



The archaeological community is currently facing many ethical issues in its daily practice. The Archaeo-Ethics Symposium of 25-26 May 2018 provides an overview of this difficult subject. During the symposium, the constraints of contexts of intervention (armed conflicts, dictatorships, funeral archaeology), economic constraints (archaeological regulations and competition) as well as social constraints (between archaeologists and indigenous or local populations, as well as between professional and amateur archaeologists) were brought up. Among the discussions, the seminar **“Professionals, Volunteers, Amateurs and Citizens: Research Actors for What Contributions?”** proposes to revisit the contributions of non-professionals in order to consider solutions conducive to a redesign of relations between professional and non-professional actors. Objective: **to improve heritage preservation while achieving quality results.**



From amateur researcher (isolated, without resources and without qualification) to professional archaeologist (with a team, resources and qualification), Dr. Jean-Claude Bessac carves here hard limestone blocks for the study of the Messène rampart in Greece - Bessac J.-C., personal archives 2005

Article Summary

Since the 1970s, with the evolution of the French administration and a burst in preventive archaeology posts, archaeology has rapidly become professionalized. **The benefits of this rapid evolution must now take into account non-professional actors (volunteers, amateurs and citizens) whose diversity has also evolved.** Indeed, the distance taken by professionals towards the latter increases every day.

However, for a long time, scholarly communities and associations have fueled scientific production. Some have even led to the creation of research centers sometimes leading to the construction of a museum. These large-scale initiatives from corporate entities may also be found in the case of individuals.

To very different degrees, many other volunteer archaeologists, sometimes defining themselves as “independent researchers”, have contributed their knowledge about human beings through an archaeological approach. Some have even become professionals.

Through the presentation of the contributions and limitations of the various non-professional research actors (in particular volunteer archaeologists and amateur researchers), **we highlight the importance of strengthening the link between professionals and non-professionals for tomorrow's archaeological research in science³ 4.0 mode.**

Keywords: archaeology, ethics, professional archaeology, volunteers, amateur researchers, testimonials, Egypt, pyramid, France

To Quote the Article

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The video of the seminar presented at the Archaeo-ethics conference with the testimony of amateur researcher Jean-Pierre Houdin is not displayed?

[Access the English version of the video directly on YouTube.](#)