

Entanglement and Tanglegrams

a short presentation to accompany

“The Entanglement of Clay”

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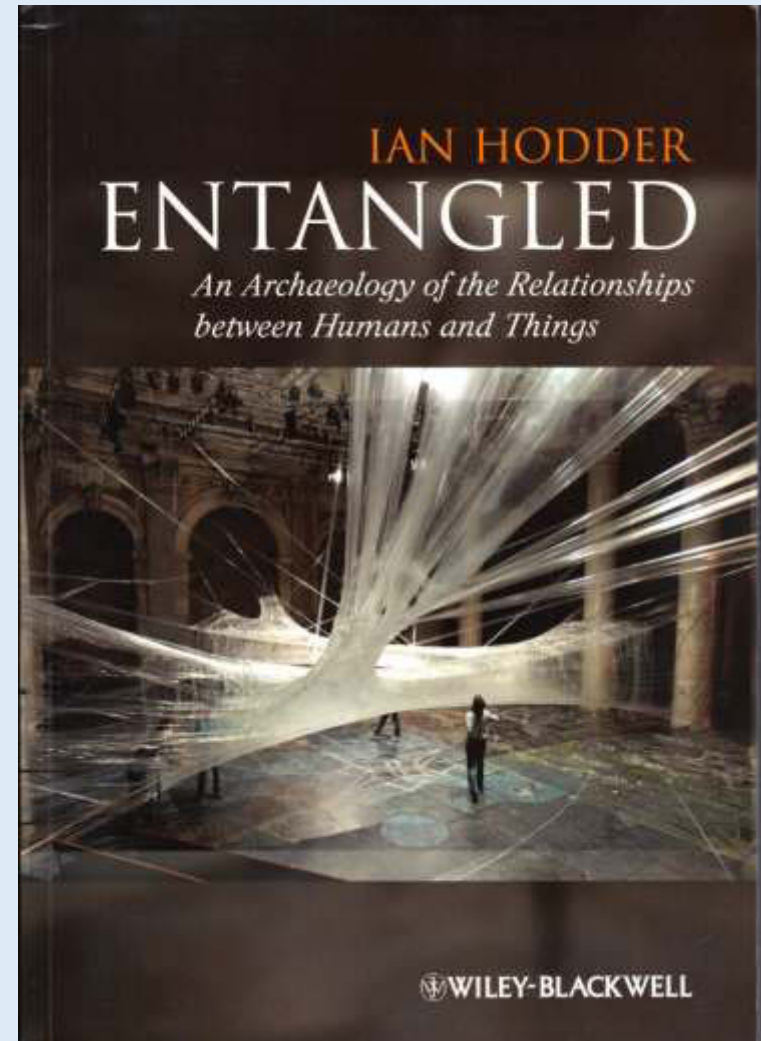
EMA 1004: The Social Impact of Materials on Society

a theory of entanglement

- Ian Hodder (2011, 2012)



Fig. 16.12 Ian Hodder of Stanford University.



premises of entanglement theory

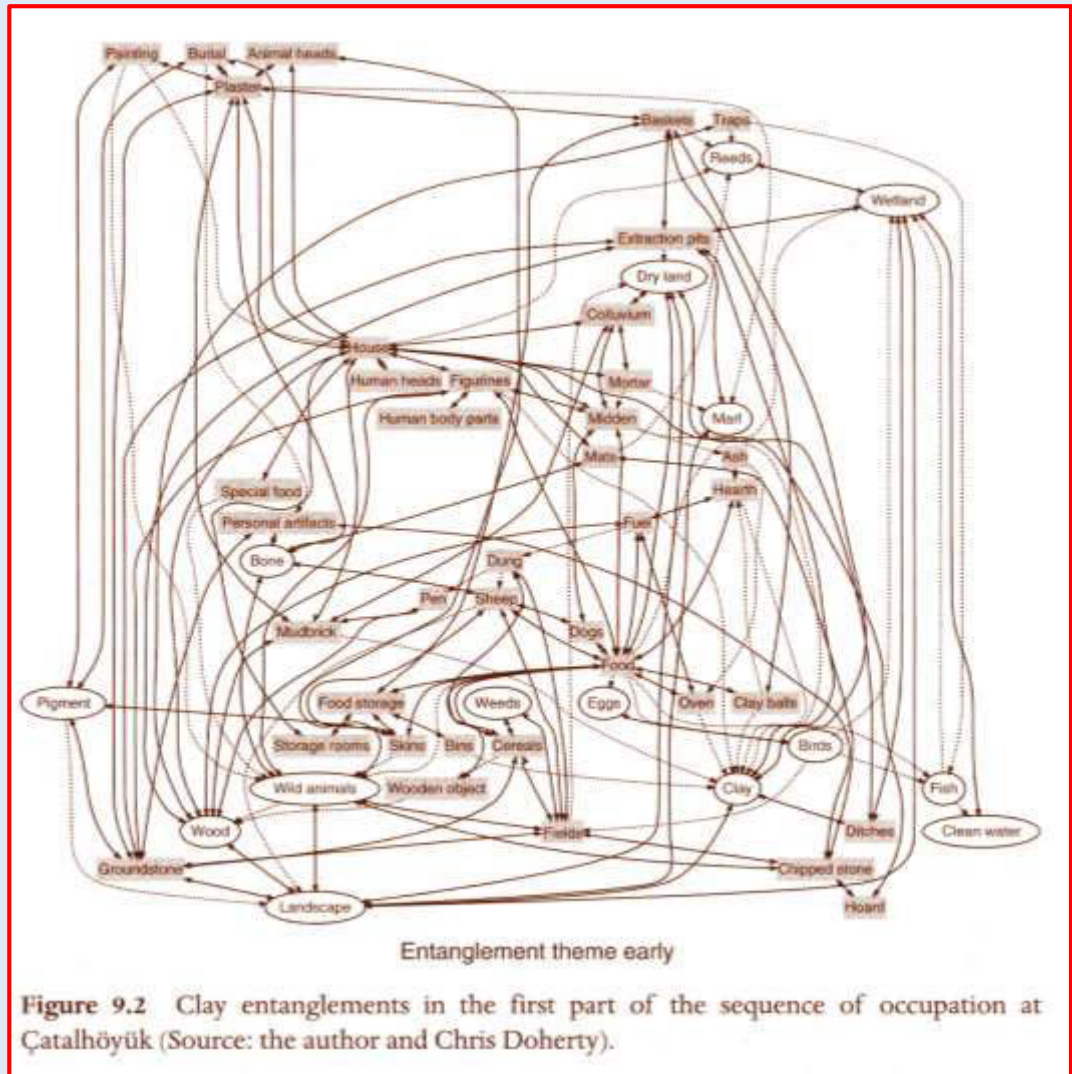
- humans depend on things
- things depend on other things
- things depend on humans
- humans depend on things that depend on humans (entanglement as interdependency)
- the entanglement of humans and things played out over time influences the success or failure of social and cultural traits

(Hodder, Ian [2012] *Entangled: An Archaeology of the Relationships between Humans and Things*, Wiley-Blackwell.)

entanglement

- humans are trapped in a “double-bind”, depending on things that depend on humans and other things

clay “tanglegram”



(Hodder, Ian [2012] *Entangled: An Archaeology of the Relationships between Humans and Things*, Wiley-Blackwell.)

a tanglegram is a graphic depiction of the entanglement of humans and things

- arrows linking nodes indicate dependence as a constraint on action
- one-way arrow indicates one node depends on another, but not vice versa
- two-way arrow indicates mutual dependence
- nodes involving a dependence with humans are drawn as rectangles
- nodes not so dependent on humans are circles

(Hodder, Ian [2012] *Entangled: An Archaeology of the Relationships between Humans and Things* [Wiley-Blackwell], p. 181-182)