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ETHNIC IDENTITIES IN THE LAND OF THE PHARAOHS

*Past and Present Approaches
in Egyptology*

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Abstract: *Ethnic Identities in the Land of the Pharaohs* deals with the ancient Egyptian concept of collective identity, various groups which inhabited the Egyptian Nile Valley and different approaches to ethnic identity in the last two hundred years of Egyptology. The aim is to present the dynamic processes of ethnogenesis of the inhabitants of the land of the pharaohs, and to place various approaches to ethnic identity in their broader scholarly and historical context. The dominant approach to ethnic identity in ancient Egypt is still based on the culture-historical method. This and other theoretically better-framed approaches (e.g. instrumentalist approach, habitus, postcolonial approach, ethnogenesis, intersectionality) are discussed using numerous case studies from the third millennium to the first century BC. Finally, this Element deals with the recent impact of the third science revolution on archaeological research on ethnic identity in ancient Egypt.

Keywords: ancient Egypt, ethnicity, culture-historical archaeology, habitus, scientific racism

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