

Assessment



I will be assessing the theory of identity mainly in this photograph. Firstly I must analyze what period this photograph was taken as it is a critical window into the past and their social ranking. This photograph was taken in the 1920s.

In the lower-left corner, we see V. Gordon Childe on a ladder posing in a pit, he's wearing a hat that would not hold to health and safety standards of the current day as it is not a hard hat. Being in the front it shows his high status in the dig, also he seems as the knowledgeable person in the photo as he's wearing high-status clothing and captures the eye straight at first glance. Two women appear to be looking down and admiring him, they're wearing quite high-class clothing and are in skirts and one is not wearing a hat which shows they're probably not part of the excavation and therefore with economic capital, but might be in the photograph to show that they funded the dig or merely wanted two women to admire Childe in the photograph to show off his high status of this period in his career as an archaeologist. Behind them in the background we see four production-based workers sitting on wooden planks of wheelbarrow crossings. They're wearing working-class clothing, caps and are in the background to give the impression that they're less important and therefore out of the way of the main feature at the front being Childe. We can see power relations in the photo which is represented with the worker's assertive clothing, they are there to work, also the two women's isochrestic variation style which represents status during this period. Identity encompasses "gender, age, ethnicity, class..." as Oliver J.T. Harris and Craig N. Cipolli state, all people in this photograph do look fairly young, in their 30's perhaps.

This excavation was taken place in Scotland, but Childe was born and grew up in Sidney, Australia, but nothing indicates that the other workers are or aren't from Scotland, therefore there is no indication of country ethnicity present, but it is obvious that everyone in this picture is of white-skinned ethnicity most likely because the site is in a British country during the 1920s where there wasn't much diverse culture as there during the current day. "Material culture objects are often identified with a specific cultural or ethnic group" this was said by Amir Golani, I believe the clothing worn is very British in style, or at least western therefore most likely be British, of descent or has a strong British influence.

What stands out the most is the dualism of the sexes female and male, whilst the male laborers are covered in dirt and have obviously been working, the two women admiring Childe are clean, hair made in the fashion of the time, delicate shoes not built for hard labor, which makes me wonder if the sex divide within the archaeological world at this time, the women might have felt too much pride or felt like it was not a job for a woman to do because it was such a male-dominated science and a dirty labor heavy job.

Bibliography

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