

## 25 YEARS OF ADAM MICKIEWICZ UNIVERSITY RESEARCH AT ÇATALHÖYÜK (TÜRKIYE)

### 25 LAT BADAŃ UNIWERSYTETU IM. ADAMA MICKIEWICZA W ÇATALHÖYÜK (TURCJA)

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**ABSTRACT:** This article presents an overview of 25 years of research conducted by the Adam Mickiewicz University team at Çatalhöyük, Türkiye, focusing on the period from 2014 to 2025. The authors highlight the Polish mission's significant contributions to understanding both the Neolithic and post-Neolithic occupation of one of the most extensively studied prehistoric sites in Anatolia. The research, carried out in multiple excavation areas – including the TP, TPC, and East Areas – has enabled the construction of a complete stratigraphic sequence for the East Mound, revealing complex architectural developments, burial practices, and material culture spanning from 7100 to 5950 BCE. Significant discoveries include large, multi-phase Neolithic buildings, richly decorated interiors, and exceptional anthropomorphic figurines. The Polish mission has also uncovered evidence of later, post-Neolithic occupation, offering new insights into the long-term settlement history of the Konya Plain. The article situates these findings within the broader context of recent advances in Anatolian archaeology, emphasizing the interconnectivity of Çatalhöyük with neighboring sites and regions. The Polish mission's

work has not only deepened scholarly understanding of Çatalhöyük's local dynamics but also contributed to regional and methodological developments in the study of Anatolia's prehistoric and early historic periods.

KEY WORDS: Neolithic, Anatolia, Çatalhöyük, Adam Mickiewicz University, Prehistoric archaeology

In 2013 Arkadiusz Marciniak and Arkadiusz Klimowicz published an article summarizing the achievements of the Polish research project at Çatalhöyük commenced in 2001 (Archeologia pradziejowa wschodniego Śródziemnomorza na Uniwersytecie im. Adama Mickiewicza w Poznaniu (*Prehistoric Archaeology of the Eastern Mediterranean at Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań*), *Folia Praehistorica Posnaniensia*, 18, p. 181–200). The aim of this text is to build upon that overview by discussing the scholarly achievements of the research team from Adam Mickiewicz University working at Çatalhöyük between 2014 and 2025. This is particularly significant, as the Polish mission is celebrating its 25th anniversary at the site this year.

Çatalhöyük is located in central Türkiye, approximately 50 km southeast of the city of Konya (fig. 1). The site covers about 12 hectares and consists of two mounds – an older, Neolithic East Mound (7100–5950 BCE) and a younger, Chalcolithic West Mound (6000–5500 BCE). It was discovered in 1958 by James Mellaart, who conducted excavations over four seasons in the years 1961–1965. The site became famous for its dense, clustered, well-preserved architecture with burials inside the houses and elaborate art and rich material culture. The excavation was reopened in 1993 and investigated as part of the Çatalhöyük Research Project, led by Ian Hodder and planned as a 25-year initiative (Hodder, Özdöl Kutlu, 2021, p. 1). From 2018, management was transferred to Turkish scholars, first to Çiler Çilingiroğlu from Ege University (2018–2020), next to Ali Umut Türkcan from Anadolu University (2020–2024), and finally to Ali Ozan from Pamukkale University (2025) – under the direction of the Archaeological Museum in Konya.

The Poznań mission began its work at Çatalhöyük in 2001, focusing on the highest point of the East Mound, near the area previously excavated by James Mellaart. Excavations in this area, named TP (Team Poznań), were conducted between 2001 and 2011 under the direction of Arkadiusz Marciniak (Adam Mickiewicz University) and Lech Czerniak (Institute of Archaeology and Ethnology, Polish Academy of Sciences, later University of Gdańsk). This research not only enabled the identification of the final phases of settlement in the area but also revealed remains from the post-Neolithic periods (Marciniak, Czerniak, 2007, p. 115–130).

A new phase of work began in 2012 under the direction of Arkadiusz Marciniak. Excavation continued until 2017 in the TPC Area, located south of TP (Marciniak et al., 2019, p. 4). In 2018, the team initiated work in a new area (East Area), located in the eastern part of the mound (Marciniak et al., in print, fig. 2). These excavations are ongoing. In all excavated trenches, strata from the later phases of the site's occupation were unearthed, aligning with the primary focus of the research. Additionally, remains from post-Neolithic periods were identified in both excavation areas.

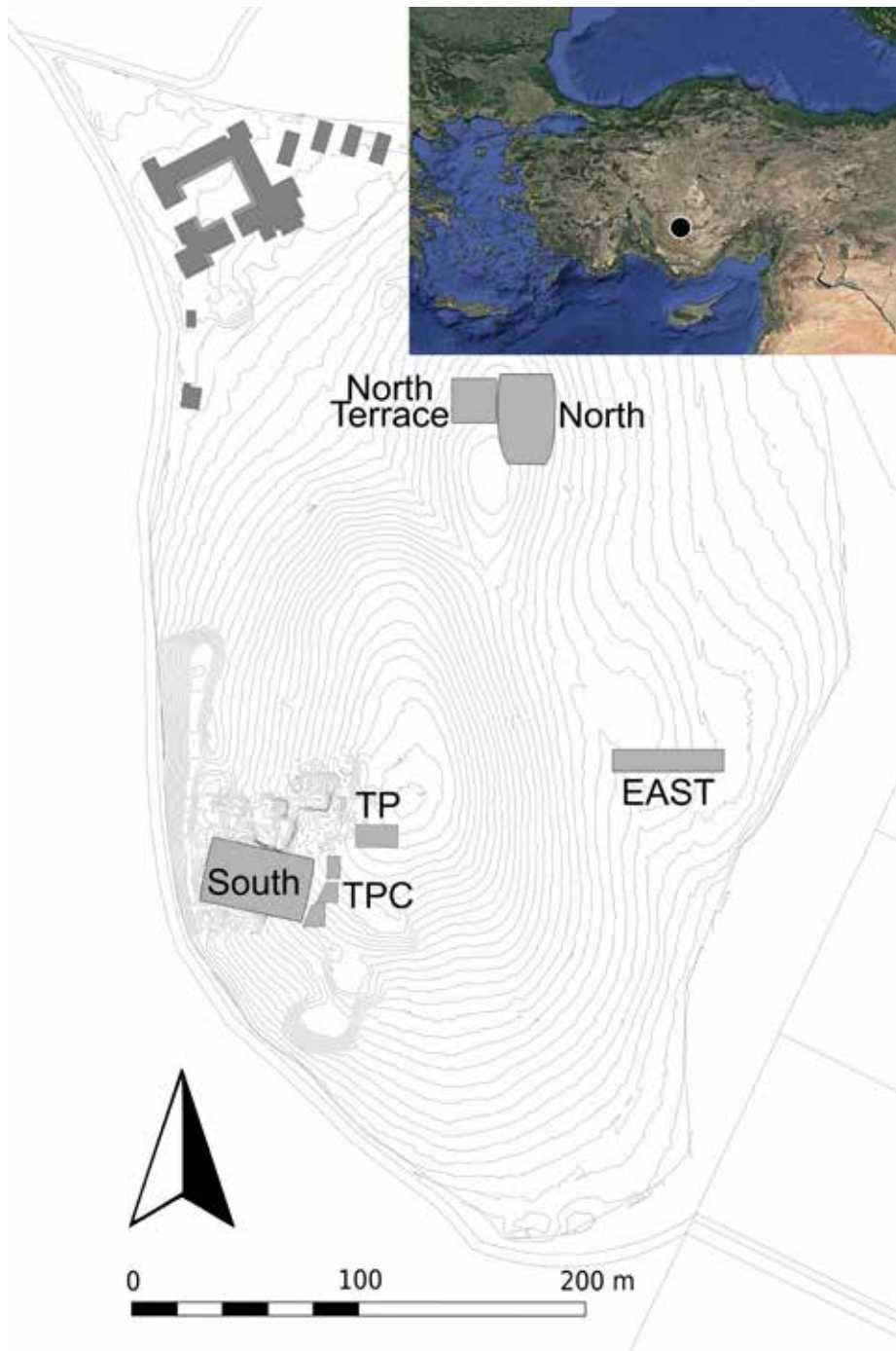


Fig. 1. Location of Çatalhöyük East Mound and location of main excavation areas (author: J. Hordecki)



Fig. 2. Poznań team excavations at the East Area, 2021 (photo by Mateusz Dembowiak)

This article does not aim to provide a detailed scientific report on the results – these have been published elsewhere (e.g. Marciniak et al., 2019; Marciniak et al., in print) – but rather to present a general overview of the discoveries in both areas. We also aim to highlight related outcomes, including conference presentations, academic publications, dissertations, and public outreach activities.

The Polish excavations have yielded many important results. First and foremost, they have significantly expanded our understanding not only of the Neolithic period but also of the later phases of occupation at the mound. Research at Çatalhöyük should be seen within the broader context of recent archaeological work in Anatolia. Over the past decade, a surge in discoveries has greatly enriched our knowledge and enabled a more comparative and interconnected perspective. Although Çatalhöyük remains one of the most extensively studied Neolithic sites, it was not an isolated settlement but part of a wider network of communities and cultural traditions. At the same time, investigations into the post-Neolithic strata have uncovered previously unknown aspects of the site's occupation, providing a valuable foundation for regional research in Central Anatolia, particularly regarding the Iron Age. The work of the Polish mission has thus contributed not only to a deeper understanding of Çatalhöyük's long-term occupation but also to broader insights into the historical development of the surrounding region and Anatolia as a whole. We begin, therefore, with an overview of the current state of research in Anatolian archaeology, focusing on relevant regions and sites.

## ÇATALHÖYÜK IN THE CONTEXT OF NEW RESEARCH ON THE NEOLITHIC OF ANATOLIA

Since its discovery, Çatalhöyük has played a crucial role in research on the Neolithic period in Anatolia. Multidimensional analyses continue to generate new data, yet the past decade has brought discoveries at other sites that have significantly expanded our knowledge and allowed Çatalhöyük to be examined from a comparative perspective (Hodder, 2021; Marciniak, 2021).

In this context, research in the immediate vicinity of the site is particularly important. One key site is Boncuklu Höyük, located about 10 km north of Çatalhöyük and dated to the 9th millennium BCE (Baird et al., 2018). Excavations, led by Douglas Baird from the University of Liverpool, were conducted between 2006 and 2022. These investigations are especially significant as they focus on the earliest stages of the Neolithic in the region. In recent years, the site has yielded evidence of local traditions that persisted and found continuity in Çatalhöyük some 500 years later.

Neolithic research in Anatolia is not confined to the Central Plains. In recent years, an increasing number of studies have focused on other regions, including coastal areas such as the Marmara region and the Aegean coast, as well as eastern zones around Şanlıurfa. Findings from these investigations have considerably broadened our understanding of the transformations that occurred across Anatolia during the Neolithic period. This growing body of research contributes to a more comprehensive and regionally nuanced picture of social, cultural, and economic developments during this formative period.

Research in the Marmara region, in northwestern Anatolia, is particularly significant, especially at Barcın Höyük, where remains of settlements dating to the 7th millennium BCE (6600–6000 BCE; Özbal, Gerritsen, 2019, p. 59) have been uncovered. Excavations were carried out by the Netherlands Institute in Turkey (NIT) from 2005 to 2019 as part of the broader *Early Farming Communities in the Eastern Marmara Region* project. This project focuses on the origins of agriculture in northwestern Anatolia and the region's role in the spread of farming from the Near East to Europe during the Neolithic. Research at Barcın Höyük, which is contemporary with Late Neolithic Çatalhöyük, has revealed numerous similarities, evidence of connections with the Konya Plain, and suggest that its inhabitants migrated from Central Anatolia (Marciniak, 2019). A tradition of Central Anatolian origin has also been attested at other sites, such as Aktopraklık, where research began in 2004 (Karul, 2010).

In recent years, connections between Çatalhöyük and western Anatolia have also become apparent. Well-studied Neolithic sites dating to the 7th millennium BCE along the Aegean coast – such as Dedeçik Heybelitepe, Ege Gübre, Ulucak, Yeşilova, and Çukuriçi Höyük – provide significant evidence of links to other regions, including Central Anatolia (Marciniak, 2017).

Finally, one of the most recent projects dominating contemporary debate on the Neolithic of Anatolia is the *Taş Tepeler* project, led by Necmi Karul (Istanbul University). Ongoing since 2021, it focuses on the region around the city of Şanlıurfa in southeastern Türkiye (Karul, 2021). The project aims to investigate twelve early

Neolithic sites; as of 2024, excavations are underway at nine, including Göbekli Tepe, Karahan Tepe, Harbetsuvan Tepesi, Gürcütepe, Sefertepe, Sayburç, and Çakmaktepe. Although these sites are distant from Çatalhöyük in both space and time, they have significantly broadened our perspective on Neolithic iconography. The similarities between motifs at Çatalhöyük and Göbekli Tepe suggest the existence of long-lasting visual and symbolic traditions (Stosik, 2024, p. 88).

## ÇATALHÖYÜK IN THE CONTEXT OF NEW RESEARCH ON THE POST-NEOLITHIC ANATOLIA

James Mellaart discovered the site of Çatalhöyük during a survey of the Konya Plain in the 1950s. The survey was continued by David French in the 1960s. In the decades that followed, archaeological surveys across Central Anatolia and western Cappadocia only partially extended into the Konya Plain and rarely focused on its western portion, where Çatalhöyük is located (French, 1970).

Since 2016, the western part of the Konya Plain has been intensively surveyed by the Konya Regional Archaeological Survey Project (KRASP), directed by Michele Massa and Christopher Bachhuber (Massa et al., 2020). In 2019, KRASP joined forces with the Türkmen-Karahöyük Intensive Survey Project (TISP), led by James Osborne. Together, these projects examine settlement patterns from a *longue durée* perspective, spanning from the Neolithic to the end of the Iron Age – covering approximately 9,000 years (Osborne et al., 2020).

Numerous sites postdating the Neolithic and Bronze Age – periods that particularly interested Mellaart – have been identified or confirmed through this work. In its second phase, the KRASP project initiated excavations at Türkmen-Karahöyük in 2024, a site now interpreted as a major administrative centre of a Neo-Hittite kingdom (Osborne et al., 2020).

These discoveries confirm long-standing assumptions about the region's rich post-Neolithic settlement history. Until recently, these ideas were supported almost exclusively by the evidence of later occupation levels at Çatalhöyük. Today, both the KRASP surveys and ongoing excavations at Çatalhöyük work in tandem to deepen our understanding of the Konya Plain's historical depth beyond the Neolithic.

Moreover, the methodologies developed through years of work at Çatalhöyük have informed the study of other sites in the region. Many sites identified on the Konya Plain exhibit complex stratigraphy that requires interpretation within the context of long-term occupational sequences – a challenge for which Çatalhöyük has become an important methodological benchmark.

Additionally, in 2021, Jędrzej Hordecki launched a research project aimed at analyzing settlement patterns across Central Anatolia. Numerous archaeological surveys conducted throughout the region have led to the identification of many sites. The collected and jointly analyzed data provide a better understanding of processes occurring at the beginning and end of the Iron Age. They also reveal intriguing interactions

between political entities in Central Anatolia, a phenomenon also emphasized by the KRASP project (Massa et al., 2020). Thus, although the project's results are still being published, they have already significantly expanded our knowledge of the first millennium BCE, reaching beyond the Konya Plain.

All of these investigations offer valuable insights into the post-Neolithic history of the region. Whether through excavation or survey methodologies, they contribute significantly to a more comprehensive understanding of the area's historical development. Nevertheless, Çatalhöyük remains a key point of reference, as it continues to be one of the best-studied sites from the 1st millennium BCE in the region.

## THE POZNAŃ RESEARCH PROJECT AT ÇATALHÖYÜK

The excavations carried out in both the TPC and East Area between 2012 and 2025 are highly significant for understanding the final stage of the Neolithic settlement's occupation. Additionally, notable examples of material culture were uncovered in these areas. Post-Neolithic remains were also found in both excavation zones.

### (1) The Neolithic Occupation

#### *TPC Area*

The excavations in the TPC Area, comprising four trenches southwest of the TP Area, took place between 2012 and 2017. The primary aim was to integrate the stratigraphy of the TP Area with the main stratigraphic sequence in the South Area (zone excavated by Mellaart and Hodder), enabling the construction of a new and complete stratigraphy of the Neolithic occupation at the East Mound – from the earliest layers to the final phase of settlement. Another important objective was to investigate Late Neolithic architecture, burial practices, and material culture (Marciniak et al., 2019, p. 5).

Six stratigraphic levels were identified in the TPC area, labeled TP.M to TP.R. The entire sequence dates to the period 6350–6000 BCE. A total of nine buildings were discovered, four of which belong to TP.M phase. These structures were large, intensively occupied, and repeatedly rebuilt. Their walls were plastered and painted. Interior included clearly defined floors, numerous platforms, benches, bins, hearths, and ovens. The internal division of space reflected early Neolithic traditions, with the northern parts serving ceremonial purposes and the southern part dedicated to daily domestic activities.

The most representative building from this phase is Building 150 in Trench 4 (Marciniak et al., 2019, p. 7, fig. 3). This building, approximately 50 m<sup>2</sup> in size, featured several platforms and benches along the eastern and northern walls, as well as a sequence of solid ovens in its southern part. It was rebuilt at least four times, as evidenced by superimposed floors with corresponding platforms and ovens. The walls were plastered and likely painted.



Fig. 3. Building 150, TPC Area (Çatalhöyük Research Project)

Another important structure from this phase is Building 122 in Trench 3 (Marciniak et al., 2019, p. 7). Its northeastern section contained a storage room with five bins, which held a large quantity of charred plant remains (Marciniak et al., 2019, p. 8, fig. 4). In a later phase, another room was added to the west of the storage area, and its walls were decorated with black-and-white geometric paintings (fig. 5).

In subsequent phases, the architecture underwent significant changes. The TP.N level is characterized by solid, multi-room houses with complex wall structures; however these buildings lacked floors or built-in features such as platforms or burials. Two notable buildings from this phase are Building 110 and Building 152.

Levels TP.O and TP.P mark a significant break in the settlement sequence in the TPC Area. During this time, the space was transformed into an open area, which later served as a midden for waste disposal (Marciniak, 2015a, p. 13). The following levels, TP.Q and TP.R, are characterized by large, multi-room buildings constructed directly on open ground, such as Buildings 109 and 133. Their layout is difficult to reconstruct due to substantial post-Neolithic occupation and postdepositional processes.

A rich material culture was uncovered in this area, encompassing clay, stone and bone objects. Particularly notable were the large stone anthropomorphic female figurines (Marciniak et al., 2019, p. 12, fig. 6).





Fig. 4. Building 122, TPC Area, Space 493 – storage room with bins (Çatalhöyük Research Project)



Fig. 5. Building 122, TPC Area, Sp 562 with wall paintings (Çatalhöyük Research Project)



Fig. 6. Examples of figurines from building 150, TPC Area (Çatalhöyük Research Project)

### *East Area*

The East Area excavations mark a new phase of fieldwork at Çatalhöyük, focusing on a previously unexplored section of the mound. Prior to excavation, geomagnetic surveys, archaeological surface scraping, and general survey data indicated the presence of subsurface architectural features in this zone. The decision to open this area, situated on the eastern rise of the mound, was thus grounded in strong scientific expectations (Marciniak et al., 2018, p. 7). The main goal of the excavations, which began in 2018, was to investigate the character of the settlement in this part of the East Mound.

Excavations started within a 50-meter-long east – west trench, 10 meters wide. After the removal of topsoil, architectural features were revealed in the first three squares, where excavation was subsequently concentrated. The easternmost two squares were covered by post-Neolithic alluvium, preventing recognition of any occupation in this part of the eminence.

To date, seven Neolithic buildings have been identified, arranged around the centrally located plaza. Radiocarbon dates indicate that this area was contemporaneous with the final phases of activity in the TP area, representing yet another example of

late settlement activity on the tell, but this time situated away from its highest point (Marciniak et al., in print).

Among the discovered buildings, Building 173 stands out as an intriguing example of late Neolithic activity. Interpreted as a charnel house, it was not used for domestic purposes. Occupied over a prolonged period, its interior was gradually subdivided into smaller cells, one of which contained human burials. The presence of mortuary architecture corresponds with similar structures discovered in the TP Area (Marciniak et al., 2015, p. 170).

Another remarkable structure is Building 174, a highly elaborate building distinguished by its rich internal features (fig. 7) including platforms, benches, and decorative wall elements in relief. This building represents a unique architectural find – no other structure of this type has been documented at Çatalhöyük in the last three decades of excavation.



Fig. 7. Building 174, East Area (photo by Mateusz Dembowski)

While the general architectural forms in the East Area resemble those found in other parts of the site, these structures reveal novel architectural and functional details not previously observed. These distinctive features deepen our understanding of the site's spatial organization and related social practices. This work offers a new perspective on the evolution of the settlement at Çatalhöyük after 6300 BCE. The previously dominant agglutinative architectural pattern came to an end, replaced by a more

dispersed occupation. Furthermore, the East Area appears to have held a prominent role, particularly in the funerary domain, as indicated by the presence of a complex of non-domestic structure.

Ongoing investigation in this area holds great promise, likely to yield further discoveries critical to the study of the Late Neolithic. It may also offer new perspectives that will refine current interpretations, particularly regarding shifting burial customs. As such, the East Area represents a key focus for future research and has the potential to make substantial contributions to the broader narrative of Çatalhöyük and the Anatolian Neolithic.

## **(2) The Post-Neolithic Occupation**

Research conducted over the past several years has significantly enhanced our understanding of the nature of settlement at Çatalhöyük in the post-Neolithic period. The mound was intensively occupied during the Iron Age, reaching its peak during the Hellenistic period. After this time, habitation on the mound itself ceased and shifted to its foothills (Jackson, Moore, 2018; Hordecki, 2020). Nevertheless, the mound continued to function as a burial ground until the medieval period (Kwiatkowska, 2009, p. 133).

### ***Iron Age settlement (TP)***

One of significant aspects of the post-Neolithic occupation at the mound is the Iron Age settlement discovered by the Polish mission in the TP Area. The remains included a small stone structure, likely apsidal in form, and a stone pavement nearby. Numerous storage pits were also identified, suggesting intensive use of this part of the settlement (Hordecki, 2020). Although only a small portion of what was likely a rural settlement has been uncovered, the abundant ceramic assemblage indicates broad regional interactions within Central Anatolia. These findings offer an important contribution to the broader understanding settlement patterns during the Iron Age (Hordecki, 2020).

### ***Hellenistic settlement (TP & TPC)***

The mound of Çatalhöyük experienced particularly intensive occupation also during the Hellenistic period. Most notably, excavations in the TP Area revealed the remains of a large building, possibly serving a defensive or refuge function. This structure was rapidly destroyed by fire, after which the area appears to have been repurposed for craft and production activities what is indicated by the appearance of the kilns and ovens. South of this structure, in the TPC Area, another slightly later

building was discovered and interpreted as a storage facility. Its construction and use, along with the presence of numerous refuse pits, indicate that this part of the settlement was transformed into a specialized zone for production and storage (Hordecki, 2020, fig. 8). Numerous pottery fragments attributed to this phase were uncovered (fig. 9).



Fig. 8. Bell-shaped Hellenistic pit F.7261 truncating Neolithic structures visible in the section of trench 4, TPC (Çatalhöyük Research Project)



Fig. 9. Hellenistic trefoil shape mouth oinochoe, TPC Area (Çatalhöyük Research Project)

### *Late cemeteries (TP, TPC & East)*

Cemetery remains were uncovered in all areas excavated by the Polish mission. The highest concentration was found in the TP Area, consisting primarily of Muslim burials dated to the medieval period (Kwiatkowska, 2009). Muslim graves were also identified in the TPC Area (Filipowicz et al., 2021, p. 25, fig. 10).



Fig. 10. Post-neolithic burial (3900), TPC Area (Çatalhöyük Research Project)

In the recently investigated East Area, earlier burials were discovered and dated to the first half of the first millennium CE, some of them featuring elaborated superstructures (fig. 11). These appear to be contemporaneous with slightly earlier Roman burials found in other parts of the mound (Marciniak et al., in print). These discoveries provide evidence that after the Hellenistic period, settlement activity moved from the top of the mound to its lower slopes. Nevertheless, the tell continued to play an important role in the collective memory of the local communities, remaining a burial place for their dead (Jackson, Moore, 2018).

Together, these discoveries have substantially expanded our knowledge of post-Neolithic activity at Çatalhöyük. While remains of later occupation have been identified in other parts of the site, the scale and continuity of late use revealed in the areas excavated by the Polish Team are unprecedented. Notably, only in the TP and TPC trenches have definitive remains of Iron Age and Hellenistic settlements. Thus, the results of the Polish excavation are not only essential for understanding rural settlement patterns during the first millennium BCE, but also offer valuable insights into funerary practices from the early Common Era through to the medieval period in Central Anatolia.



Fig. 11. Superstructure made of decorated tiles from the post-neolithic burial (10069), East Area (photo by Mateusz Dembowskiak)

## RESEARCH OUTCOME AND PUBLIC OUTREACH OF THE POZNAŃ RESEARCH EXPEDITION AT ÇATALHÖYÜK

The results of the research conducted by the Polish mission at Çatalhöyük have been widely disseminated through publications and numerous presentations delivered by project members at conferences and academic events in Poland and internationally. These contributions have played an important role in fostering scholarly exchange and advancing knowledge of Çatalhöyük, Central Anatolia, and the broader region.

### *Conferences*

Members of the Polish mission have presented various aspects of their research at various international conferences. These include International Congress on the Archaeology of the Ancient Near East (ICAANE) held in various years and locations, such as Basel (2014), Vienna (2016), Munich (2018), Bologna (2020), Copenhagen (2023), Lyon (2025); European Association of Archaeologists (EAA) conferences – held in Istanbul (2014), Vilnius (2016), Maastricht (2017), Bern (2019), Belfast (2023), Rome (2024), Belgrade (2025); American Schools of Oriental Research; from 2021 American Society of Overseas Research (ASOR) Annual Meetings – held annually in various locations: Baltimore (2013), San Diego (2014), Atlanta (2015), San Antonio (2016), Boston (2017), Denver (2018), San Diego (2019), Chicago (2021), Boston (2022), Boston (2024); Annual Meeting of Society for American Archaeology (SAA): Honolulu (2013), Vancouver (2017), San Francisco (2021), Portland (2023), New Orleans (2024).

Other important venues where the results of the Polish mission at Çatalhöyük have been presented included: Perspectives in Classical Archaeology, Prague (2015, 2016), CEAG TAG in Bratislava (2016), Shanghai Archaeology Forum (2015, 2017, 2019, 2021, 2023), Broadening Horizons 5 in Udine (2017), Archaeo-Informatics in Istanbul (2022), World Neolithic Congress in Şanlıurfa (2024), Emergence of the Neolithic in Europe in Zadar (2025). Several conferences took place in Poland: Polacy na Bliskim Wschodzie (2017), Funeralia Gnieźnieńskie (2021, 2025), The Past has a Future (2021, 2025).

These conferences have served as important platforms for sharing and discussing findings related to Çatalhöyük, as well as the broader Neolithic and post-Neolithic developments in Anatolia.

### *Publications*

Between 2013 and 2025, approximately 40 scholarly works have been published, including 32 in English, five in Polish, and three in Turkish. These publications encompass books, chapters in monographs and peer-reviewed and popular science articles<sup>1</sup>.

Two books, edited by Arkadiusz Marciniak, have been published to date, both focusing on Neolithic: *Assembling Çatalhöyük* (2015) (co-edited with Ian Hodder) (Maney Publishing, Leeds) and *Concluding the Neolithic: The Near East in the Second Half of the Seventh Millennium BCE* (2019) (Lockwood Press, Atlanta). In addition, a monograph on Neolithic imagery, including Çatalhöyük, was published: P. Filipowicz (2025b), *The Late Neolithic and Early Chalcolithic Imagery in South-Central Anatolia*, Springer.

Among numerous chapters in monographs, a distinct group focuses on presenting the results of the Polish excavation team's work at Çatalhöyük (Marciniak, 2015a; Marciniak et al., 2019, in print; Filipowicz et al., 2021), others address broader Neolithic transformations based on excavation findings (Marciniak 2015b, 2016, 2017, 2019, 2021; Filipowicz 2016; Harabas 2018; Hordecki 2020; Czerniak, Marciniak 2022; Marciniak, Filipowicz 2024), while still others deal with excavation methodology and fieldwork practices (Forte et al., 2019; Bennison-Chapman et al., 2021).

Among articles published in peer-reviewed journals, some focus on the detailed dating of the site's stratigraphic sequence (Marciniak et al., 2015), others explore climate change (Lewis et al., 2016; Roffet-Salque et al., 2018, 2019), while several examine different facets of the settlement's occupation (Greenfield & Marciniak, 2018; Haddow et al., 2023). Additionally, several papers address the perception and reception of the site among broader audiences (Filipowicz et al., 2020; Marciniak et al., 2020).

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<sup>1</sup> The complete list is available on the project's website: [catalhoyuk.pl](http://catalhoyuk.pl)



In addition, the results of the research at Çatalhöyük were also published in the form of popular science articles in the journal *Archeologia Żywa* (Filipowicz et al., 2018; Hordecki, 2021; Chyleński et al., 2022; Filipowicz, 2025a).

These publications have significantly contributed to the dissemination of research of the Polish mission at Çatalhöyük both in the academic community and among the general public.

### *Dissertations*

A total of 39 students and PhD candidates from the Faculty of Archaeology (formerly the Institute of Prehistory and later the Institute of Archaeology) at Adam Mickiewicz University have participated in archaeological excavations at Çatalhöyük. Since 2013, four students have written their master's theses, and three others have completed their bachelor's theses. Additionally, five PhD dissertations have been defended, and several doctoral theses are currently in preparation.

Guest students from other universities in Poland, such as University of Gdańsk, the University of Szczecin, and University of Wrocław, have also participated in the fieldwork.

### *Other outcomes*

Press releases about the research have been regularly published by the PAP Nauka w Polsce (Science in Poland). Various articles presenting our work have appeared in newspapers such as *Rzeczpospolita* and *Gazeta Wyborcza*. Additionally, several interviews, podcasts, and other media appearances have contributed to the dissemination of the research findings.

Other outcomes include the project's website ([catalhoyuk.pl](http://catalhoyuk.pl)), created by Andrzej Leszczewicz. Another important digital achievement is HATCH<sup>2</sup> (<http://hatch.e-archaeology.org>), a digital repository designed to present data about the Neolithic site of Çatalhöyük in a multidimensional and interactive format. The goals of the project are strictly educational. The website is intended for both professionals and audiences interested in this topic. HATCH was created and designed by members of the Poznań archaeological mission and IT specialists from Adam Mickiewicz University, in collaboration with other members of the Çatalhöyük Research Project. It contains information about buildings, burials, and artifacts, gathered from various available publications and publicly accessible databases.

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<sup>2</sup> HATCH was created with the support of the European Commission (Culture Program 2007–2013) as part of the NEARCH project: New scenarios for a community-involved archaeology (Nr 3085/Kultura/2014/2).

### *Cooperation & collaborative effects*

The Polish research has resulted in collaborations with both academic institutions and governmental bodies. In particular, within the framework of the collaboration between the Poznań mission and the Institute for Oriental and European Archaeology (OREA) in Vienna – as part of the *Pathways to the Late Neolithic of Central and Western Anatolia* project- research has focused on the relationships between western and central Anatolia and a comparative analysis of both regions from various perspectives. Two workshops were organized as part of this collaboration: one in Vienna in 2018 and another in Poznań in 2020, where members of both research teams discussed the parallels in the development of two regions and shared their findings.

On June 9, 2022, the Polish Embassy in Ankara organized an event titled *The Cultural Heritage and Archaeology – New Platforms of Polish-Turkish Cooperation*, dedicated to Polish archaeological research in Turkey, particularly at Çatalhöyük. The event was hosted by Chargé d'affaires Robert Trzeciak. Among the attendees were representatives from the Turkish Ministry of Culture and Tourism, museums, and universities. Arkadiusz Marciniak presented the latest research findings in his lecture titled *Anatolia's Late Neolithic in the Light of Polish Research at Çatalhöyük*, while Patrycja Filipowicz gave a presentation on the iconography of the Late Neolithic, titled *Near Eastern Neolithic Symbolism and Iconography in Polish Archaeological Research*. The meeting was accompanied by an exhibition of photographs from the site, authored by Mateusz Dembowski.

On December 9, 2024, the *Second Polish-Turkish Archaeological Forum* took place at the Museum of Anatolian Civilizations in Ankara. The event was organized through the cooperation of the Embassy of the Republic of Poland, the Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in Istanbul, the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, and the Museum of Anatolian Civilizations. Participants included Erhan Karakaya, Provincial Director of Culture and Tourism in Ankara, Ambassador of the Republic of Poland in Turkey Maciej Lang, Deputy Minister of Culture and Tourism Gökhan Yazgı, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Poland Anna Radwan, and invited guests. The forum, titled *New Opportunities for Cooperation*, was moderated by Arkadiusz Marciniak, who delivered a lecture on *Polish Research on Anatolian Neolithic: The Research Project at Çatalhöyük and its Significance*.

### **FINAL REMARKS**

The Polish research at Çatalhöyük has made a significant contribution to the understanding of Neolithic and post-Neolithic periods in Anatolia. Through systematic excavations, the Polish mission has uncovered key aspects of settlement patterns, architecture, and burial practices in the final centuries of the settlement's Neolithic occupation, particularly in the previously unexplored part of the mound,

such as the TPC and East Areas. Polish researchers also contributed to advancing our understanding of social organization at Çatalhöyük. The most recent analysis of 131 ancient genomes allowed for the reconstruction of kinship structures, revealing the predominance of maternal lineages and the central role of women (Yüncü et al., 2025). Moreover, the research has contributed to broadening the discussions on regional interactions and transformations across Anatolia, bridging gaps between the central and western regions. Through conferences, publications, digital initiatives and collaboration with international institutions, the Polish team has effectively disseminated their findings, enriching both academic discourse and public appreciation of this iconic Neolithic site.

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**Author's Contribution:** The authors confirm sole responsibility for the following: study conception and design, data collection, analysis and interpretation of results, and manuscript preparation.

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**ANNEX 1****The Poznań team members (2013–2025)**

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2. Arkadiusz Klimowicz
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5. Marta Krueger (Bartkowiak)
6. Agata Kowalak (Czeszewska)
7. Jakub Sobko
8. Maciej Chyleński
9. Malwina Brachmańska
10. Mateusz Dembowski
11. Katarzyna Harabasz
12. Jędrzej Hordecki
13. Weronika Solarek (Stosik)
14. Aleksandra Neumann-Kim
15. Marika Michalak
16. Piotr Ciesielski
17. Karolina Joka
18. Mikołaj Budner
19. Milena Siestrzencewicz (Kubiaczyk)
20. Anna Haberland
21. Anna Rybarczyk-Marciniak
22. Oliwia Rucka
23. Konrad Wojciechowski
24. Sebastian Antonów
25. Nell Sypniewska
26. Patrycja Michalska
27. Zuzanna Sapor
28. Marta Perlińska
29. Antoni Nowak
30. Maciej Gembicki
31. Kalina Więcaszek
32. Mateusz Nowak
33. Beata Sobko (Piotrowska)
34. Michalina Andrzejewska
35. Łukasz Andryschik
36. Dariusz Jandula
37. Marta Kościńska
38. Anna Kozińska
39. Yulia Prozorova

## ANNEX 2

### List of dissertations

#### *Doctoral theses*

Patrycja Filipowicz (2019). The transformative character of imagery of South-Central Anatolian communities in the period 6500–5500 BC.

Katarzyna Harabaszczyk (2019). Osteobiografia mieszkańców neolitycznej osady w Çatalhöyük w Turcji [Osteobiography of the Neolithic inhabitants of the settlement in Çatalhöyük, Turkey].

Maciej Chyleński (2019). Ancient DNA in recognizing the kinship structure and migration patterns of Anatolian and European Neolithic communities.

Jędrzej Hordecki (2020). Osadnictwo z epoki żelaza i okresu hellenistycznego w Çatalhöyük w kontekście regionalnym Środkowej Anatolii [The Iron Age and Hellenistic settlements at Çatalhöyük in the regional context of Central Anatolia].

#### *MA theses*

Mateusz Dembowski (2015). Znaczenie dzieci w społeczności neolitycznej osady w Çatalhöyük East [The significance of children in the community of the Neolithic settlement at Çatalhöyük East].

Katarzyna Harabaszczyk (2015). The Domesticated dead. Buildings and their funerary meaning at the Neolithic Çatalhöyük.

Jędrzej Hordecki (2015). Post-chalkolityczne osadnictwo w strefie TP na stanowisku Çatalhöyük, Turcja [Post-Chalcolithic settlement in the TP area at the site of Çatalhöyük, Türkiye].

Weronika Stosik (2016). Mechanizmy kształtowania się płci kulturowej neolitycznej osady Çatalhöyük East. Próba skonstruowania modelu badawczego i jego aplikacja [Mechanisms shaping gender in the Neolithic settlement of Çatalhöyük East: an attempt to construct a research model and its application].

#### *BA theses*

Karolina Joka (2015). Strategie przedstawiania neolitycznej osady w Çatalhöyük (Turcja) w prasie krajowej w latach 2001–2014 [Strategies of presenting the Neolithic settlement at Çatalhöyük (Türkiye) in the national press between 2001 and 2014].

Milena Kubiacyk (2016). Zoomorficzna plastyka figuralna jako próba udomowienia na neolitycznej osadzie Çatalhöyük [Zoomorphic figurative art as an attempt at domestication in the Neolithic settlement of Çatalhöyük].

Oliwia Rucka (2023). Materiały kamienne z obszaru TP w Çatalhöyük w świetle podejścia *chaîne opératoire* [Stone materials from the TP Area at Çatalhöyük in the light of the *chaîne opératoire* approach].

