



## ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

# Reconsidering Kinship at Neolithic talhk

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## Abstract

As a major early sedentary farming community, Çatalhöyük has served as an important site for investigating the effects of the transition from foraging to food producing on social organization, including kinship. Early interpretations of social organization based on material culture suggested Çatalhöyük was home to a matriarchal society organized into matrilineal descent groups. More recent investigations of kinship using dental, aDNA, and isotopic data have yielded equivocal results that do not support the early characterization of Çatalhöyük as matriarchal and matrilineal. Collectively, the phenotypic and aDNA studies found that intramural burial practices were not biologically kin-structured, contributing to a consensus that social kinship was fundamental to social organization at this early farming community. Although provocative, this interpretation is founded upon misconceptions about the composition of residential kin groups and the relationship between genetic relatedness and kinship. The present study uses biodistance analysis of published dental phenotypic data and recently developed interpretive models based on specific descent and postmarital residence strategies to reconsider kinship and postmarital residence practices at Çatalhöyük. Results suggest families at Çatalhöyük were organized into bilocal residential-household groups under bilateral descent. These findings are discussed in comparison to results of recent aDNA and isotopic studies.

## Keywords

talhk, Kinship, Biodistance, Postmarital residence

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