Table of Contents

List of Tables x
List of Figures xi

Introduction 1

Chapter 1. A Fast-Tracked Revolution? The Neolithic Transition in Europe as Seen from the East 3
1.1 The Neolithic: a changing definition 3
1.1.1 The Neolithic stage of culture 3
1.1.2 Food-gatherers and food-producers 3
1.1.3 The Neolithic “Revolution” 4
1.1.4 More than one Neolithic? 5
1.2 The two Neolithics of Anatolia 6
1.2.1 Anatolia, a land of two continents 6
1.2.2 The two thousand year lag: introducing the 14C Backbone 7
1.2.3 A fault-line between Central and Western Anatolia 9
1.3 Statement of the hypothesis 13

Chapter 2. Approaches to the Spread of the Neolithic into Europe 15
2.1 A brief history of the research question 15
2.1.1 The search for the missing link 15
2.1.2 Regionalisation of scholarship? 16
2.1.3 Reviving the grand narrative 17
2.2 Current approaches of the spread of farming 18
2.2.1 When did farming spread to Europe? 19
2.2.2 Who spread farming? 19
2.2.3 Along which routes did farming spread? 21
2.2.4 What was spread? 22
2.3 Statement of the aims 23

Chapter 3. A Method Based on Practices 25
3.1 Beyond similarities in material culture 25
3.2 Theoretical basis 25
3.2.1 A theory of action without agency 26
3.2.2 Practice and habitus 27
3.2.3 Change of practice 27
3.3 Outline of the approach 27
3.3.1 Practices with a material expression 28
3.3.2 Residential and construction practices 28
3.3.3 Contextual evidence 29
3.3.4 Interrelationship of practices 29
3.4 Data collection 30
3.4.1 Fieldwork 30
3.4.2 Nature of sources 30
3.4.3 Scope and terminology 31
3.5 Structure of the results 31

Chapter 4. House “Closure” 33
4.1 House infilling 33
4.1.1 Deliberate infilling and utilitarian levelling 33
4.1.2 Types of infill deposits 34
4.1.3 “Closure” and renewal 34
4.2 The case of Building 80 at Çatalhöyük and the dynamics of change 35
4.3 House burning 37
4.3.1 The intentionality of burning 37
4.3.2 Burnt houses in Central and Southwest Anatolia 37
4.3.3 The destruction of entire horizons of houses 39
4.3.4 Why “close” houses with fire? 41  
4.4 Summary 42

**Chapter 5. House Replacement** 45  
5.1 Building on a tell 45  
5.1.1 Tells and non-tells 46  
5.1.2 On the distribution of tells 46  
5.1.3 Mound formation and social practices 47  
5.2 Vertical superimposition of houses 49  
5.2.1 Re-cut houses and the onset of sedentism 49  
5.2.2 Walls upon walls in Central Anatolia 50  
5.2.3 Building plots in the Eastern Marmara region 52  
5.2.4 Building continuity in the Aegean Basin 53  
5.3 Horizontal displacement of houses 54  
5.3.1 Shifts in the focus of occupation in Çatalhöyük V-IV 54  
5.3.2 Horizontally drifting villages: Hacılar IX-I 55  
5.4 Summary 57

**Chapter 6. Residential Burial** 59  
6.1 Sub-floor burial 59  
6.1.1 Burial under the floor of an active household: an archaeological definition 61  
6.1.2 Living with the dead in Central Anatolia 61  
6.1.3 Burial under floorboards in Northwest Anatolia? 63  
6.2 In-fill and inter-dwelling burials 64  
6.2.1 New burial forms on the Anatolian Plateau 64  
6.2.2 Intra-settlement burial: context of deposition and methodological implications 65  
6.2.3 Communal burial grounds in the Eastern Marmara region 66  
6.2.4 A conspicuous absence of burials: accounting for the exception 67  
6.3 Summary 68

**Chapter 7. Spatial Organisation in the Rectangular House** 71  
7.1 Large room with an open floor plan 71  
7.1.1 Near Eastern origins of the rectangular plan 71  
7.1.2 Multi-roomed buildings in the Northern Levant 73  
7.1.3 Scale up of the main room 75  
7.1.4 Incorporation of domestic features in the fabric of the building 76  
7.2 Division of the space into two flooring areas 79  
7.2.1 The Çatalhöyük East house 79  
7.2.2 The İlpınar house 80  
7.3 Axial orientation of the oven and the main doorway 81  
7.3.1 Changes at Çatalhöyük 81  
7.3.2 The Hacılar VI house 82  
7.3.3 The “big house” at Sofia-Slatina 83  
7.4 Summary 84

**Chapter 8. Agglutination** 87  
8.1 Cellular house pattern 87  
8.1.1 Contemporaneity on a horizontal plan 87  
8.1.2 Radial boundaries 88  
8.1.3 Terraces 90  
8.2 Courtyard-house complexes 91  
8.2.1 Emergence of courtyards at Çatalhöyük 92  
8.2.2 Defended “farmsteads” in Southwest Anatolia 92  
8.2.3 Houses and courts in Middle Neolithic Greece 94  
8.3 Row houses 95  
8.3.1 “Boundary” houses in the Eastern Marmara Region 95  
8.3.2 Anatolian influence in Thrace? 97  
8.4 Summary 98
## Table of Contents

**Chapter 9. Synthesis and Discussion: The Diffusion of Neolithic Practices from Anatolia to Europe**  
9.1 Chronological trajectories  
9.1.1 A Neolithic frontier between Central and Western Anatolia (8,300-6,500 BC cal.)  
9.1.2 Two pathways of Neolithic expansion (6,600-5,500 BC cal.)  
9.2 Sorting practices into habitus of practices  
9.2.1 The older set of practices  
9.2.2 The younger set of practices  
9.3 Step by step  
9.3.1 From Central Anatolia to the Aegean Basin  
9.3.2 From Central Anatolia to Thrace  
9.4 Implications of the work for other aspects of the Neolithic  

**Conclusion**  

**References**  

**Appendix A. Attributes of Neolithic Sites**  
**Appendix B. Attributes of Neolithic Buildings**  
**Appendix C. Quantitative Distribution of Neolithic Burials**  
**Appendix D. Geographic Distribution of Southwest Asian and European Sites**