

# **Round Table Proposal**

**European Association of Archaeologists (EAA) 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting  
Krakow, Poland  
19<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> September 2006**

**Organizer:** Jeffrey H. Altschul, Ph.D

## **Theme:**

*Managing the Archaeological Record and the Cultural Heritage*

## **Title Round Table:**

**How Should We Conduct Ourselves? Dilemmas in Archaeological Ethics and Professional Conduct: A Roundtable Sponsored by the Register of Professional Archaeologists**

## **Abstract:**

Professional archaeologists have a unique role in historic preservation. Archaeologists often serve as the expert consultants and regulators who decide what archaeological sites are saved, which are destroyed, and how much excavation is sufficient. In many parts of the world, other stakeholders, such as land developers and descendant communities, have much at stake but little role in making decisions about their property or their heritage. Archaeologists have great responsibilities, but little accountability to the public that depends on their decisions. In this roundtable we will discuss a number of case studies that highlight common ethical dilemmas faced by archaeologists. We will also examine the mechanisms by which archaeologists police our discipline and discuss how these could be strengthened to provide the public with greater confidence in historic preservation.

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