Entanglement and Tanglegrams

a short presentation to accompany
“The Entanglement of Clay”
Prof. Susan D. Gillespie
EMA 1004: The Social Impact of Materials on Society
a theory of entanglement

• Ian Hodder (2011, 2012)
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

entanglement

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

clay “tanglegram”

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