

Human Mobility and Technological Transfer in the Prehistoric Mediterranean

The diverse forms of regional connectivity in the ancient world have recently become an important focus for those interested in the deep history of globalisation. This volume represents a significant contribution to this new trend as it engages thematically with a wide range of connectivities in the later prehistory of the Mediterranean, from the later Neolithic of northern Greece to the Levantine Iron Age, and with diverse forms of materiality, from pottery and metal to stone and glass. With theoretical overviews from leading thinkers in prehistoric mobilities, and commentaries from top specialists in neighbouring domains, the volume integrates detailed case studies within a comparative framework. The result is a thorough treatment of many of the key issues of regional interaction and technological diversity facing archaeologists working across diverse places and periods. As this book presents key case studies for human and technological mobility across the eastern Mediterranean in later prehistory, it will be of interest primarily to Mediterranean archaeologists, though also to ancient historians, historians and anthropologists.

EVANGELIA KIRIATZI is Director of the Fitch Laboratory for science-based archaeology of the British School at Athens and Honorary Senior Research Associate at the Institute of Archaeology, University College London. She has published *Pottery Production and Supply at Bronze Age Kolonna, Aegina: An Integrated Archaeological and Scientific Study of a Ceramic Landscape* (with Walter Gauss, 2011). She carries out studies and fieldwork at numerous prehistoric sites across the Aegean, southern Balkans and Anatolia, and co-directs the Kythera Island Project (with Cyprian Broodbank), investigating the long-term cultural and environmental history of a Mediterranean island.

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Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-14243-5 — Human Mobility and Technological Transfer in the Prehistoric Mediterranean

Edited by Evangelia Kiriati, Carl Knappett

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CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.

It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781107142435

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First published 2016

Printed in the United Kingdom by Clays, St Ives plc

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Cataloguing in Publication data

Names: Kiriati, Evangelia, editor of compilation. | Knappett, Carl, editor of compilation.

Title: Human mobility and technological transfer in the prehistoric Mediterranean / edited by Evangelia Kiriati (Fitch Laboratory, British School at Athens) and Carl Knappett (University of Toronto).

Description: New York: Cambridge University Press, 2016. |

Series: Studies in Greek antiquity / British School at Athens |

Includes bibliographical references.

Identifiers: LCCN 2016025958 | ISBN 9781107142435 (hardback)

Subjects: LCSH: Prehistoric peoples – Mediterranean Region. |

Mediterranean Region – Antiquities. | Mediterranean Region – Relations. |

Human beings – Mediterranean Region – Migrations – History. | Migration, Internal –

Mediterranean Region – History. | Technology transfer – Mediterranean Region – History. |

Material culture – Mediterranean Region – History. | Regionalism –

Mediterranean Region – History. | Social archaeology – Mediterranean Region. |

BISAC: SOCIAL SCIENCE / Archaeology.

Classification: LCC GN848.H86 2016 | DDC 937–dc23

LC record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2016025958>

ISBN 978-1-107-14243-5 Hardback

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Foreword

The establishment of a new monograph series – British School at Athens Studies in Greek Antiquity with Cambridge University Press – marks a fresh direction for the British School at Athens. The School has a distinguished and continuing tradition of publishing the results of its archaeological fieldwork in its *BSA Supplements*. Yet its advanced research extends much more broadly to cover Greek antiquity in its fullest sense and in fields from epigraphy to science-based archaeology. Underlying the creation of this new series is our desire to bring the full range of our work to the widest public.

It is a particular pleasure to present as the first volume an edited collection which reflects a key aspect of the research of the School's Fitch Laboratory for Science-based Archaeology since its foundation in 1974. For over forty years, Laboratory staff have developed perspectives on technological practice and technological landscapes, moving from micro- to macro-scales, from individuals and their place in communities to trade networks of varying scale and extent. Mobility and the transmission of technological knowledge and practice are among the long-standing interests of the present Laboratory Director, Evangelia Kiriati, whose inspiration this volume is. In collaboration with Laboratory colleagues, visiting researchers, and a wide range of School field projects, she and her co-editor, Carl Knappett, have been instrumental in developing research agendas that embed science-based archaeology seamlessly within larger perspectives. The present volume includes the work of many such collaborators, as well as past and present Laboratory staff.

As the editors emphasise, the current 'mobility turn' holds great potential as we seek to build on insights into the Mediterranean as a sea of opportunity, where mobility was an essential fact of survival and prosperity, and where a multi-scalar approach is essential to understanding links of time and place. The various contributors to this volume place materials, technologies, practices and their transmission at the heart of the discussion. The results, as Olivier Gosselain observes, already offer important insights into notions of connectivity, mobility, community and utility. They will surely prove to be of even wider significance, for example, in exploring aspects

of materiality where understanding the polysemy of artefacts is an important step in assessing their agency and relationship to the non-material. The workshop, which the British School was pleased to host in 2010 when I was School Director, served as a milestone in Fitch research. The book now developed from it furthers conversations opened on that occasion in ways which will surely be of lasting influence.

Catherine Morgan
All Souls College, Oxford
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Athens (2008–2015)

Acknowledgements

This volume emerges from a two-day workshop we organised at the British School at Athens in June 2010. We invited fifteen researchers with interests in the technologies of the prehistoric Mediterranean to present their work, with commentary from Olivier Gosselain, a specialist in the anthropology of technology, particularly focused on contemporary technological traditions in sub-Saharan Africa. A further twenty academics and postgraduate students with a special interest in the theme attended the workshop and participated in the discussion. The workshop was successful enough to convince all the contributors that a volume would be very worthwhile, and indeed nearly all of those presenting papers during the workshop contributed chapters. Both the workshop and the publication have been supported through a generous grant by The Richard Bradford McConnell Trust. We would like to express our immense gratitude and appreciation to The Managing Committee of the Trust, and mainly Mrs Patricia Whittock, for making this event and the current volume possible.

The British School at Athens has supported our efforts throughout, from the hosting of the workshop, through the long editing process, and into the final stages when the manuscript was selected to be the first publication in its new series with Cambridge University Press, 'Studies in Greek Antiquity'. We are especially grateful to the then Director of the School, Professor Cathy Morgan, and to its Chairman, Professor Malcolm Schofield, for all their help. Our two anonymous reviewers gave selflessly of their time and truly helped to improve all the contributions. Nikos Valasiadis provided expert support in the preparation of the illustrations and, in collaboration with Rena Veropoulidou, prepared the index at very short notice, while Georgia Kordatzaki checked and edited all references and compiled the final bibliography – we are most grateful to all of them. Lastly, we warmly thank all the contributors for their patience in staying with us through the delays between the workshop and publication!

Evangelia Kiriati
and
Carl Knappett