

# THE DEVELOPMENT OF DOMESTIC SPACE USAGE IN CILICIA THROUGH GENDER ROLES

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In its wider definition, identity has been linked to ethnicity and gender expression in archaeology, as demonstrated by Trigger (1989, 372). Occasionally, other aspects such as religion, age, social status may have also been considered, both for examining the individual as well as determining group identity. In archaeological research, identity has always been a major field of interest, however topics relevant to identity and gender in Cilicia - the ancient region in Asia Minor's south coastal region - have not been studied in detail although it could become a good example and provide valuable insight in this field. Cilicia has intensively experienced many cultures and has been in the heart of important trade routes coming from Syria and leading to the Central Anatolian Plateau. The proposed study will be observing the early settlements from the Iron age (1200 BC) to the end of the Roman/Early Byzantine period (ca.700 AD), with a focus on Sirkeli Höyük, Kinet Höyük, Tarsus and Elaiussa Sebaste. The main objective of this research is to contribute to a better understanding the gender aspects in Cilicia, especially the involvement of women and questioning the manner in which it has developed over time, which factors have played a crucial role in this process and as a result, how this issue may have affected usage of domestic space. This transversal approach, taking into account various aspects of humanities should enhance our knowledge of Near Eastern Archaeology. It is also hoped that a new methodology will provide a valuable contribution to Sirkeli Höyük Project of University of Bern.

## References

Trigger, B. G. (1989). *A history of archaeological thought*. Cambridge University Press.