

INTRODUCTION:
ARCHAEOLOGY
AND
ANTHROPOLOGY
OF HOUSEHOLD

HPAN5038/6038



ABOUT THE MODULE

- Week 1: Thinking about households:
 - Household archaeology & anthropology
 - Hearth & home: materiality of fire & water
 - Social reproduction
 - Feeding the Household: Daily bread
- Week 2: Household production & Chalcolithic Cyprus:
 - Textiles & clothing
 - Pots & pans
 - Middle Chalcolithic households
 - Social reproduction & motherhood
- Week 3: Bronze Age Cyprus
 - Prehistoric Bronze Age Cyprus
 - Social reproduction & the family in Prehistoric Bronze Age Cyprus
 - Late Bronze Age Cyprus
 - Communities & supra household activities
- Week 4: Assessment Week
 - Online drop-in sessions

ASSESSMENTS (LEVEL 5 & 6)

2000-word written exercise (40%) – due 23:59 on Friday January 8th:

- Choose one of the images in the assessments document and discuss how you might apply aspects of Bourdieu's theory of practice to interpret it. What might it tell you about *habitus* and the organisation of the household in Chalcolithic or Bronze Age Cyprus?

3000-word illustrated essay (60%) – due 23:59 on Friday January 15th:

- With reference to specific examples from Chalcolithic or Bronze Age Cyprus critically evaluate how theoretical approaches together with the archaeological evidence enable our reconstruction of ancient household activities and organization.
- Assignments must include both in-text citations and a complete bibliography of all works cited.
- These should be formatted to conform to the Harvard citation style (a guide can be found on the module Moodle page).

CITATIONS AND REFERENCES

- Harvard is preferred, but any recognised citation system will work (Chicago, APA, etc.)
- Insufficient in-text citations **WILL LOSE YOU MARKS**
 - This is because it becomes impossible to tell what is your own words, and what you've synthesised from other works.
- At minimum, an intext citation should have:
 - Author's last name
 - The year the work was published
 - The page number (unless you're making a general reference to a whole work)
- A complete list of references/bibliography/works cited should be included at the end of the piece of work.

DEFINING THE HOUSEHOLD

- Important unit for analysis in social studies
- “Household is not one thing but many: a social group; the network of tasks, roles, responsibilities and relationships (internal & external) that this group encompasses; & the materiality, spatiality and temporality through which it exists and is defined”

(Souvatzi 2008: 1)



DEFINING THE HOUSEHOLD

- Concept which encompasses many social dimensions:
 - Residence
 - Social reproduction
 - Economic production
 - Kinship relations
 - Personal and group identity
- Households are a “loci of small-scale social action that embodies the complexity and dynamics of social life” (Souvatzi 2012: 17)





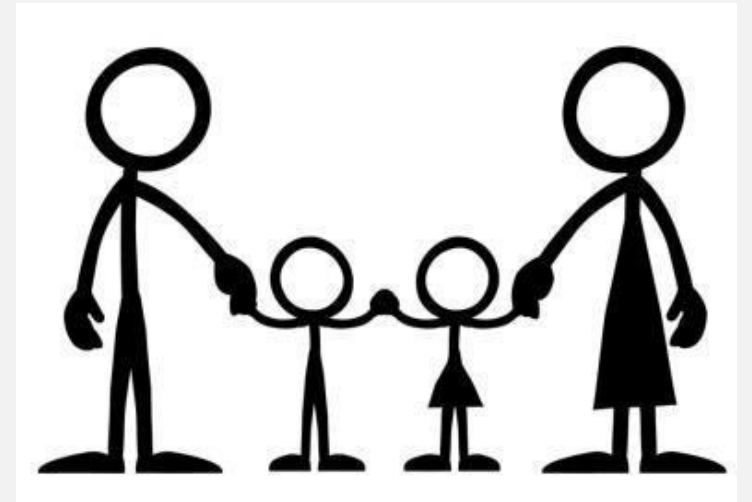
DEFINING THE HOUSEHOLD

- Conflation of terms in archaeological literature
 - Household
 - Family/kinship
 - Co-residence
 - Domestic group
 - House
- Distinct terms – think about and define what you mean by 'household'.

Red Polished Plank Model

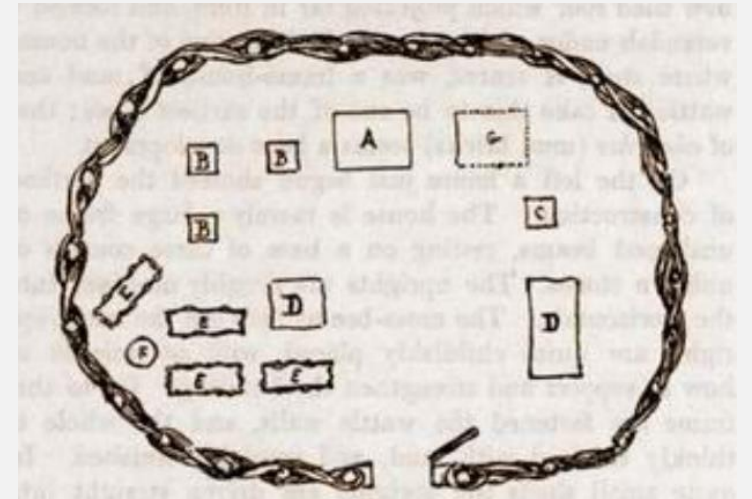
HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION

- Culturally variable:
 - We should not make assumptions based on our own experiences
- Relatives – some sort of family grouping
 - Nuclear family
 - Extended family
 - Matrilocal / patrilocal
 - Matrilineal / patrilineal
- Non-relatives:
 - Resident guests
 - Working personnel (household staff/servants/slaves)



HOUSE, HOUSEHOLD, CO-RESIDENCE

- What is the relationship between the house & the social unit of the household
- Are co-residence & household synonymous?
 - Zadruga: cabins around central house for conjugal pairs
 - Marakwet: separate houses for men & women within same compound



Plans of Serbian *zadruga*



Marakwet compound

HOUSEHOLD PRODUCTION

- Economic role: task groups involved in production & consumption
- Primarily procurement, management & distribution of household resources
 - Livestock rearing
 - Agricultural activities
 - Food production
 - Water procurement
- Gendered activities?

Red Polished Jug



HOUSEHOLD PRODUCTION

- Food production, storage, distribution & consumption
 - Where & with whom to people eat, drink?
 - Who provides the food & drink
 - How much takes place within/outside the household?
 - Pooling of family/ household resources



Middle Cypriot Red Polished Model

SOCIAL REPRODUCTION

- “...there is more to domestic life than making bread & pots. This is where human beings learn to live in the world in a particular way, where we learn to understand ourselves as particular sorts of people. We have already seen that domestic life can involve houses & daily labour, but it also involves identities, kinship, traditions etc” (Routledge 2013: 213)





SOCIAL REPRODUCTION

- “As a species, human beings reproduce themselves biologically & socially by means of intimate groups embedded within larger groups & defined by relations of intense interaction, alliance, & identity” (Routledge 2013: 208)

Detail of the Red Polished Model

SOCIAL REPRODUCTION

- Social reproduction is a key household activity
- Socialisation of younger members of the household:
 - *Habitus*
 - Becoming culturally informed members around the **hearth**
 - Dissemination of knowledge, skills & a way of life through the generations

Egyptian family group



DOMESTIC RITUAL

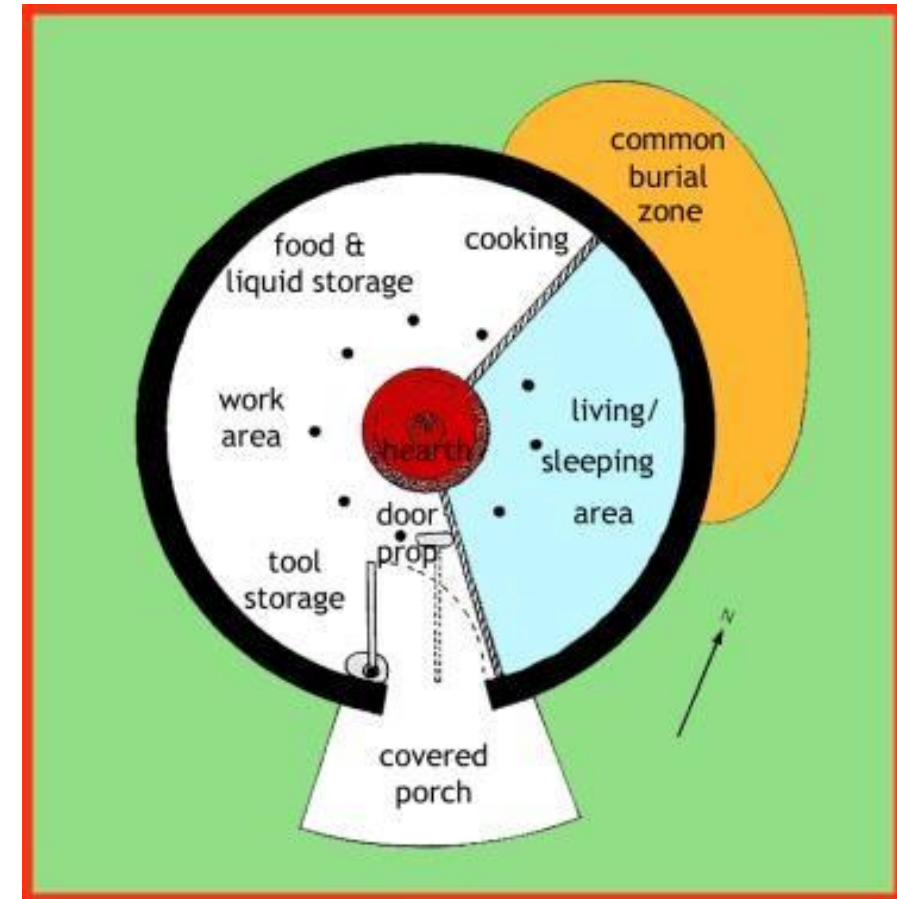
- Tends to be overlooked but in fact important aspect of household:
 - Practices which give continuity, coherence & meaning to social group
 - Identification of cultic corners in Aegean & Levant:
 - Dedicated spaces with benches portable ritual objects
 - Used in household devotions
 - Commensality & communion with the ancestors a significant element in Near Eastern cult.

Lares: household shrine, Pompeii



ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE HOUSEHOLD

- Spatial dimension: how to define individual household units?
- Materiality: distribution of fixed & portable furnishings
 - Use of space?
 - Gendered spaces?
 - Social dimensions – kinship relationships etc.?



“Chalcolithic house”, Cyprus

GENDERED HOUSEHOLDS

- Men, women & children equally important social & economic members of household
- Division of labour according to gender
 - Gendered spaces
 - Social relationships of peoples in spaces: communal action within & beyond the household
- How do we identify & think about gendered tasks & spaces?



GENDERED HOUSEHOLDS

- Bread-making: amongst most common of food preparation activities
 - Daily grind: huge part of female embodied experience
- Grinding & baking installations in courtyards typical of household assemblages
- Mesopotamia: millstones frequently female dowry



Traditional bread-making Cyprus

GENDERED HOUSEHOLDS

- Textile production typically a female domain in the East Mediterranean
 - Texts, ethnographies, iconographies
- Does this take place within the household or is it centrally controlled?



Black Figure Vase

GENDERED HOUSEHOLDS

- Water procurement: essential aspect to daily life
- Hidden in household archaeologies & ethnographies
- Female task?
- Rare opportunity for younger girls to gather & gossip...



Cypriot Water Carrier



SUMMARY

- Household archaeology has increasing focus in Mediterranean archaeologies
- Important for understanding past lifeways
 - Structure of the social group
 - Social reproduction
 - Economic production
 - Creation of social spaces
- Habitus & gender studies are essential theoretical toolkits for interpreting the household