



THE LAND OF GREAT TRANSFORMATION

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Karahantepe and Çatalhöyük. Exploring some similarities

The Euphrates Basin and the Konya Plain belong to the most important regions in the Near Eastern Neolithic. They reached their climax in two very different phases of its development, yet their significance for shaping Neolithic modalities is unprecedented. They were organized around large settlements: Karahantepe and Göbeklitepe in the Euphrates Basin and Çatalhöyük in the Konya Plain, which epitomize the most pronounced features of respective stages in the development of the Neolithic. I intend to examine some striking similarities between these two regions and the ways in which they contributed to forming the Near Eastern Neolithic. These comprise: (i) large settlements as an embodiment of constituent elements of the Neolithic lifeways; (ii) their demise following the long-lasting developments as a mark of the swift depletion of the potential of respective areas; and (iii) their pivotal role in setting up the scene for further developments.

Arkadiusz Marciniak is Professor of Archaeology at Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań. His expertise is in the development of early farming communities in western Asia and central Europe and their progression to complex societies. He has been coordinating the excavation of the Late Neolithic phases of the settlement at Çatalhöyük since 2001. His work is a major contribution to the recognition of the transformative character of changes leading to the demise of the Near Eastern Neolithic, the reconfiguration of its constituent elements, the emergence of new lifeways for the Neolithic farmers, and the profound consequences of this process. He is also an initiator and advocate of social zooarchaeology, a research paradigm aimed at investigating multifaceted social relations between humans and animals. His other interests comprise heritage pedagogies and contemporary challenges to heritage policies and strategies.

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Karahantepe: A New Pre-Pottery Neolithic Site in Şanlıurfa-Turkey

Discussions on sedentism, agriculture, and animal domestication have been current issues for over a century. The focus of most of the prehistoric studies in the Near East is on the subject defined as the Neolithization Process. Recent studies in Southeastern Anatolia have started to give detailed information about the beginning of this process. After the studies carried out in the Tigris Basin due to dam projects in the past decade, new studies in the Euphrates Basin with the Şanlıurfa Neolithic Research Project (Taş Tepeler), which started recently, reveal the diversity in the region well. Here, current data on the region will be discussed, and especially on the latest excavations in Karahantepe.

Having received his BA and MA degrees from the Department of Prehistory at Istanbul University, Karul received a DAAD scholarship and completed his Ph.D. at Berlin Frei University in 2000. After completing his doctorate, he became the archaeology editor of Atlas Magazine. He started to work as an assistant in the Prehistory Department in 2002. He became Associate Professor in 2006 and Professor in 2017. Having received a research scholarship from Harvard University in 2005, Karul served as a Member of the Editorial Board of the Turkish Academy of Sciences Journal of Archaeology (TUBA-AR) between the years 2009-2012 and since 2019. Karul, who was a member of the Editorial Board at EJA (Journal of European Archaeology) between the years 2013-2016, continues his role at the Editorial Board of Colloquium Anatolicum and Studia Praehistorica, Journal of Turkish Institute of Prehistoric Sciences, and serves as the Archaeology Editor of Magma Magazine since 2014. He is also a member of the German Archaeological Institute, the Austrian Archaeological Institute, and a correspondent member of the Turkish Archaeological Institute and a member of the National Committee of ICOMOS Turkey. Karul served as the President of the Istanbul Branch of the Association of Archaeologists from 2007 to 2015. Karul, who has taken part in prehistoric excavations and surveys in different parts of Anatolia since 1989, has been the scientific advisor to the excavations of Bursa Aktopraklık Höyük since 2004 and Siirt Gusir Höyük excavations since 2010. Since 2016, Necmi Karul has been managing the Göbeklitepe and Karahantepe Research Project and is a coordinator of the Şanlıurfa Neolithic Research Project.



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