



## ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

# Getting blood from a stone: Rediscovering the ground stone legacy of early archaeological research in Cyprus

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## Abstract

The social mechanisms responsible for the start of the Bronze Age in Cyprus are widely debated. This lack of clarity is partly accredited to the patchy application of research across the island. Namely, studies on the Early Bronze Age have focused on north coast burials. Contrastingly, the Chalcolithic period, which provides a baseline for understanding Bronze Age developments, has only been elucidated in west Cyprus. However, if we peer into dark storerooms, fragmented between museums in Cyprus and beyond, there lies material which can illuminate this transition. Much of this has never been adequately studied and published.

My postdoctoral project targets ground stone objects from early surveys and excavations of Late Chalcolithic to Early Cypriot period sites in the north of Cyprus, including those collected by the Catling Cyprus Survey and the Swedish Cyprus Expedition. This paper has several aims. It will elucidate the history of early research on the prehistory of the island and document my own experiences of using legacy data. Furthermore, I will outline notable results of my project, which prove the study of legacy collections vital for illuminating change over the Chalcolithic-Bronze Age transition.

## Keywords

ground stone objects, prehistory, legacy data

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