

3 The A-Z of Archaeological Theory (Part 1)

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- **A** – *Antiquarianism* – Collecting old things because they're interesting. Almost totally condemned by modern theorists.
- **B** – *Baby* – Usually thrown out with the bathwater by post-modernists.
- **C** – *Contextualists* – Archaeologists who look at data from all angles, and then write what they were going to write in the first place.
- **D** – *Digging* – An archaic mechanism of investigation disdained by the modern theorist.
- **E** – *Ego* – Compulsory for attendance at TAG (Theoretical Archaeology Group) conferences.
- **F** – *Funding* – A mythical ritual only rarely practiced on UK sites, more commonly found in America.
- **G** – Gamble, C. (2004) *Archaeology; the basics*. London: Routledge. – The best introduction to archaeological theory around. Easy to read and little jargon.
- **H** – *History* – Rarely mentioned in works of archaeological theory.
- **I** – *Ian Hodder* – Former theorist, now buried at Çatalhöyük, Turkey.
- **J** – *Jargon* – Words such hermeneutics, homeorhesis, isochrestic and uniformitarianism crop up in archaeological theory far more often than necessary.
- **K** – *Kossina, Gustav* – The most repulsive theorist – racist, ultra-nationalistic and prominent in archaeology conducted by the Third Reich.
- **L** – *Landscape* – Possibly theorists' favourite buzzword in the last twenty years.