

Acknowledgements

The following study is the outcome of my PhD thesis, which I worked towards and wrote at the University of Vienna's Department for Social and Cultural Anthropology and the former Institute for Oriental and European Archaeology (OREA), now part of the Austrian Archaeological Institute (OeAI), at the Austrian Academy of Sciences in Vienna.¹ I obtained my doctoral degree in February 2021, under the supervision of o. Univ.-Prof. i.R. Dr. Andre Gingrich, with a doctoral thesis entitled 'Households at the Dawn of the Bronze Age: Anthropological Contextualizations of Local Social Organization Within the Aegean Basin'. For my thesis I received a sowi:doc 2021 Award from the University of Vienna's Faculty of Social Sciences, an achievement that could not have been reached without the support of a few key individuals and institutions to whom I am indebted.

During this study, I was involved in an interdisciplinary DOC-team project, which included two prehistoric archaeologists (Maria Röcklinger and Constanze Moser), a zooarchaeologist (Stephanie Emra), and me, a trained socio-cultural anthropologist. I remain deeply indebted to my DOC-team colleagues as well as to all our DOC-team supervisors: o. Univ.-Prof. i.R. Dr. Andre Gingrich, Prof. Dr. Barbara Horejs, Doz. Dr. Eva Alram-Stern, Priv.-Doz. Mag. Dr. Alfred Galik, and ao. Univ.-Prof. Dr. Gerhard Forstenpointner. I am grateful for the myriad curiosity and generosity of these crucial collaborators whose expertise has significantly enriched this manuscript and furthered my specialization in contextualizing prehistoric data through the approaches of socio-cultural anthropology with a focus on non-state, more or less sedentary societies.

In no way was my specialization a matter of course at the beginning of this undertaking. In 2012, during my undergraduate studies in Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology at the University of Ljubljana, I assisted a prehistoric archaeologist, Dr. Agni Prijatelj (at the time a PhD candidate at Durham University), in conducting ethnographic interviews about human use of caves and rock shelters in the Kras region of Slovenia. Although I could not have predicted how that experience would have an impact on me, I am appreciative that working with her gave me an initial glimpse into how anthropologists and archaeologists can collaborate. In 2015, I, for the first time, engaged with my interdisciplinary DOC-team not as an ethnographer or interview assistant but as an anthropology postgraduate student interested in prehistoric archaeological material. Although I missed the excavations at both Platia Magoula Zarkou and Çukuriçi Höyük, I closely studied the research reports and analysis of my DOC-team colleagues and other specialists.

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