

## Preface by the Series Editor

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The 12<sup>th</sup> volume of the Oriental and European Archaeology publication series presents the outcome of a workshop about ‘The Central/Western Anatolian Farming Frontier’ organised by Maxime Brami in collaboration with the series editor on 26<sup>th</sup> of April 2016 at the 10<sup>th</sup> ICAANE conference in Vienna. This 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary conference of the International Congress on the Archaeology of the Ancient Near East took place from 25<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> of April in Vienna and was hosted and organised by the Institute for Oriental and European Archaeology of the Austrian Academy of Sciences. Altogether 800 participants from 38 different countries found their way to Vienna to celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ICAANE with 8 scientific sections, 28 workshops, round tables, a huge poster exhibition and a special section about ‘Cultural Heritage under Threat’. While the general proceedings of the sections were published with the Harrassowitz Publishing House in 2018, the additional workshops are being published within the OREA series.

The initiative and concept of the Farming Frontier workshop is strongly related to Maxime Brami’s postdoctoral project, funded by the Luxembourg National Research Fund, at the OREA institute of the Austrian Academy of Sciences. In total 13 contributions bring together current scientific results, data and different thoughts about the spread of early farming populations. Our distinct geographical focus aims to shed new light on the potential frontier between one of the core zones of the agricultural economies in central Anatolia and the chronologically much later emergence of farming communities in western Anatolia and the Aegean. The integration of these vast areas into one volume should offer a critical re-evaluation of old models for the Neolithic dispersal by bringing together experts and excavators of both regions with highly respected Neolithic researchers of Europe and southwest Asia. The fruitful debates which followed the regional experts’ presentations during the workshop and the final panel discussion have been incorporated into the publication, to which all workshop participants very kindly contributed.

Stephen Shennan’s foreword sets the scene by highlighting some key questions and the role of the area in a broader view. In his introduction, Maxime Brami provides an overview of the issues, challenges and prospects covered and explains the organisation of the volume. Ofer Bar-Yosef then shares new thoughts and open questions about the spread of Neolithic economies from Anatolian and Levantine perspectives. Douglas Baird offers his long-term field experience of the Konya Plain to critically question the evidence for an ‘artificial frontier’ in Anatolia. Eva Rosenstock contrasts that view with her site- and map-based analyses leading to her definition of a ‘Central Anatolian Farming Threshold’. Arkadiusz Marciniak integrates the developments of Çatalhöyük during the Late Neolithic period into a broader picture of newly emerging networks. Tristan Carter adds another component to the debate by highlighting the impact of the Aegean Mesolithic indigenous population on the Neolithisation process.

Mehmet Özdoğan lays the groundwork for the following part of the volume by providing an overview and an alternative look at western Anatolia by addressing essential unsolved issues for future research. The series editor discusses the arrival and adaptation of the Neolithic in Aegean Anatolia by integrating social memories and practices from Mesolithic seafarers as well as from maritime colonisers of potential PPN origin. Rana Özbal and Fokke Gerritsen present a new six-stage model for farmer-forager interaction in a *longue durée* perspective for the Marmara region. Çiler Çilingiroğlu critically re-evaluates particular architecture in the Izmir region and emphasises local needs, choices and practices embedded in a regional setting. Kostas Kotsakis argues for untangling the complexity of the Neolithisation by integrating philosophical phenomenology as a supportive tool for analysing the sociocultural process beyond the mainstream westward movement model. The volume concludes with Jean Guilaine’s macro-analyses in his arrhythmic

model ranging from central Anatolia and northeast Africa to northern Europe discussing potential frontiers, discontinuities and contrasted tempos during the Neolithic dispersal.

The conclusion of the volume makes it clear that the complex trajectories of Neolithic intensification and the transformation of hunter-gatherer-fisher populations into farming societies between one of the cores and its neighbouring areas is a long way from being clarified or simply being summarised. The critical and state-of-the-art contributions present a diverse and mosaic-like scenario of the Neolithic dispersal and transformation process. These results after several decades of Neolithic research in our focus regions nevertheless at least produce some optimism. Several micro-regions in Anatolia and the Aegean provide a new density and quality of archaeological and scientific data regarding our topic. It appears to be the right time to start evaluating the archaeological evidence of the last three decades on a local, regional and superregional level. Integrating all kinds of data, including the new bioarchaeological evidence, will ensure that the regions in our focus remain an exciting area for ground-breaking research in the future. Thanks to the intensive excavations and surveys that have already been conducted, the data thus provided allow both kinds of scientific approach in the future: the modelling of local histories of the Neolithic adaptation and intensification process on a micro-level as well as the integration of the area into a broader scenario of one of the essential transformations in human history.

My sincere thanks go to the authors for sharing their expertise and perspectives about ‘The Central/Western Anatolian Farming Frontier’ and to Maxime Brami for his effort in realising the 12<sup>th</sup> OREA volume. The international review procedure supervised by the Academy’s publication committee guarantees the quality assessment of our series. Although this procedure sometimes requires patience from the authors and editors, I am grateful for the anonymous reviewers’ helpful suggestions. I would like to thank Carolyn Aslan for the English editing and Mario Börner for creating the introductory maps. My sincere thanks go to Ulrike Schuh for her editorial work and to Angela Schwab for doing the layout of this volume. Financial support for the conference has been provided by several Austrian and international institutions which are the following: The Austrian Federal Ministry of Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs, the University of Vienna, the City of Vienna, the Vienna Science and Technology Fund (WWTF), the Institute for Aegean Prehistory (INSTAP), the Austrian Orient Society Hammer-Purgstall and the Austrian Academy of Sciences. The workshop was additionally funded by the European Research Council (ERC project Prehistoric Anatolia no. 263339). Finally, I would like to thank the Austrian Academy of Sciences Press for supporting the publications of the 10<sup>th</sup> ICAANE workshops in the OREA series.

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