

Skulls, Houses, and Decorated Stones:
*An Investigation of Households, Ritual and
Symbolism in Neolithic Central Anatolia*

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Over the past 20 years scholars have suggested that the Neolithic of SW Asia witnesses major developments in the nature of religion and in the nature of the household. Such views are based on a rich record of the built environment in Neolithic settlements and substantial evidence for ritual and symbolism, often at the same sites. Using evidence from Neolithic central Anatolia, and particularly the site of Boncuklu, I examine the inter-related evidence for ritual practice, symbolic expression and the nature of households.

About the Presenter



Doug Baird has been involved in archaeological field projects in the Middle East since 1979. This includes the leading of surveys in Cyprus in the early 1980s and between 1995 and 2002, the Konya Plain Survey in Turkey. In the 1980's he worked on several projects in Iraq, mainly involving excavation of Neolithic sites, more recently conducting soundings in Iraqi Kurdistan at Karim Shahir with Dr Eleni Asouti of University of Liverpool. Between 1984 and 1994 he worked on the Neolithic, Chalcolithic and Early Bronze Ages in Jordan looking at the Neolithic of the desert areas of the Levant for his PhD and post-doc and then directing an excavation at the site of Tell esh Shuna North, investigating

the development of social complexity and urbanism in the southern Levant in the Chalcolithic and Early Bronze Age. Most recently he has led the excavations of Epipalaeolithic and Neolithic sites in the Konya Plain, at Pınarbaşı and Boncuklu, the last directed with Andy Fairbairn of University of Queensland