

## Archaeology Seminar Series 2020

# Building relationships at Neolithic Çatalhöyük - unravelling the chronological development of the settlement

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*Historic England*



One of the prevailing features of the Neolithic sequence at Çatalhöyük is its continuity of occupation over perhaps 1400 years, without any apparent large-scale breaks in the sequence. The mound formed through the construction of house over house over house, growing in height to peak at about 20 metres, but also in extent as the peripheral area expanded to 13.57 hectares. These mudbrick houses were built side by side, the walls of one house abutting the walls of its neighbouring house, creating tightly clustered buildings interspersed with

midden plots. Closure and rebuild was house specific. New house walls were built seamlessly on the stubs of the old razed house walls with no breaks of abandonment or change of construction tradition. In the absence of large area-wide horizons of change or hiatus, the only tool to define the passage of time is the house-by-house closure and rebuild. Working out the stratification should be as easy as peeling apart a layered cake! In this talk I will share the challenges of unravelling which house was built first, second, third, and so on, when one house can have a relationship with potentially eight neighbouring buildings – if we count those at the corners too, and each house was lived in for different periods of time. So, who would my neighbours have been at Çatalhöyük 9000 years ago?

## SPEAKER BIO

Shahina is a professional archaeologist recognised for her experience in the complexities of archaeological field practice gained by both directing and working alongside her teams on a range of international, multi-period sites in the UK, Turkey and the Gulf States. She is best known for her work as Field Director and Project Coordinator of the Çatalhöyük Research Project from 1995 – 2012. Shahina is Honorary Secretary for the British Institute at Ankara, Honorary Senior Research Associate at the Institute of Archaeology, University College London and a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries. She has also been privileged with being nominated a Trowel Blazer, a web-based community that champions pioneer female archaeologists. Shahina currently works in the Scientific Dating Team at Historic England (formerly English Heritage).

# 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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