

# **The Role of Households at the Dawn of the Bronze Age**

## *Contextualizing Social Organisation*

*Sabina Cveček, Stephanie Emra, Constanze Moser, Maria Röcklinger*

Our jointly planned set of interdisciplinary dissertation projects links knowledge of humanities and natural sciences and focuses on the role of households and household activities as well as the social organization of Early Bronze Age societies in the Aegean and Western Anatolia. Households as the smallest social entity comprehensible archaeologically and as a dynamic social process have to be defined within the prehistoric settlements. Aside from the general settlement organization and the social organization of the Early Bronze Age Aegean and Western Anatolia, this DOC-team research project links the archaeological sites and finds with two models of social organization in pre-state societies - chiefdoms and segmentary lineage system. The comprehensive analysis of the two exceptional archaeological sites, Çukuriçi Höyük in Western Anatolia and Platia Magula Zarkou in Thessaly/Greece as well as the comparison of contemporaneous sites provide a broad data base, on which these theoretical concepts can be tested. The anthropological expertise is primarily analytical, conceptual, and comparative and maintains a sound level of interdisciplinary sophistication and theorization that enriches the overall outcome of the entire project.

This project on the “Role of Households at the Dawn of the Bronze Age” started in summer 2016 and consists of two archaeologists (Constanze Moser and Maria Röcklinger), a social anthropologist (Sabina Cveček) and an archaeozoologist (Stephanie Emra). Within several meetings and joint presentations, the first aim in focus, the theoretical approach of households, was successfully studied. This intensive interdisciplinary theoretical discussion culminated in a workshop titled “Household Archaeology in Old World Prehistory”, bringing together an array of international scholars in the fields of archaeology, archaeozoology and social anthropology on 21<sup>st</sup>–22<sup>nd</sup> November 2018 at the OREA Institute (AAS) in Vienna.

We have also successfully completed research campaigns at our case sites and have made significant progress in the analysis of the archaeological material. We have now begun to bring this together to both gain an understanding of the interplay between the different archaeological materials, and to then place it into our previously discussed theoretical framework. We will present a summary of our activities over the course of the scholarship, our most up-to-date archaeological results and the beginnings of our analysis as to how our separate research objectives can be brought together to gain an understanding of the social and economic functions of the household at our target site, and more widely how then the household can give valuable insight into workings of our given site and region.