

Kristen Mann, ‘Behavioural Archaeology and the Greek Oikos: Understanding the Material Household in Geometric Greece’

During the 9th-7th centuries BC the Aegean world underwent processes of rapid urbanism, extensive social and political transformation, and expanding external networks that gave rise to Greek poleis. The Geometric settlement of Zagora on Andros is central to discussion of these processes. Specifically, the site has been variously argued as evidence for the formulation of ideological frameworks to govern civic space, urban planning, and property inheritance in the 8th century, alongside coalescing ideas concerning gendered behaviour and social interactions (Morris 1999; Coucouzeli 2007; Haggis 2015).

The value of Zagora to understanding Aegean social transformations is uncontested here. However, this paper addresses several persistent statements about the Zagora material that are founded on assumptions drawn from later evidence, or on superficial readings of the site plan. Specifically, it challenges discussion of Zagora as a formally planned settlement (e.g. Coucouzeli 2007; Haggis 2015), and the politicised contrast frequently made between the larger central-plateau houses and the smaller-roomed houses elsewhere on site (e.g. Coucouzeli 2007). It also challenges the argument put forward by Ian Morris and other scholars (Morris 1999; Coucouzeli 2007) that changes in household configurations at Zagora can be associated with ‘hardening gender ideologies’ (Morris 1999: 311).

This research aggregates evidence from the built environment, artefact distribution patterns, and cultural formation processes to query the experience and social perception of household space. It argues the need to develop multi-layered, material understandings of people and their houses in antiquity, before attempting to extrapolate larger socio-political inferences from settlement evidence.

References:

1. A. Coucouzeli, ‘From Megaron to Oikos at Zagora’, in R. Westgate, N. Fisher and J. Whitley (eds.), *Building Communities: House, Settlement and Society in the Aegean and Beyond. Proceedings of a Conference Held at Cardiff University 17-21 April, 2001* (London 2007) 169-81.
2. D.C. Haggis, ‘The Structuring of Urban Space in Archaic Crete: An Example of Settlement Development from the Early Iron Age to Archaic Periods’, *Mediterranean Archaeology* 25 (2015) 201-14.
3. I. Morris, ‘Archaeology and Gender Ideologies in Early Archaic Greece’, *Transactions of the American Philological Association* 129 (1999) 305-17.

Wendy Mayer, ‘Desecration and disgust: The obliteration of Christian tombs under Julian’

When we contemplate the destruction of religious sites in the Mediterranean East in Late Antiquity, attention usually turns to Libanius’ complaints about the destruction of pagan