

## Abstract

This lecture examines the historical transfer of elements of material culture, including ceramics and architectural elements, from the eastern Iranian world to Europe and North America, as well as more recent incidents of looted material entering museums and the art market, and the ways in which these objects are displayed, traded and, on occasion, returned to their country of origin.



There are four main case studies, two sites in Iran and two types of material from a site in Afghanistan, and these include lustre tiles taken in the nineteenth century, as well as lustre ceramic vessels and marble dado panels looted from Afghan museums since 1979. The various legal, ethical and moral issues around the continued trade and display of this material is examined, in order to highlight both the nature and the complexity of the subject, and the interconnections between archaeology, museums and the art market.



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