

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-84241-9 - The Early Mediterranean Village: Agency, Material Culture, and Social Change in Neolithic Italy

John Robb

Table of Contents

[More information](#)

CONTENTS



<i>List of Figures</i>	page xiii
<i>List of Tables</i>	xix
<i>Preface</i>	xxi
ONE: THEORIZING NEOLITHIC ITALY	I
A Sense of Loyalty	I
Some Necessary Concepts	4
<i>Social Reproduction</i>	4
<i>Material Normality</i>	8
Frameworks and Orientations: Time, Space, Landscapes, and Histories	9
Tools of Thought: Bodies, Habitus, Identity, and the Senses	11
Fields of Action and Projects of the Self	13
<i>From the Point of View of Things</i>	18
<i>Making History: Creativity, Commitment, and Gulliver's Dilemma</i>	20
The 1st of September, 5000 BC: A Note on Methodology	22
Time Travel	24
<i>Neolithic Beginnings</i>	24
<i>The World at 5000 BC</i>	27
<i>Neolithic Italy: The Rough Guide</i>	28
TWO: NEOLITHIC PEOPLE	35
Ideal Lives	35
Refractions of the Neolithic Body	36

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-84241-9 - The Early Mediterranean Village: Agency, Material Culture, and Social Change in Neolithic Italy

John Robb

Table of Contents

[More information](#)

CONTENTS

<i>Bodies Themselves: Skeletal Evidence of Social Biology</i>	36
<i>Presencing the Living Group: Model Demography</i>	40
<i>The Represented Body</i>	43
The Corporeal Corpus	43
The Materiality of Figurines	46
Gendered and Ambiguous Bodies	50
Abstracting the Body: Communities of Figurine Practice	52
<i>People in Death</i>	56
Neolithic Italian Burial	56
Burial, Status, and Identity	61
A Meaningful Burial Programme	63
<i>Being Neolithic</i>	65
<i>The Human Career</i>	65
<i>Gender and Its Limits</i>	67
<i>Politics and Difference</i>	70
The Road Ahead	73
THREE: THE INHABITED WORLD	75
Places of Life: Houses and Villages	76
<i>Houses and Households</i>	77
The House as Embedded Technology	81
Houses and Meaning	85
The Lifespan of Houses	87
<i>From Houses to Villages: Settlement Size and Boundedness</i>	90
<i>Houses, Sites, and the Dead</i>	95
Heads in Houses	95
Burial at the Boundaries?	96
Villages as Ancestral Places	96
The Microgeography of Dwelling	98
<i>Economy and Frequentation</i>	98
<i>The Perception of Time in the Landscape</i>	102
Macrogeography: Cultural Landscapes, Regional Identities, and Translocal Action	107
<i>Cult Sites, Cosmology, and Gender</i>	107
Gendered Spaces?	110
<i>Natural Places and the Inhabitable World</i>	112
People Create Spaces; Spaces Create People	116

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-84241-9 - The Early Mediterranean Village: Agency, Material Culture, and Social Change in Neolithic Italy

John Robb

Table of Contents

[More information](#)

CONTENTS

FOUR: DAILY ECONOMY AND SOCIAL REPRODUCTION	119
The Archaeology of Foodways: From Calories to Cuisine	120
<i>Cuisine</i>	120
The Italian Neolithic Food Economy	122
<i>Not on the Menu</i>	122
<i>Grains and Legumes: The World of Starches</i>	129
<i>Notes of Flavour</i>	133
<i>Animal Choices</i>	137
The Sociality of the Food Economy	142
<i>The Sociality of Herds</i>	142
<i>Eating: Rhythms and Tastes</i>	144
<i>Cooking</i>	148
Culinary Prehistory: Neolithic Cuisine as Habitus and Taskscape	152
FIVE: MATERIAL CULTURE AND PROJECTS OF THE SELF	159
Archaeological Classics	159
Pottery and Meaning	161
<i>Italian Neolithic Pottery: A Social History</i>	161
A Bit of Historiography	161
The Genealogy of Pottery Traditions	163
<i>Skill, Orientation, and the Layering of Local Knowledge</i>	172
<i>The Social Geography of Italian Neolithic Pottery</i>	178
Fractal Styles and Impressionist Maps	178
Creative Process and Archaeological Patterning	181
Difference, Situated Perception, and Local Knowledge	184
Foreshadowing Patterns of Social Action	185
Obsidian and Flint	186
<i>The Lithic Economy in Neolithic Italy</i>	186
<i>The Obsidian "Trade"</i>	192
<i>Obsidian and Cultural Practices: The Alternative View</i>	197
Axes and Their Life-Paths	204
<i>Axe Basics</i>	204
<i>Contexts of Axe Deposition</i>	208
<i>Axe Biographies and Agency</i>	214
A Methodological Note on Artefact Analysis	218

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-84241-9 - The Early Mediterranean Village: Agency, Material Culture, and Social Change in Neolithic Italy

John Robb

Table of Contents

[More information](#)

CONTENTS

SIX: NEOLITHIC ECONOMY AS SOCIAL REPRODUCTION	219
People at the Center of a Decentered Narrative	219
<i>A Quick Recapitulation</i>	221
Bodies	221
Places	222
Food	223
Artefacts	225
The Social Senses	226
Unfinished Business: Space, Time, Projects	230
Projects of the Self	237
Difference and the Organization of Value	239
The Commonwealth of People and Things	245
SEVEN: NEOLITHIC ITALY AS AN ETHNOGRAPHIC LANDSCAPE	250
Spatial Demography	252
Travel, Trade, Warfare	254
Culture Areas and Differing Lifeways	260
<i>Village Farmers</i>	261
<i>Dispersed Farmers</i>	264
<i>Mixed Mountaineers and Lake Villages</i>	265
<i>Interpreting Regional Differences</i>	267
Social Networks: The Calabrian Stentinello World	269
The Social History of Unique Places: Lipari	275
EIGHT: THE GREAT SIMPLIFICATION: LARGE-SCALE CHANGE AT THE END OF THE NEOLITHIC	286
Practice and History	290
<i>Historical Practice: Life without a Primum Mobile</i>	290
<i>Temporal Scale, Regional Analysis, and Patterns of History</i>	291
The Late Neolithic and Copper Age in Peninsular Italy and Sicily	295
<i>Material Culture and Exchange</i>	295
<i>Settlement and Productive Economy</i>	300
<i>Burial, the Body, and Politics</i>	305
The Great Simplification	311
<i>Social Production and Intensifying Pastoralism</i>	311

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-84241-9 - The Early Mediterranean Village: Agency, Material Culture, and Social Change in Neolithic Italy

John Robb

Table of Contents

[More information](#)

CONTENTS

<i>Place and Relatedness</i>	313
<i>Gendered Bodies</i>	315
<i>Agency, Aesthetics, and the Organization of Value: A New Synaesthesia</i>	317
Processes of Change	320
<i>Always in Transition</i>	320
<i>Re-Reading the Sequence</i>	322
<i>Causality and Spread</i>	326
<i>Coda: Malta – The Road Less Taken</i>	329
Wandering through Tribespace: The Social Foundations of Prehistoric Italy	334
<i>Notes</i>	343
<i>Bibliography</i>	347
<i>Index</i>	373