**Thesis: A Framework for A Fairer Museum**

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**Abstract**

Restitution is defined by Merriam Webster as “the restoration of something to its rightful owner.” [1] Many authors have explored the impacts restitution has had on art, museums and the party making the return request. However, universal models seem to be lacking. This paper proposes a model for a restitution process through data visualization giving a voice to the marginalized in the process. Restitution and repatriation will be used interchangeably in this paper. Firstly, it will explore the history of repatriation, some of the key contested pieces and some of the positives and negatives of the most popular restitution frameworks: UNESCO/NAGPRA. The framework is the main portion of the paper and proposes four pillars: Patriotism, Legality, Morality and Universalism. Then we will explore application use cases. This model will be applied to the MET’s collection through their API, as reproducibility of this framework is key. We will also explore other potential use cases.

**Keywords: Data Visualization, Restitution, Repatriation, Model Building, Museums, Indigenous Culture**