



**H.F.R.I.**  
Hellenic Foundation for  
Research & Innovation

**Description of the funded research project**  
**2nd Call for H.F.R.I. Research Projects**  
**to Support Post-Doctoral Researchers**



**Title of the research project:** Beyond Oikos: outdoor spaces, daily life and sociality in Neolithic Greece

**Principal Investigator:** Evanthia Kalogiropoulou

**Reader-friendly title:** Beyond Oikos

**Scientific Area:** Archaeology, Humanities and Arts

**Institution and Country:** University of Crete, Greece

**Host Institution:** University of Crete, Greece

**Collaborating Institution(s):** University of Cambridge, United Kingdom

**Project webpage  
(if applicable):** (under construction)

**Budget:** 135000 €

**Duration:** 36 months



## Research Project Synopsis

In the context of Aegean prehistory, the *oikos*, house and household, as a concept and analytical unit holds a key role in the study of social space and the development of social practices, interactions and exchange. On the contrary, outdoor open-air spaces remain considerably under-represented and under-theorised. BONDS integrates a pressing need for reassessment of past narratives emerging from the great volume of new data. It examines aspects of the many daily practices —domestic, crafts and communal— that were performed at the open-air outdoor spaces of Neolithic sites, not solely in special events or communal gatherings, but predominantly in quotidian routines. The project approaches outdoor space as multi-task venues and explores their dynamic contribution to the formation of diverse daily performances, subsistence practices, social interactions and gatherings. Key element is combustion features, such as hearths, ovens, fire pits, food preparation benches and kilns. Combustion features are here considered as focal points to control outdoor spaces as arenas of everyday performances that tackle questions on daily performativity, commensality, interaction and social reproduction.

The project will focus on northern Greece, including Thessaly and Greek Macedonia, where a dense concentration of Neolithic sites provides a rich data set for examination. Unpublished data from four case study sites are selected: 1) Kleitos 1 in Kozani, 2) Makriyalos in Pieria, 3) Makri in Alexandroupoli and 4) Imvrou Pigadi in Lamia. The project builds on published and unpublished data to develop a holistic multidisciplinary methodology that integrates macroscopic study of combustion features, geoarchaeology and soil micromorphology, pottery analysis, organic residue analysis and spatio-temporal tools.

## Project originality

During the last 30 years in Greece, large-scale public works produced considerable increase in archaeological research and immense accumulation of new data that has transformed established perceptions of Neolithic communities in the region. In this novel research framework, the originality and innovation of the BONDS project lies in integrating old and new data with cutting-edge scientific methodologies to present and test new hypothesis on diverse Neolithic lifestyles in Greece and to explore how life was structured in different regions, groups, time and cultures. The project unfolds the potentials of two under-studied archaeological materials and concepts, such as combustion features and outdoor spaces, and stresses their role as dynamic agents to community developments. BONDS suggests a contextual, systematic, interdisciplinary and socially based study of combustion features and outdoor spaces that enhance previous typological and functional-oriented analyses.

## Expected results & Research Project Impact

Dissemination of BONDS results will be achieved by using targeted means to communicate with peers, such as lectures, open-access publications in leading international peer-review journals, conference participations and a regularly updated project website. The research activities of the project will culminate in the organisation of an International Workshop, addressing the recognition of outdoor settlement activities and spatial transformation in early societies. Public engagement activities are scheduled to make archaeological research accessible to the wider community. Furthermore, the contribution of this research is highly significant for the archaeology of Northern Greece given, a) a lack of extensive geoarchaeological study in the region, and b) the threat to the archaeology by modern ongoing development projects.

## The importance of this funding

The H.F.R.I. funding for Research Projects to support post-doctoral researchers constitutes a significant innovation for the research community in Greece. A new generation of researchers has now the opportunity to organise and implement cutting-edge research from the bottom-up. For BONDS, H.F.R.I funding gives the opportunity for the development of a dynamic research team that would explore further its potentials and skills, posing current research questions and forwarding innovation in the archaeological discipline.



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