

## The Human Transformation Anatolia's Landscapes Since the Beginning of Farming

*Tarımın başlangıcından bu yana Anadolu topraklarında beşeri dönüşüm*

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**Abstract:** *Anatolia is a land that has experienced long-standing human occupation and use. This talk outlines the results of a programme of inter-disciplinary research that has brought together palynologists, archaeologists, geomorphologists and palaeo-climatologists to reconstruct regional syntheses of long-term socio-environmental change in the Mediterranean. One of the case study regions is in southern Anatolia (Woodbridge et al., in press).*

*How far has human demography been a driver of long-term land cover change via population pressure on natural resources such as forests, freshwater and soil? Archaeo-demographic evidence indicates that rural population has typically undergone a series of long "boom and bust" cycles since Neolithic times (Allcock 2017). These cycles were accompanied by periods of forest clearance and cultural landscape creation, such as during the Beyşehir Occupation Phase that is well defined in many pollen diagrams, and which were followed by intervening periods of abandonment and re-wilding. During the latter, the trajectory of landscape recovery was spatially heterogeneous, linked to both natural factors, such as soil erosion, and also to societal drivers. Evidence therefore suggests that shifting human population dynamics have played an important role in shaping the landscapes of central and southern Anatolia during the Holocene.*

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