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Labouring with large stones: A study into the investment and impact of construction projects on Mycenaean communities in Late Bronze Age Greece

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Propositions belonging to the PhD thesis

Labouring with large stones

A study into the investment and impact of construction projects on Mycenaean communities in Late Bronze Age Greece.

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1. Cyclopean style walls are not as expensive to build as one may think based on the impressive nature of such walls.
2. Comparing fortification walls to domestic structures is a viable way to show the relative value of the calculated labour costs.
3. Building the cyclopean style fortifications were manageable projects for the communities, *if* we allow the consideration that people from a larger region could be involved.
4. The size of the used stones has an important influence on the calculations of the labour costs. Reducing the variation in stone size to a singular average value, therefore, does not do justice to the complexity of the structure, nor to a proper representation of the required effort of construction.
5. Labour cost studies do not provide absolute answers. Their value lies in providing comparisons between different objects. Hence, labour cost studies are simply a tool which provides useable relative values.
6. To utilize the strength of labour cost studies, comparability, larger datasets should be created, since these could provide a way to detect anomalies in terms of sites that show much higher or lower amount of effort spent on building. By studying and highlighting such differences, a better understanding could be achieved on how various sites relate to each other.
7. Labour cost studies such as 'Labouring with large stones' need to be complemented by in-depth contextualizing studies on relating topics such as tombs, societal organisation and population/carrying capacity studies in order to fully understand and interpret the results.
8. Non-destructive methods are rightfully becoming more important in today's archaeological (academic) research.
9. In order for Universities to reach their full potential in society, there is a need to rethink the conservative, hierarchical structure that is still being employed.
10. Abolishing the rules in volleyball surrounding handling errors for setting has a detrimental effect on the overall quality of the game.

11. Car drivers should be made more aware of the rules and customs surrounding 'lane-splitting' by motorcycle riders during traffic jams.

12. Due to the usually growing interest in what it is we are studying as archaeologists, research projects tend to grow beyond the original aims, which sometimes leads to interesting new insights. However, in order to keep projects viable and feasible, it is necessary to make choices.