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Connecting crafting communities: reconstructing interactions between communities in and out of Cyprus in the early third millenium BC

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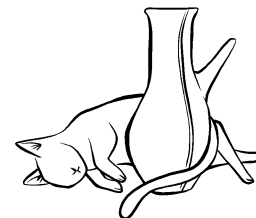
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Propositions for the PhD thesis

**Connecting Crafting Communities.
Reconstructing Interactions between Communities
In and Out of Cyprus in the Early Third Millennium BC**
by Maria Hadjigavriel, RMA



1. The change to the Late Chalcolithic pottery production was dominated by red and/or black monochrome burnished wares, which replaced the previous Red-on-White Wares, can be attributed to increased interactions with the nearby mainlands, where similar pottery assemblages are prevalent at the time.
2. The Cypriot Chalcolithic has been seen as a period of isolation and of limited contacts with Anatolia, in contrast to the subsequent Philia Phase. However, this idea should be challenged given growing evidence for increased contacts and the presence of Anatolian material on the island and vice versa.
3. An integrated approach, that combines macroscopic analysis, ceramic thin section petrography and chemical/elemental (hhXRF) has great potential for reconstructing pottery production processes and interactions between crafting communities.
4. This study has identified distinct regional pottery production traditions within prehistoric Cyprus. Within these regional production centres we see an increased standardization of pottery production.
5. Chlorakas-*Palloures* and Kissonerga-*Mosphilia* share pottery traditions in the Late Chalcolithic. This indicates possible community specialization, in which one community was making these specific types of pottery, which were then exchanged with other communities in the surroundings and beyond.
6. Late Chalcolithic pottery production has more in common with the subsequent Philia Phase pottery production, than with the previous Middle Chalcolithic pottery production.
7. The Chalcolithic and the Philia Phase form a continuum rather than isolated periods. A *longue durée* approach to the third millennium BC provides a better understanding of the Philia Phase and the relationships between Cyprus and its neighbouring regions during both the Late Chalcolithic and the Early Bronze Age.
8. For investigating the relationship between Cyprus and Anatolia in the early third millennium BC, more comparative studies are needed, systematically studying Anatolian assemblages, comparing them with Cypriot ones, and assessing possible imports/exports.
9. Cypriot archaeology is in severe need of decolonization, enabling us to move beyond the current political situation, enhance cooperation among all Cypriots, and prioritize the islands material culture over colonial notions that have long dominated our historical narratives.
10. Cats are essential companions for any archaeologist working in the Mediterranean and their involvement in excavation projects should be encouraged.