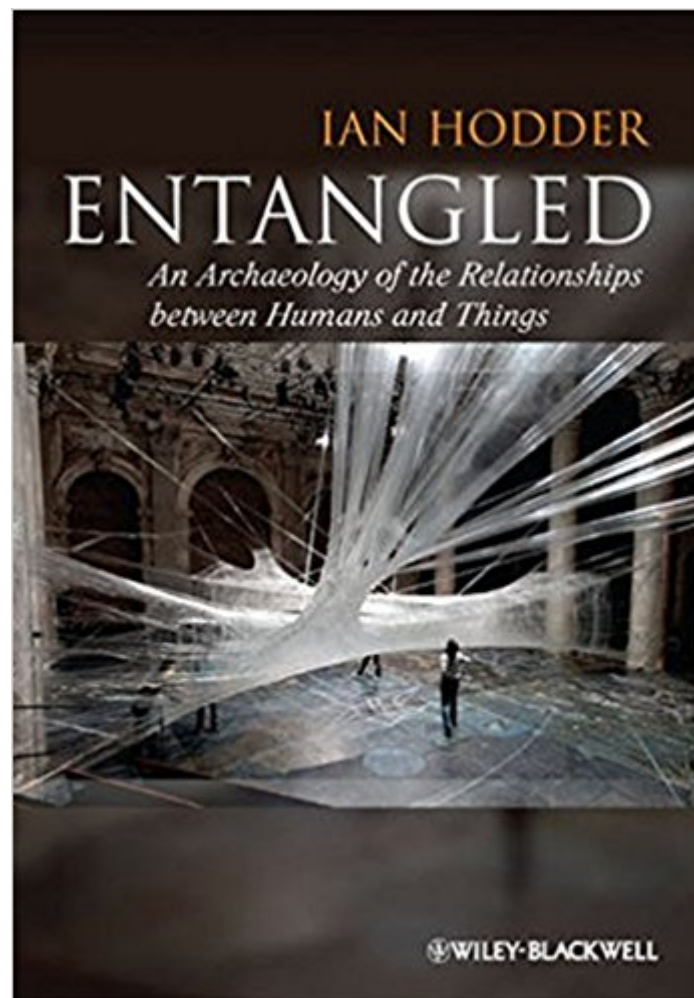




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# Entangled: An Archaeology Of The Relationships Between Humans And Things



## Synopsis

A powerful and innovative argument that explores the complexity of the human relationship with material things, demonstrating how humans and societies are entrapped into the maintenance and sustaining of material worlds Argues that the interrelationship of humans and things is a defining characteristic of human history and culture Offers a nuanced argument that values the physical processes of things without succumbing to materialism Discusses historical and modern examples, using evolutionary theory to show how long-standing entanglements are irreversible and increase in scale and complexity over time Integrates aspects of a diverse array of contemporary theories in archaeology and related natural and biological sciences Provides a critical review of many of the key contemporary perspectives from materiality, material culture studies and phenomenology to evolutionary theory, behavioral archaeology, cognitive archaeology, human behavioral ecology, Actor Network Theory and complexity theory

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

“Entangled may be Ian Hodder’s most theoretically ecumenical book to date. The discussion of the various current approaches being used in archaeology, anthropology, and many other disciplines makes this an extremely valuable work . . . ” Hodder has written a tremendously useful addition to the literature on the relationship of people and things that deserves close reading. (Current Anthropology, 1 August 2013) “Ian Hodder has written an extremely interesting, rigorously argued and intellectually adventurous book about the nature of things. . . Readers working across the social sciences and humanities, and particularly those

working at the intersection of the physical and human sciences, will find the messy openness of Hodder's book vibrant and compelling. (Critical Quarterly, 2 July 2013)

"Summing Up: Recommended. Graduate students, faculty, professionals. (Choice, 1 May 2013)

"The quantity and diversity of Hodder's readings are simply astonishing. His new conception of material entanglements is going to change the way archaeologists understand their field. - Norman Yoffee, University of Michigan

"Entangled is nothing less than a reframing of archaeological enquiry into things. It is a fundamental, first-principles rethinking of how archaeologists should understand the world around them. - Matthew H. Johnson, Northwestern University

"This book is a provocative and exciting contribution to archaeological theory and beyond. Its central thesis is that entanglement is both a condition of being in the world and a process of linking entities together in networks or assemblages. In charting a course across material, social, and evolutionary domains, it provides a novel way of bridging the Great Divide between the social and natural sciences." - Bob Preucel, University of Pennsylvania

One of the best academic books I've ever read. Clear, charming, broad in scope and vision, with an amazing bibliography. Hodder, an eminent archaeologist, presents a theory of the connections between humans and things which will become essential for any student of the social sciences. While his goal of "an archaeology of the relationships between humans and things" is to restore a respect for "thingness" outside of human networks, he presents a synthetic theory of those relationships which builds on, but avoids some notable shortcomings, of work in similar as well as widely diverse disciplines, including network theory, actor-network theory, and several flavors of contemporary evolutionary thinking. Seriously, if you're a social scientist of any flavor, or just want to read academic work at its finest, pick this up right now. You're in for a mind-opening delight.

Great Book !!! Have not regret buying it, has been extremely informative and meets my expectations.

Compelling read!

A top theoretical approach from a top archaeological theorist and practitioner. It can't just be read, it must be studied and thought about.

This book will be prompting discussion for years to come. A powerful and coherent work of synthetic theory. This is a truly fresh and thought-provoking contribution to our understanding of the intersection of materiality, agency, and anthropology. This is the materiality theory for which we've all been waiting.

This is a student review. Hodder has a way of explaining complex ideas in the simplest of terms for students to grasp the concept. That is why I loved this book. While there isn't anything I could really disagree with, it begs the question of "what now?" Everything is entangled, and those entanglements are endless within the landscape of human activity. Knowing that, then how is this applied to the archaeological record? Another question is the apparent missing correlation between population size and degree of entanglement, which seems obvious. Overall a great book.

This theoretical book is a jargon-free and very readable account of an emerging approach to the complexity of human culture. Indeed, it contains passages of real poetry. Entanglement is an approach to the ways humans and things are connected with and depend upon each other. A "tanglegram" shows how clay, bricks, food, wild animals, baskets, paints, weeds, storage rooms, ovens, and a myriad other "things" (including beliefs, ideologies, stories and other non-material objects) are connected through human manufacture, use, and disposal, and how they depend on one another. This is a promising approach to research, ripe for quantification and rigorous analysis, but for the lay reader the book offers a new way of thinking about the messy nature of our civilization, and offers a good explanation why we cannot go back to a simpler way of life. We are simply too entangled to back out, and have a tendency to try fixing things rather than get rid of them. Of course this just increases the entanglement. Dr. Hodder directs a long-term archaeological project at *Çatalhöyük*, a UNESCO heritage site in central Turkey. Archaeology is the science (and art) of uncovering and examining the things people leave behind, and deducing from them how they lived and what they believed. Entanglement is a powerful addition to our understanding.

Hodder takes a complex subject and explains it in clear, easy-to-understand prose. However, I must admit that I was surprised that the concept of "thingness" and human entanglements was presented as a new concept in archeology. I thought the concepts presented here were obvious as they applied to archeology and am perplexed as to why archeologists are just now apprehending them. It

just goes to show that the sciences, both social and hard, need more open lines of communication. Human society does not exist in one dimension, and neither should disciplines attempting to understand it, whether it be a past or present society.

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