



**Πανεπιστήμιο
Κύπρου**

ΤΜΗΜΑ ΙΣΤΟΡΙΑΣ ΚΑΙ ΑΡΧΑΙΟΛΟΓΙΑΣ

**ΑΝΑΣΥΝΘΕΣΗ ΤΟΥ ΤΟΠΙΟΥ ΣΤΟΥΣ
ΒΟΡΕΙΟΑΝΑΤΟΛΙΚΟΥΣ ΠΡΟΠΟΔΕΣ ΤΟΥ
ΤΡΟΟΔΟΥΣ ΑΠΟ ΤΗΝ ΠΡΟΙΣΤΟΡΙΑ ΜΕΧΡΙ ΤΗΝ
ΥΣΤΕΡΗ ΑΡΧΑΙΟΤΗΤΑ**

**Η ΜΕΛΕΤΗ ΤΩΝ ΠΕΡΙΟΧΩΝ ΑΓΙΑΣ ΒΑΡΒΑΡΑΣ,
ΛΥΘΟΡΟΔΟΝΤΑ, ΜΑΘΙΑΤΗ ΚΑΙ ΣΙΑΣ**

ΤΟΜΟΣ Α΄

ΘΕΑ ΧΡΙΣΤΟΦΟΡΟΥ

**Διατριβή η οποία υποβλήθηκε προς απόκτηση διδακτορικού
τίτλου σπουδών στο Πανεπιστήμιο Κύπρου**

Δεκέμβριος 2021

ABSTRACT

The subject of the present doctoral thesis is the diachronic synthesis of the landscape in the northeastern foothills of the Troodos from Prehistory to Late Antiquity. The study focuses on the modern-day communities of Agia Varvara, Lythrodontas, Mathiatis and Shia, which are defined as ‘the Study Area’. The aim is to clarify the character of the Study Area in the *longue durée*, and to incorporate its landscape in the historical and archaeological background of ancient Cyprus, specifically in the chrono-cultural horizons of the 2nd and 1st millennium B.C., when the island experienced the development of socio-political complexity.

The research is based on the interdisciplinary study of the available archaeological data from the Study Area (published and unpublished material) and the visualization of the results on thematic maps, using the Geographic Information Systems (GIS). Having in mind the recent, 20th century, history of mining activity in the Study Area, and its effect on the development of the landscape, this dissertation project also records information regarding mines that operated in the Study Area during the 20th century. An important part of this documentation are the memories of the people who lived in the Study Area and worked in the mines.

The synthesis of the archaeological data from the Study Area has shown that the human settlement and exploitation of the landscape was connected with the exploitation of its mineral resources. In the Neolithic period, humans were exploiting the natural wealth of the area (ochre and stone).

Settlement sites appear to multiply in the Late Bronze Age, and from this period to the first decade of the 3rd century BC, when Ptolemy I Soter abolished the autonomy of the Cypriot city-states, the archaeological data indicate that, despite its metallic resources, the Study Area never claimed economic autonomy; it did not develop into a hinterland polity like, for example, Tamassos or Idalion.

In the 2nd and 1st millennia BC, the correlation of the data from the Study Area with data from the primary polities that grew first in the neighbouring watershed of Larnaca (Hala Sultan Tekke and then Kition) and, later, in the watershed of Gialias (Idalion), allow us to

suggest that the Study Area had always been an industrial mining region of whichever polity was administering the Gialias - Larnaca catchment.