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ABSTRACT BOOK

This paper aims not only to reflect on our perception of spatial studies, but also to discuss their testimonial potential.

2 **FACTS, THEORIES, MODELS: 50 YEARS OF PERCEPTION OF TRYPILLIA MEGA-SITES**

Abstract author(s): Burdo, Nataliia (Kyiv Domain Archaeological Museum) - Videiko, Mykhailo (Kyiv Borys Grinchenko University)

Abstract format: Oral

The structures of large settlements of the Trypillia culture (about 4200-3300) on the territory of Ukraine became available for perception through archeometric and archaeological research. Their research has continued intermittently since 1971. The last ten years have been international projects with the participation of archaeologists from many European countries. A certain research methodology has been developed, which has found recognition among specialists. Around the results of research and their interpretation of the discussion. Using their example, it is interesting to see exactly how and why we perceive certain information in a certain way and what comes out of it during the reconstruction of various aspects.

It should be noted that the same information is the basis of different models and conclusions, versions that contradict each other and cannot be reconciled. The first group of archaeologists sees in them manifestations of urbanization, the second - the "phenomenal" evolution of agrarian settlements. Within the first group, some propose the theory of "low density urbanism" combining it with idea of seasonal ritual centers. In this example we see the adaptation of facts to the theory. This is a case where additional facts are unlikely to change the position of the interpreters. On the other hand, the position of the second group began to evolve towards the recognition of the process of urbanization. The basis was the discovery of ceramic crafts, confirmation of the simultaneous existence of different parts of the settlement. That is, the appearance of new factual material.

As we can see, the significant impact on the interpretation of the source base is not the increase in the volume and even the quality of information, but the researchers' theoretical foundations. And in this case, the progress of further research will determine an unbiased approach to the array of information.

3 **WHAT'S IN A SETTLEMENT? ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND ANTHROPOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVES ON SOCIO-POLITICAL ORGANIZATION IN NEOLITHIC SETTLEMENTS**

Abstract author(s): Wunderlich, Maria (Institute of Pre- and Protohistoric Archaeology, University Kiel)

Abstract format: Oral

As a central place of social and political interaction of communities in the past, settlements and settlement structures can be considered of outstanding importance. Settlements are not only a place of everyday interaction and encounter, but also potential places where regional and transregional networks meet. Therefore, an evaluation and understanding of potentially acting social and political entities is essential. These actors have certainly included collective and communal units, such as neighborhoods, as well as more individual units, such as households. On a more structural level, institutional locations such as places of assembly or communal houses are relevant. In this regard, political and social anthropology in particular offers a wealth of data and models of the extent to which social and political units may act in settlements and how these may be materialized.

The paper will therefore trace potential archaeological parameters of social and political actors and structures in the context of the internal organization of settlements, as well as settlement structures within local regional contexts. Using selected case studies of the Neolithic and Chalcolithic phases and with the help of ethnoarchaeological and anthropological data and models, perspectives on social coexistence in settlements will be opened up.

4 **LOOKING OUTDOORS AND BEYOND: SOCIAL PRACTICES, SETTLEMENT SPACES AND COMMUNITY STRUCTURES IN THE GREEK NEOLITHIC**

Abstract author(s): Kalogiropoulou, Evanthia (University of Crete)

Abstract format: Oral

The Neolithic period in Europe is characterised by prominent transformations in social organisation, everyday practices and community lifeways that were expressed in variable settlement arrangements, diverse architecture constructions, and numerous spatial formations. During the last few decades, the increasing volume of data and the application of multiscale scientific approaches in the archaeological discipline stresses the need for the re-assessment of the various social expressions of settlement spaces in both local and intertwined regional scale.

This paper explores the organisation, use, and dynamic involvement of outdoor spaces for the overall formation of the settlement arrangements, focusing on Neolithic communities in Northern Greece, including Macedonia and Thessaly. Although their effect in settlement formations is essential, outdoor spaces remain considerably under-theorised and under-studied. Here, open-air spaces are considered as dynamic agents of community developments, as