

Research Proposal

The relationship between craft production and the political and economic development of complex societies continues to generate debate in the field of Anthropology. The study remains relevant because craft production is a firmly embedded element of culture (Costin 1991:2). This field of research has broad impacts as it can be expanded to the understanding of socio-economic organization as well as the identification of gender roles (Brumfiel 2006: 862). Ultimately, knowledge of production methods and their roles in a society can lead to a stronger understanding of political organization (Brumfiel and Earle 1987:3-5). Earle's (1987:69) work on Hawaiian and pre-Inkan societies indicates that the centralization of production reflected strengthening political control. Further evidence for an increasing complexity in these societies came from emphasis on specialized craft production. Earle's work is an excellent example of how archaeological research can tie craft production to the development of complex society.

This proposal discusses conducting further research on this topic in the Early Bronze Age (EBA) settlement at Zincirli, Turkey. This site, known primarily for its Iron Age occupation, has an eight hectare walled town dating to 2500 BCE. Excavation conducted in the late 19th century uncovered ceramic and architectural remains which have been used to date the EBA areas (Lehman 1994:106-107). No further excavation on these areas has been attempted since that time, although magnetometry readings have produced evidence for additional architecture.

Excavation of the EBA sections at Zincirli will begin in 2010, led by Dr. Christoph Bacchuber as sub-director to Dr. David Schloen, of the University of Chicago. This excavation will provide an opportunity to examine the relationship between craft production and political centralization. A model well suited for the interpretation of this work is the political development model of specialization, exchange, and complex society, as defined by Brumfiel and Earle (1987:1-4). This model suggests that elites control the organization of local craft production and consequently are the primary beneficiaries. The political development model is reflected by evidence of craft specialization, the organization of local production, and the mobilization of goods from producers to elites. To properly address this model and determine its efficacy in understanding the EBA settlement at Zincirli, the following research questions will be addressed:

1. To what degree were craft production activities specialized at this site?
2. How was craft production organized at this site? (What are the units of production?)
3. What manner of mobilization of craft products to elites is present?

Costin (1991:4) defines specialization as a "differentiated, regularized, permanent, and perhaps institutionalized production system" in which an individual does not produce all of the goods he/she consumes, but rather is dependent on others to produce certain items. A supportive example of this would be the discovery of a collection of a particular artifact type bearing a high degree of standardization. Conversely, a highly diverse artifact typology suggests a greater number of individuals and thus less specialization (Costin and Hagstrum 1995: 632).

Organization can be determined through the distribution of particular artifacts (tools, raw material, waste). Appearing in a centralized location suggests a 'work-shop' organization, whereas a more diffuse distribution in individual structures suggests household production (Costin 1991:6, 8, 21-29). Control of craft product by elites can be identified through the proximity of production centers to elite residencies (Earle 1987:68-69) and the appearance of specialized craft goods in elite settings (Brumfiel and Earle 1987:3-5). A wide dispersal of specialized craft goods could indicate a lack of elite mobilization.

In order to address my research questions, data will be derived through excavation and the entry of piece plotting measurements into a GIS database. After three field seasons with the Chicago team, I anticipate having a database large enough to derive spatial patterns indicating

either the presence or absence of centralized craft production. This analysis, similar to that used at Titriş Hoyuk (Hartenberger 2000), will provide the basis for determining the relationship between craft production and political centralization. Titriş Hoyuk, a comparative case study for craft production, is approximately 115km east of Zincirli, and has a contemporaneous EBA habitation. Excavation has yielded a lithic workshop indicating organized, centralized, and specialized craft production (Hartenberger 2000:51).

Intellectual Merit

The results of this analysis will increase our knowledge of the conditions of this time period and region of Anatolia. The Anatolian Early Bronze Age marks a significant change in economic, political and technological developments (Yenner & Vandiver 1993: 208). This proposed research will provide information on each of these characteristics. One advantage of increasing this knowledge is the ability to link it with the wealth of research that has been conducted in Mesopotamia. This will aid in producing a larger and more regional picture of complex society in the Eastern Mediterranean.

My class work, which has trained me in GIS, and my previous excavation experience, especially at Zincirli, Turkey, have given me the tools to conduct this research. My current research for a Bachelor's of Philosophy thesis has enabled me to use these tools on a similar archaeological problem. Through my focus on textile production at the EBA site Karataş, in SW Anatolia, I am familiar with much of the relevant literature for this proposed research. Also, I now have experience in using GIS to derive information from artifact distribution and densities.

Broader Impact

This work builds on previous research conducted on craft production, and will contribute to our understanding of this phenomenon both regionally and theoretically. To disseminate the outcomes of this research, I will actively engage with the academic community by presenting my findings at academic conferences and by producing publications. This work will also contribute to my abilities to teach anthropology and archaeology, by giving me the knowledge and experience to express these concepts to others.

References Cited

- Brumfiel, Elizabeth (2006). Cloth, Gender, Continuity, and Change: Fabricating Unity in Anthropology. *American Anthropologist*, Vol. 108, No. 4: 862-877.
- Brumfiel, Elizabeth and Timothy K. Earle (1987). *Specialization, Exchange, and Complex Societies*. Cambridge University Press: Cambridge.
- Costin, Cathy Lynne (1991). Craft Specialization: Issues in Defining, Documenting, and Explaining the Organization of Production. *Archaeological Method and Theory*, Vol. 3: 1-56.
- Costin, Cathy Lynne and Melissa B. Hagstrum (1995). Standardization, Labor Investment, Skill, and the Organization of Ceramic Production in Late Prehispanic Highland Peru. *American Antiquity*, Vol. 60, No. 4: 619-639.
- Earle, Timothy K (1987). Specialization and the Production of Wealth, in Elizabeth Blumfiel and Timothy K. Earle, eds., *Specialization, Exchange, and Complex Societies*. pp. 64-75. Cambridge University Press: Cambridge.
- Hartenberger, Britt et al.(2000). The Early Bronze Age Blade Workshop at Titris Hoyuk. *Near Eastern Archaeology*, Vol.63, No.1:51-58.
- Lehmann, Gunnar (1994). "Zu den Zerstörungen in Zincirli Während des Frühen 7. Jahrhunderts v. Chr." *Mitteilungen der Deutschen Orient-Gesellschaft zu Berlin*, 126:105-122.
- Yenner, K. Aslihan, and Pamela B. Vandiver (1993) Tin Processing at Göltepe, an Early Bronze Age Site in Anatolia. *American Journal of Archaeology*, Vol. 97, No. 2:207-238.