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## **More than people and pots: identity and regionalization in Ancient Egypt during the second intermediate period, ca. 1775-1550 BC**

Sacco, A.

### **Citation**

Sacco, A. (2021, June 23). *More than people and pots: identity and regionalization in Ancient Egypt during the second intermediate period, ca. 1775-1550 BC*. Retrieved from <https://hdl.handle.net/1887/3192232>

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**Author:** Sacco, A.

**Title:** More than people and pots: identity and regionalization in Ancient Egypt during the second intermediate period, ca. 1775-1550 BC

**Issue Date:** 2021-06-23

## More Than People and Pots



Universiteit Leiden

# More Than People and Pots

*Identity and Regionalization in Ancient Egypt During  
the Second Intermediate Period, ca. 1775–1550 BC*

PROEFSCHRIFT

ter verkrijging van  
de graad van doctor aan de Universiteit Leiden,  
op gezag van rector magnificus prof.dr.ir. H. Bijl,  
volgens besluit van het college voor promoties  
te verdedigen op woensdag 23 juni 2021  
klokke 16.15 uur

door

Arianna Sacco  
geboren te Napels (Italië)  
in 1985

Promotor: Prof.dr. Olaf E. Kaper  
Copromotor: Dr. Miriam Müller

Promotiecommissie: Prof.dr. Caroline Waerzeggers  
Prof.dr. Peter M.M.G. Akkermans  
Dr. Bettina Bader (Austrian Academy of Sciences)

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## FOREWORD

This PhD dissertation is about the relationships between sites in Egypt during the Second Intermediate Period (ca. 1775 and 1550 BC). Back then, Egypt was politically and culturally divided, and it was characterized by the presence of groups from modern-day Syria-Palestine and Sudan that, as in the case of the Fifteenth Dynasty, managed to ascend to power. The late part of the Middle Kingdom (ca. 1850–1775 BC) has also been included in the analysis, for two reasons. Firstly, part of the features characterizing the Second Intermediate Period are already visible in the Late Middle Kingdom. Secondly, this allows us to better understand what changed between the Middle Kingdom, when Egypt was still politically united, and the Second Intermediate Period.

To study the relationships between the sites, the present author has analysed the material culture excavated from these sites through network analysis. This methodology is ideal to examine the relations, as well as the flow and circulation of objects, fashions, or knowledge, between different entities, based on what these entities have – or do not have – in common. The analysis is conducted through the use of digital tools to visualize the data through graphs, and to calculate mathematical measures.

Network analysis was born in the social sciences and has only recently been introduced into archaeology. While it has found applications in Mediterranean and European archaeology, its use in Egyptology is still limited. Only in a very few cases has network analysis been used to study particular documents or figures in Egyptian history; it has, until now, never been used to study Egyptian material culture. Hence, this PhD dissertation intends to introduce network analysis to Egyptian archaeology. The present dissertation hopefully demonstrates how useful network analysis can be, so that more people working in Egyptology and Egyptian archaeology will make use of it in the future. Lastly, given how recent the use of network analysis is in archaeology, methodological discussions about how to apply it to material culture are still ongoing; I hope that the present dissertation contributes to these discussions.

I am grateful to my promotor, Prof. Olaf Kaper, for all his good advice and helpful remarks. His kindness has been an inspiration, and he has always

brought out the best in me. I am especially thankful to my co-promotor, Dr Miriam Müller, for working so closely with me on this dissertation, and for the wealth of useful comments she has given me, for guiding me on this journey, and for always being there for me.

Naturally, I should like to thank the members of the Doctorate Committee: Prof. Caroline Waerzeggers (Leiden University), Prof. Peter Akkermans (Leiden University), and Dr Bettina Bader (Austrian Academy of Sciences). Thank you for taking the time to read the present dissertation and for your useful comments. I would like to thank Dr Bader also for the useful advice she gave me when I first embarked on the present project.

I should also like to thank other scholars for sharing their expertise and their time with me as I worked on this project. Firstly, Dr Johannes Preiser-Kapeller (Austrian Academy of Sciences), who has really helped me with regards to methodology, always with patience and kindness. Secondly, Dr Karin Kopetzky (Austrian Academy of Sciences) for her help with understanding the material included in the analysis and for hosting me on my first study-trip to Vienna. Thirdly, Prof. Manfred Bietak and Dr Silvia Prell, for allowing me to be a guest researcher with their research group The Enigma of the Hyksos and for helping me with selecting the material to analyse. My thanks also to Dr Aaron De Souza (Austrian Academy of Sciences) for his help with the dating of the Pan-grave cemeteries. And finally, my thanks to Dr Sarah Vilain (Université de Paris-Nanterre) for her help with the study of Cypriot pottery.

Naturally, the views expressed in this work are entirely mine, and I take full responsibility for any mistakes and errors that may inadvertently remain in the text.

Last, but not the least, there are no words to express how thankful I am to my husband, Josho Brouwers, who has stood by me over the years, with unconditional love, patience, and dedication. He has been the light in my darkest moments, and I could have not seen this project through to the end if he had not been there. This work is dedicated to him.