

Archaeology Seminar Series 2020

Cultivating and foraging on Turkey's Konya Plain from 9500-7,000 BC: insights from Pınarbaşı, Boncuklu and Canhasan III

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Turkey's high plateau was one of the first areas to see the development of cultivation and use of domestic plants outside the Fertile Crescent of Southwest Asia.

Archaeobotanical research is now showing this transition was diverse in form and uneven, emerging from a range of local subsistence adaptations and trajectories. The mega-site of Çatalhöyük East emerged after 7,000 cal BC with farming of

domestic species well established and integrated into the social and economic fabric of the site. Archaeobotanical research demonstrates that the tradition of cultivation it inherited was first seen at Boncuklu around 8,300 cal BC, when a sedentary community integrated cultivation and herding into a broad-based economic system, distinguishing itself from the nearby contemporary forager settlement at Pınarbaşı. Small-scale cultivation also distinguished Boncuklu from Aşıklı Höyük in Cappadocia, but this may have given way by 7,700 BC to a greater commitment to cultivation, a pattern we see established at Canhasan III by c. 7500 cal BC. This complex history will be detailed in a broad overview of the origins of cultivation on the Konya Plain, with the evidence for the social and cultural context of this transformation discussed.

SPEAKER BIO

Andy Fairbairn is an archaeobotanist who has worked across Europe, Southwest Asia and in Papua New Guinea and Australia. A graduate of University College London's Institute of Archaeology, he has a long-term interest in the development of cultivation and food production systems, having established one of the leading archaeobotanical laboratories at the University of Queensland, where he has worked since 2006 and is now Professor of Archaeology. Andy is co-director of the Boncuklu Project and has worked on the Konya Plain since 1999, much of it with his close colleague Professor Douglas Baird, a key collaborator on the three projects described here.

OCTOBER

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TIME & DATE

Zoom Webinar, Thursday
8:30pm, Australian Eastern
Standard Time, Melbourne,
Australia (Meeting registration
in advance required).

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