

Preface by the Series Editor

These conference proceedings launch the new publication series Oriental and European Archaeology, OREA, initiated by the series editor after the institute of the same name was founded at the Austrian Academy of Sciences. It was endorsed by the publishing committee of the philosophical-historical class of the Academy as part of its canon of publications. The scientific quality of the new series is ensured by international peer review and integration into an active scientific environment. The new publication series is intended to mirror the supra-regional networked research at the Institute for Oriental and European Archaeology and present it as a consistent collection.

OREA deliberately considers the core zones of cultural developments in Europe and the Orient to act not as counterpoints, but rather as a common cultural bracket, in which undoubtedly very different dynamics and processes influenced the most important developments. The advanced specialisations of the various branches of archaeology and their corresponding regional foci are reflected in their publication cultures. The new series aims to achieve a cross-regional readership and authorship from both European and Oriental archaeology to consider and discuss these cultural areas as they relate to one another. In accordance with the research profile and expertise of the institute, the series concentrates on the prehistoric and early historical periods in human history. The series is open to all scientific approaches, as long as they support topics and discussions of basic archaeological research in this area. Monographs, primary publications of excavations, detailed studies, interdisciplinary and archaeometric analyses as well as conferences and manuals are equally welcome.

The OREA series starts with this volume, *Western Anatolia before Troy. Proto-Urbanisation in the 4th Millennium BC?*, which arose from the homonymous symposium in Vienna in 2012. The articles within constitute a first basic overview of new archaeological data from the 4th millennium BC – before the start of the Bronze Age in western Anatolia – in the context of the neighbouring regions of south-eastern Europe and the Aegean up to the Caucasus. The authors of this volume discuss fundamental cultural, ecological and economic issues. The compilation sheds new light on this period and highlights its importance for future research; it reflects the intense and insightful discussions during the symposium, for which I would like to thank everyone involved.

My sincere thanks go to the co-editor of this volume, Mathias Mehofer, the *Kunsthistorisches Museum* in Vienna, and all the organisers of the event, in particular the team of the ERC project Prehistoric Anatolia. Financial support for publication was provided by the Austrian Academy of Sciences, the University of Vienna and the European Research Council (ERC). The rapid production was enabled by two people: Angela Schwab, who designed the layout of the contributions, and Estella Weiss-Krejci, who oversaw the general editing. I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge their commitment. I intend that this new series about Oriental and European archaeology will attract interested and avid readers as well as numerous active authors with innovative and pioneering research.

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Barbara Horejs

Series Editor

Director of the Institute for Oriental and European Archaeology

