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## **2<sup>nd</sup> Assessment of doctoral dissertation**

### ***Young People in Mycenaean Sources. Archaeological and Philological Study***

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*I have carefully considered the new version of the dissertation from 2022 and my assessment from 2020. I identify improvements made and sections that have been rewritten. I have below reviewed my 2020 assessment and updated it where relevant. My conclusion remains that the work fulfils the criteria for a PhD dissertation.*

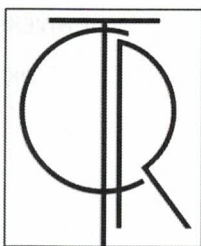
The dissertation is divided in 4 major Chapters. It also contains two substantial catalogues.

Chapter 1, *The History of Childhood and a methodology of studies*, pages 10-46, sets the scene and gives a detailed introduction to the fields of study which are combined in this dissertation, and this chapter highlights the interdisciplinary nature of the dissertation. The chapter has four main sections. In the first section is a broad description of the disciplines, historiography, theories and methods used to explore children and youth in scientific works. It is described how different disciplines (anthropology, bioarchaeology, osteology, archaeology) have divided children and youth into different age groups according to their disciplinary tradition and their scope. The chapter also surveys the major theories about childhood and youth and how it is perceived in different disciplines, from its biological, social or psychological perspectives. Particularly striking in this part is how much studies of childhood are closely tied to conceptions of family and motherhood. In graves with multiple burials, adults and children are generally referred to as 'family burials' in the scholarly literature. Beata Kaczmarek demonstrates how rarely children and youth are studied in their own right, without a cultural and historical framing of family. The entire topic is deeply integrated in our worldviews and contextual contemporary opinion often seems engrained in the studies of children, seemingly without even realising it.

Only recently have studies highlighted children as a social resource for a community and not only a burden or as passive learning individuals. Beata Kaczmarek questions the passive role ascribed to children in western scholarship and hypothesises that children in the Linear B tablets have professional/work-related ties to the adults as apprentices and labour (page 13).

In the second section, Beata Kaczmarek gives an overview of the types of Late Bronze Age sources pertaining to children and she assesses and compares the strengths and flaws of each of these sources. She discusses briefly frescoes, kouroi/terracotta figurines, seals and sealings, and child burials/osteological material and it appears clearly that these source types deliver very different symbols and messages. In particular, it appears that the Minoan Knossos imagery yields images of athletic boys while at Mycenae there are mainly feminine images of





girls is to be noted, and also how gender definition on bones in child burials is impossible and is therefore based on grave gifts.

The chapter also highlights how miniature pottery can be interpreted in different ways – as toys or votive gifts, respectively, and in addition, Beata Kaczmarek presents a few archaeological examples of pottery modeled by children, found in Spain.

Generally, the chapter demonstrates that Beata Kaczmarek has read a very large amount of literature on the topic and is able to summarize the various interpretations and opinion of many different scholars.

In the third section, *Aim of studies and proposed hypothesis*, pages 28-31, Beata Kaczmarek states that the aim is “to clarify the role and status of Mycenaean children and youth”, by exploring a range of sources and combining and comparing them. The positions her dissertation at the cross-road between archaeology, anthropology and philology. In the textual sources, Beata Kaczmarek combines archives from Knossos, Thebes, Mycenae and Pylos and others, yet wisely chooses to discuss them separately; in the archaeological section, she takes a more regional approach and treats each region individually.

In the fourth section, *Material and Methods*, pages 32-, Beata Kaczmarek describes the Linear B documentation of words for boys and girls, ko-wo/κόρος and ko-wa/ κόρη, and the words for family ties, daughter (tu-ka-te, θυγάτηρ or abbreviated tu), son (i-jo, u-jo, \*65-ju, υἱός) and mother and father, ma-te and pa-te, μήτηρ and πατήρ. In addition, she includes other relevant terms for designating age and status. She formulates a series of relevant hypotheses.

The Mycenaean Greek textual material is dated to LMII/IIIA<sub>1</sub> to LM III A<sub>2</sub>/IIIB in Crete, and the mainland textual material is from the subsequent century of LH IIIA to LH III B<sub>2</sub>.

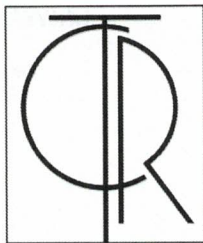
On page 45 she defines the terms used in the dissertation. ‘Sub-adult’ designates the burials of non-adults under the age of 19, and ‘childhood’ is used for the social context of life before adulthood. Likewise, she defines how she has chosen to use the terms ‘representation’, ‘archaeological object’ and ‘feeding bottle’.

Chapter 2, pages 47-79 tackles the Linear B evidence for children and youth from Knossos, Pylos, Mycenae and Thebes.

The relevant tablets are systematically presented, transcribed, transcribed into alphabetical Greek and translated into English. I have found no major mistakes in this chapter and it illustrates that the author has the relevant knowledge of palaeography. As critical points, I would question why she has chosen a new transcription convention of the smaller words and not followed the conventional system to use the signs ‘ and ‘ (she does not follow this new praxis consistently). I suggest that she uses the conventional transcriptions for the publication.

In Knossos, tablets from the Room of the Chariot Tablets, North Entrance Passage and the West Magazines are discussed together. I would advise to include in the discussion that some scholars consider them as 3 different deposits each with their own chronology: Room of the Chariot Tablets (LMII-IIA), North Entrance Passage (LM IIIA<sub>2</sub>) and the West Magazines (LM IIIB); it may even be interesting to observe a development over time in the way children are recorded and integrated in the workforce.





The food rations of \*120 GRAnum are translated as wheat, and the long discussion from the 1990s about identifying the staple as wheat or barley, initiated by Ruth Palmer, is not mentioned.

For this chapter, Beata Kaczmarek uses the classical works of Ventris and Chadwick as well as the numerous publications of joins published as additions to the text collections from Pylos and Knossos.

The documentation from the four palaces is strikingly similar despite the wide period. Beata Kaczmarek identifies some differences between the four archives, but the material is small for final conclusions on this matter. However, it is significant how children and youth from the oldest to the most recent palace archives form part of what was necessary to record for palace scribes.

In Chapter 3, pages 80-153, the archaeological evidence is presented systematically. For each region, North Central Crete, the Argolid, Boeotia and Messenia, Beata Kaczmarek surveys the finds according to frescoes, figurines, seals and sealings, and the category 'Other', and burials which contains various items from burials. A total of 155 items are presented with their scholarly documentation and contexts. Beata Kaczmarek makes an interesting attest to relate this material to age groups in burials. She observes how newborns and babies are near to absent in the archaeological record. Infants of more than 2 years are associated miniature pottery, juveniles are associated various non-gendered grave goods, and adolescents are associated grave goods, which are also found with adults (page 150).

Beata Kaczmarek observes that the gendered items for children and youth in her material is unequally distributed since the Argolid has more examples of representations of girls than the other regions examined.

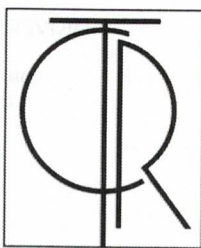
Generally, Beata Kaczmarek uses graphs and statistics and percentages, and this is a good way to illustrate the selected material for this dissertation. However, since the study is designed as a comparative study of randomly selected sites, the graphs and percentages do not serve to conclude about how representative a material is, or why images of youth and children may be more frequent in one place than another

Chapter 4, pages 154-167 is the general conclusion where Beata Kaczmarek summarises first the findings from the Linear B texts, then the findings from the archaeological material and finally the combination of the two groups.

### **Conclusion on the form and content:**

The dissertation is written in English of a high standard. Illustrations are well rendered. The dissertation text is ca 167 pages including large illustrations. The groundwork of research is the compilations of the two large catalogues (pages 219-282 for linear B texts, and a Catalogue of archaeological objects of 17 pages, of which I find the archaeological one most useful. The bibliography pages 168-200 demonstrates that Beata Kaczmarek has read substantial and relevant academic works.

One of Beata Kaczmarek's important research questions is to explore the nature of the relationship between adults and children in the Linear B tablets. Is it a family matter, as is suggested in most scholarly works, or is it a professional relationship between child workers and adults workers. Theoretically, the dissertation highlights very well the biases and western, cultural frameworks that harness the topic. She demonstrated clearly how this is the



case in the works of different scholars. It is also a stimulating new perspective to consider children as labour, child labour or apprentices and detaching them from the traditional family-oriented contexts and emotional bonds with adult women/mothers. This research question is certainly relevant and valid. I am not sure that the data material will enable a straightforward answer, but it remains relevant to ask this question and this is a significant outcome of the dissertation.

The originality of the dissertation lies moreover in its interdisciplinary approach to the topic and the systematic combination of Linear B evidence and archaeological artefact and representations of youth and children.

In conclusion, I find that this work lives up to a delivery of a doctoral dissertation. It demonstrates that Beata Kaczmarek has studied the relevant sources, and that she engages with methods and theories from philology and archaeology as well as childhood studies, and has the ability to take a critical look at them. The bibliography and catalogues demonstrate that she has collected data in a systematic way. The dissertation certainly holds the potential to be edited into a monograph or a few scholarly papers.

Therefore, I find the PhD dissertation *Young People in Mycenaean Sources. Archaeological and Philological Study*, submitted by PhD candidate Beata Kaczmarek to the Institute of Archaeology, Department of History, Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan, Poland, to fulfil the criteria for a PhD dissertation.

Sincerely,

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VIDI DECANUS

14.02.2023

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