

Preliminary Social Network Analysis of Thebes *Odos Pelopidou* Linear B Tablets

Network analysis has become a quite popular method of inquiry in the analysis of large administrative records (Cline and Munson 2023; Lemerrier 2015 and 2023). Harris Cline 2015 uses social network analysis (hereafter SNA) to investigate the Amarna letters, and Pagé-Perron 2018 the cuneiform corpora, but no large-scale SNA has been conducted on the Linear B corpus. The Linear B tablets are ripe for SNA because of the sparse nature of the tablets themselves which often provide little to no clues as to the social relations between the individuals on the tablets. SNA will also elucidate individuals who serve as “bridges” between different groups of people across various economic spheres. This paper will provide a preliminary social network analysis of the *Odos Pelopidou* Theban tablets. This set of tablets is a good case study because they number only 250 and have a secure date to LH III B2/III C (Aravantinos et al. 2001; Driessen 2008). The SNA will take the form of an association model in which individuals serve as nodes and an edge connects two individuals when they appear on the same tablet. From this network model, I suggest that certain individuals who appear in conjunction with each other on Fq tablets are important individuals in the *damos*.

In order to conduct SNA, however, the individuals on the tablets must first be ascertained. My understanding of prosopographical methodology comes from Verboven et al. 2007. The specific methodology of my paper utilizes Enegren 2008’s argument that it is statistically more likely for multiple attestations to be the same individual if in the same hand and Nakassis 2013’s designation of prosopographical identification as certain, probable, possible, and tenuous. However, the work of Aravantinos et al. 2001 has produced some controversy in the

Linear B world (Palaima 2003), but a prosopographical analysis will grapple with the contentious interpretations from Aravantinos et al. 2001.

Citations of Literature

- Aravantinos, V.L., L. Godart, and A. Sacconi. 2001. *Thèbes, fouilles de la Cadmée, IV: Les textes de Thèbes (1–433): Translittération et tableaux des scribes (Pasiphae 4)*. Istituti editoriali e poligrafici internazionali.
- Cline, D. and J. Munson. 2023. “23: Epigraphic Networks in Cross-Cultural Perspective.” In *The Oxford Handbook of Archaeological Network Research*, edited by T. Brughmans, B. Mills, J. Munson, and M. Peeples, 363–377. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Driessen, J. 2008. “Chapter 3: Chronology of the Linear B Texts.” In *A Companion to Linear B: Mycenaean Greek Texts and their World*, vol. 1, edited by Y. Duhoux and A. Morpugo Davies, 69–79. Leuven: Peeters.
- Duhoux, Y. 2008. “Chapter 9. Mycenaean Anthology.” In *A Companion to Linear B: Mycenaean Greek Texts and their World*, vol. 1, edited by Y. Duhoux and A. Morpugo Davies, 243–294. Leuven: Peeters.
- Enegren, H.L. 2008. *The People of Knossos: Prosopographical Studies in Knossos Linear B Archives*. Uppsala.
- Harris Cline, D. 2015. “The Amarna Letters: A Web of Interaction.” *Journal of Ancient Egyptian Interconnections*, vol. 7(4):58–60.
- Lemercier, C. 2015. “Formal Network Methods in History: Why and How?” In *Social Networks, Political Institutions, and Rural Societies*, edited by G. Fertig, 281–310. Turnhout, Belgium: Brepolis.

- . 2023. “22, Historical and Archaeological Network Data.” In *The Oxford Handbook of Archaeological Network Research*, edited by T. Brughmans, B. Mills, J. Munson, and M. Peeples, 347–362. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Nakassis, D. 2013. *Individuals and Society in Mycenaean Pylos*. Leiden: Brill.
- Pagé-Perron, É. 2018. “6, Network Analysis for Reproducible Research on Large Administrative Cuneiform Corpora.” In *CyberResearch on the Ancient Near East and Neighboring Regions: Case Studies on Archaeological Data, Objects, Texts, and Digital Archiving*, edited by É. Pagé-Perron, et al., 194 – 223. Leiden: Brill.
- Palaima, T.G. 2003. “Reviewing the New Linear B Tablets from Thebes.” *Kadmos*, 42: 31–38.
- Verboven, K., M. Carlier, and J. Dumolyn. 2007. “A Short Manual to the Art of Prosopography.” In *Prosopography Approaches and Applications: A Handbook*, ed. K.S.B. Keats-Rohan, pp. 35–69. Oxford.