

a course of pottery making or pollen analysis" (1956: 240). With the proliferation in excavations of prehistoric sites in India from the 1950s onwards, the discipline came to rely more on natural sciences for interpreting its unearthed material relics. Professional scientists, mainly zoologists, botanists, geologists and chemists were incorporated into the discipline, and by the 1980s their undue emphasis on science based research, led to clear disciplinary divisions between archaeology and history.<sup>13</sup> It is therefore ironical, that by adapting Wheeler's techniques to situate their discipline as a science, archaeologists in India allowed themselves to become less secure in the craftsmanship of proper historical enquiry.

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<sup>13</sup> In many Indian research institutes, the discipline co-exists with the teaching of ancient Indian History and Culture. However, all historians of ancient India are not considered qualified archaeologists even if they participate in excavations, and in many erstwhile Indian universities ancient India is taught within the Faculty of History.

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