designs & methods, not in the archaeological record
- ▶ behavior pattern of people of past can be investigated by hypothetico deductive method of science because archaeological remains & their spatial relationship are empirically observable records of that patterning

- ▶ These archeologist –Processualists or progressive– want to adopt a scientific framework as the basis of investigation & study of extinct cultures
- ▶ Criticisms–this approach dehumanizes archaeology
- ▶ Mrs Jacquetta Haukes– *UNESCO's Cultural History of Mankind*–all our exact measurements & statistical analyses are of no avail if the archaeological discipline loses its humanity
- ▶ Bruce.G.Trigger– 1968– does not think archaeology need be or should be explicitly scientific but rather emphasises its historical & descriptive aspects