

# A Critical Consideration of the Rhetoric of Reconciliation and Social Justice in Archaeology

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Over the past five years, a growing number of conference sessions, public talks, and academic publications have called for a politicized archaeology that contributes to broader efforts towards reconciliation and social justice for minoritized communities. These efforts have made important strides towards making archeology useful to historically disenfranchised groups in the present. However, in our race towards relevancy, we have not given enough attention to defining what reconciliation and social justice actually means, how these meanings differ across black and Indigenous communities, and what, if anything, the study of the material past can realistically contribute to these distinct efforts. This talk will critically explore current disciplinary engagements with the concepts of reconciliation and social justice with a particular eye towards problematizing the definitional foundations of these terms. In dwelling on these definitions, Dr. Montgomery will discuss the potential for positive change these community-engaged frameworks present as well as how such terminology might constrain effective political action through their appeal to liberal multi-cultural identity politics.

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**February 25, 2022**  
**3:00pm ET**  
**Zoom**

**Register: [ter.ps/lmontgomery](https://ter.ps/lmontgomery)**  
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