

**Practice, execution, implementation - what we can learn from handling textiles and clay, based (mostly) on evidence from the Aegean**

Agata Ulanowska - [agatula@uw.edu.pl](mailto:agatula@uw.edu.pl) <sup>P,1</sup>

Monika Kaczmarek <sup>1</sup>

Magdalena Przymorska-Sztuczka <sup>2</sup>

Kinga Winnicka <sup>1</sup>

Katarzyna Żebrowska <sup>1</sup>

<sup>P</sup> Presenting author

<sup>1</sup> Faculty of Archaeology, University of Warsaw

<sup>2</sup> Archaeological Museum in Biskupin

Textile imprints on clay provide new important evidence for textiles and textile consumption in settlement contexts, particularly in the earliest periods with the most limited textile finds, and in all regions where environmental conditions inhibit the survival of organic materials. My long-time studies of textile imprints are currently being expanded through two research projects: “TEXTile digitisAtion tooLs and mEthodS for cultural heritage” [TEXTaiLES], and “Exploring Textile Imprints on Clay from the 3rd and the 2nd Millennia BCE” [ExplorTIC]. In both projects, textile imprints on clay are understood as important testimonies of the versatile handling of textiles in everyday life, including the combined, cross-craft use of both textiles and clay.

In this paper, we aim to discuss a range of skills required to handle both materials effectively, illustrated by examples that extend beyond the Bronze Age Aegean. We focus on how to evaluate the level of craft skills reflected in simple products, such as threads and cords; how to describe their physical properties, including mechanical strength; and how to assess whether and to what degree, practical knowledge of both crafts – textile and pottery manufacture – was essential in the cross-craft use of technically and functionally different products. The presented observations are supported by a series of archaeological experiments conducted in collaboration with the Biskupin Archaeological Museum in Poland and the Fraunhofer-Institut für Techno- und Wirtschaftsmathematik ITWM in Germany.

**Keywords**

Bronze Age Greece, Textiles, Textile consumption, Textile imprints, Cross-craft interactions, Clay

**Note/comment**