

PÅ JAKT EFTER KVINNORS ARBETE

En modell för analys av genus och
arbetsdelning på forntida boplatser

Exempel från Timmeråshyddan, Skrivarhelleren
och Hus 13 på Fosieboplatser.

With an English summary

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Abstract

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Title: På jakt efter kvinnors arbete. En modell för analys av genus och arbetsdelning på forntida boplatser. Exempel från Timmeråshyddan, Skrivarhelleren och Hus 13 på Fosieboplatzen.

English title: Searching for Women's Work. A Model for Analysis of Gender and Division of Labour at Prehistoric Settlement Sites. With examples from the dwellings at Timmerås, Skrivarhelleren and House 13 at the Fosie settlement site.

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The purpose of the thesis is to make the work of prehistoric women visible by presenting three case studies. These are different in time and space, comprising the Timmerås dwelling, situated close to the sea, 8000 years ago, Skrivarhelleren in a mountain environment and House 13 at the Fosie settlement site; the two latter dating back 4000 years. My focus is food and craftwork.

The thesis is based on previously published material. I combine theories and methods dealing with feminism, gender, division of work, place and space, micro archaeology and women's room to manoeuvre. I use the frameworks of context of action – contexts for power in order to illustrate women's work in different contexts of action through chaîne opératoire. I also discuss questions of influence, power and status.

I have selected sites that have been subject to archaeological excavation relatively recently and the excavation and documentation of these were of good quality. These sites are very different in view of time, space, economic conditions and number of finds. All the sites contribute in different ways to modern archaeological research.

Case 1 treats a dwelling at Timmerås in Bohuslän. This was an 8000-year-old Mesolithic coastal settlement site containing the bottom layer of a dwelling. In this context, I mainly discuss subsistence and women's work during the winter with fishing and seal hunting as an economic base.

Case 2 is a cliff shelter, used 4000 years ago, situated in the mountains of the Norwegian Sogndalsfjällen at an elevation of around 800 metres above the sea level. I discuss women's work in a cattle-herding economy during the summer. I assume that the cliff shelter was one of the first instances of transhumance in a system of summer farms in Norway. The work of hunting reindeer and gathering small mammals, fish and plants is also illuminated.

Case 3 is a long house at the large settlement complex of Fosie in Malmö dating from 4000 years ago. It was settled all year round and the economy was mainly oriented towards cattle herding and the beginnings of cultivation. Hunting, fishing and gathering contributed to a mixed economy. I discuss women's work in relation to this background.

My purpose is to create a model, based on the theoretical framework presented here and the three case studies, which can be used in archaeological work on assemblages from settlement sites. The question can then be asked: What was women's work like at this particular site?

Key words: women's work, subsistence, feminism, gender, labour division, negotiation, status, praxis, place & space, micro-archaeology, women's room to manoeuvre, contexts of action–contexts for power, intersectionality, chaîne opératoire.