# Paleobiomedical Imaging: The Use of X-ray and CT to Study Egyptian and Peruvian Mummies

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Developments in the field of radiology have quickly been applied to the analysis of mummies. This can be seen in the imaging of animal and human mummies within 2 years of Roentgen's discovery of x-rays, to the first CT scans of Egyptian mummies within 3 years of the development of the first clinical head CT scanners. Today, mummies, mostly from Ancient Egypt, are routinely scanned, generally as individual case studies done to shed light on these individuals who reside in museum collections worldwide. The use of paleobiomedical imaging can yield important curatorial/conservational information, as well as cultural and biological insights to these individuals who are microcosms of the world in which they lived and died. However, the scanning of an ancient mummy is not like the scanning of a modern patient, and the interpretation of the resulting scans is not at all like the interpretation of clinical cases. This paper will discuss some of the key methodological and interpretive issues that are unique to the paleobiomedical context and it will present select findings from large scale studies of mummies from Ancient Egypt and Peru.