



Don't give skeletons a gender or categorise their race as this 'contributes to white supremacy', woke activists demand

Description

Don't give skeletons a gender or categorise their race as this 'contributes to white supremacy', woke activists demand

- Critics said the idea would impose ideology in history 'where it doesn't belong'
- Trendy academics have labelled human remains 'non-binary' or 'gender neutral'
- The ideas were put forward by a group of so-called 'anarchist archaeologists'
- A professor warned against the 'empty pursuit of ideological objectives'

By Sam Merriman For The Mail On Sunday

Gender activists want scientists to stop categorising ancient human remains as either male or female – because they cannot be sure how the deceased identified themselves when they were alive.

Woke warriors have also insisted that archaeologists no longer categorise the race of remains as this 'contributes to white supremacy'.

Critics said last night that such demands would lead to a rewriting of history and imposing current ideology 'where it doesn't belong'.

Traditionally, when human remains are excavated, archaeologists determine traits such as age, gender and race using proven scientific methods such as bone structure and DNA analysis.



(File Photo) Woke campaigners argued human remains found by archaeologists should not be given a gender because it could not be known how the person identified in life

This allows anthropologists and historians to learn more about the person and expand academic research.

However, ancient skeletons are increasingly being labelled as 'non-binary' or 'gender-neutral' by trendy academics.

The Black Trowel Collective of American 'anarchist archaeologists', says 'archaeologists must centre the fluidity of gender in their archaeological practice'.

The group's manifesto on 'trans liberation' states: 'It is clear from archaeological, historical, and ethnographic accounts that human gender is highly variable and that human beings have historically been comfortable with a range of genders beyond modern "masculine" and "feminine" binaries.'

But Jeremy Black, emeritus professor of history at the University of Exeter, said: 'It is an absurd proposition, as the difference between genders, just as the difference between religious, social and national groups, are key motors in history.'



Ancient skeletons are increasingly being labelled as 'non-binary' or 'gender-neutral' by trendy academics. Pictured, a skeleton in Hertfordshire was found under a planned football pitch

He added: 'This very ideological approach to knowledge means that we're in danger of making knowledge itself simply a matter of political preference.'

The Mail on Sunday is highlighting gender dogma with its Tyranny Of The Woke Warriors campaign.

European researchers suggested last year that 1,000-year-old remains found in Finland belonged to a non-binary person because items around the bones, such as a sword, suggested the person was male, while jewellery suggested the remains were female.

Frank Furedi, emeritus professor of sociology at the University of Kent, warned that historical fact was becoming the latest 'frontier' for advocates of radical gender ideology, adding: 'If you look at history, one of the foundations of civilisation is the distinction between man and woman, whether it be in the Bible or yin and yang in Chinese philosophy, so when you distort that you get a completely different version of what has happened.'

'Should this dangerous dogma be accepted, it means that when children learn about Greek, Roman or other ancient civilisations they get a falsified picture.'

'You have to fight back against this because if it is accepted then the whole academic enterprise turns into an empty pursuit of ideological objectives.'

A US study earlier this year urged scientists to stop the 'dangerous' classifying of remains by race. The authors said 'ancestry estimation contributes to white supremacy' and 'might actually hinder identification efforts because of entrenched racial biases'.

By SAM MERRIMAN

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