Over recent years a number of scholars have argued that the human mind underwent a cognitive revolution in the Neolithic. This volume seeks to test these claims at the Neolithic site of Çatalhöyük in Turkey and in other Neolithic contexts in the Middle East. It brings together cognitive scientists who have developed theoretical frameworks for the study of cognitive change, archaeologists who have conducted research into cognitive change in the Neolithic of the Middle East, and the excavators of the Neolithic site of Çatalhöyük who have over recent years been exploring changes in consciousness, creativity, and self in the context of the rich data from the site. Collectively, the authors argue that when detailed data are examined, the theoretical evolutionary expectations are not found for these three characteristics. The Neolithic was a time of long, slow, and diverse change in which there is little evidence for an internal cognitive revolution.

Ian Hodder is Dunlevie Family Professor at Stanford University and Director of the Stanford Archaeology Center. He is the author and editor of many books, most recently Religion and the Emergence of Civilization, Entangled: An Archaeology of the Relationships between Humans and Things, and Religion at Work in a Neolithic Society.
CONSCIOUSNESS, CREATIVITY, AND SELF AT THE DAWN OF SETTLED LIFE

Edited by
IAN HODDER
Stanford University
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CONTRIBUTORS

Marek Z. Barański
Academy of Fine Arts, Gdańsk, Poland

Lucy Ebony Bennison-Chapman
The Netherlands Institute for the Near East, Leiden University, Netherlands

Marion Benz
University of Freiburg, Germany, Institute of Near Eastern Archaeology

Anna Fagan
Department of Archaeology, University of Melbourne, Australia

Nazli Gürlek
Cihangir Caddesi, Istanbul, Turkey

Scott D. Haddow
Department of Cross-Cultural and Regional Studies, Copenhagen University

Ian Hodder
Department of Anthropology, Stanford University, USA

Christopher Knüsel
University of Bordeaux, France

Lisa Maher
Department of Anthropology, University of California, Berkeley, USA

Marco Milella
Department of Anthropology
Institute of Forensic Medicine University of Bern

Olivier Nieuwenhuyse
Free University, Berlin, Germany

Marin A. Pilloud
Forensic Anthropology, University of Nevada, Reno, USA

Eline M. J. Schotsmans
School of Archaeological and Forensic Sciences, Bradford University, UK

John Sutton
Macquarie University, Australia

Belinda Tibbetts
Department of Archaeology, Exeter University, UK

Chris Thornton
Centre for Research in Cognitive Science, University of Sussex, UK

Milena Vasić
Free University, Berlin, Germany

Michael Wheeler
Department of Philosophy, University of Stirling, UK
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