CONTENTS

List of Figures xi
List of Tables xv
Preface xvii
Acknowledgments xix

INTRODUCTION: WHY THE HOUSEHOLD?
Aims and Structure of the Book 4

1 THE HOUSEHOLD IN THE SOCIAL SCIENCES
A Brief History of ‘Household’ as an Analytical Concept 7
Defining Household 9
Household, House, and Co-Residence 11
Household, Family, and Kinship 12
Household and Domestic Group 14
Household Production 14
Household Distribution and Consumption 15
Household Transmission 16
Household Reproduction 17
Conclusion: Household as Process in the Social Sciences 18

2 THE HOUSEHOLD AS PROCESS IN A SOCIAL
ARCHAEOLOGY
Previous Approaches 22
‘Household Archaeology’, 23 • Architecture and the Built Environment, 25 • Household and Social Practice, 28
An Alternative Framework for Interpretation 31
The Problem of Indeterminacy, 31 • The Issue of Variability, 33 • Household Economics, 35 • The Individual and the Collective, 38 • Social Complexities, 48 • Structure and Agency, Reproduction and Change: A Historical Dimension, 43
Conclusions 45
## CONTENTS

3 THE NEOLITHIC OF GREECE  
- History of Research and the Production of Archaeological Knowledge  
- Time Framework  
- The Built Environment  
- Material Culture  
- Greek Neolithic Households and New Questions

4 THE IDEAL AND THE REAL: THE EXAMPLES OF EARLY NEOLITHIC NEA NIKOMEDAEA AND MIDDLE NEOLITHIC SESKLO  
- Early Neolithic Nea Nikomedeia (ca. 6250–6050 BC)  
  - A Rich and Meaningful Daily Life, 64  
  - Patterns of Variation, 69  
  - Communal Social and Ritual Practices?, 70  
  - Continuity and Change, 74  
- Conclusions

- Middle Neolithic Sesklo (5800–5200 BC)  
  - History of the Site and Interpretations, 78  
  - Architecture and Social Life, 81  
  - Architecture and Symbolic Representation, 85  
  - Household Practices and Activity Patterns, 91  
  - Household Morphology, 96  
  - Household Histories and Ideologies: Households as Agents of Change, 98  

- Conclusion: The Social Organisation at Sesklo

5 COMPLEXITY IS NOT ONLY ABOUT HIERARCHY: LATE NEOLITHIC DIMINI, A DETAILED CASE STUDY IN HOUSEHOLD ORGANISATION  
- History of the Site

- History of Research

- The Nature of the Evidence: Accounting for the Data Limitations

- Architecture: Diversity in Uniformity

- Material Culture: Uniformity in Diversity  
  - Pottery Production, 118  
  - The Spatial Distribution of Pottery, 127  
  - The Spatial Distribution of Small Finds and Subsistence Data, 131

- Contextual Associations: Houses and Structures  
  - Spatial and Architectural Patterns, 134  
  - Subsistence and Craft Activities, 140  
  - The Spatial Organisation of Specialised Craft Production, 141  
  - Socio-Ritual Practices, 144
CONTENTS

Identifying Households 146
Northeast Spatial Segment, 146 • Northwest Spatial Segment, 148 • Southwest Spatial Segment, 148 • The Remaining Parts, 149
Comparing Households 150
Connecting Households 153
Social Differentiation or Social Cohesion? 156

6 HOMOGENEITY OR DIVERSITY? HOUSEHOLDS AS VARIABLE PROCESSES 161
Settlement Organisation 161
Thrace and Macedonia, 162 • Thessaly and Central Greece, 169 • The Peloponnese and the Aegean Islands, 172
Boundaries 175
Household Forms 178
Household Activities and Economic Functions 179
The Example of Pottery, 180 • The Example of Chipped Stone Tools and an Axe Workshop, 182 • The Example of Spondylus Items and Other Shell Ornaments, 184
Burials in Everyday Contexts 186
Household Ideals, Ideologies, and Social Reproductive Strategies 193
Domestic Rituals and Symbolism, 194 • House Replacement and Continuity, 199 • House Abandonment and Discontinuity, 201
Conclusions 203

7 EVOLUTION OR CONTINGENCY? HOUSEHOLDS AS TRANSITIONAL PROCESSES 205
The Political Economy and the Moral Economy 207
Modes of Production, Craft Specialisation, and Economic Rationality, 207 • Social Division of Labour, 209 • Patterns of Distribution, 211 • Patterns of Storage, 214
Social Integrative Mechanisms 216
Communal Social and Ritual Structures, 216 • Shared Storage and Work Areas, 222 • The Social Values of Material Products, 224 • Architecture as Process, 227 • Kinship and Corporate Groups, 229
Households as Transitional Processes 230
The Short Term and the Long Term, 231 • Household and Community, 233 • Autonomy and Interdependence, 235 • Social Balance and Social Transformation, 237