

## Greeks in Sicily: Indigenous Sicilian and Greek Cultural Exchange in Colonialism

In the 8<sup>th</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> c. B.C.E. Sicily maintained itself as the Mediterranean's multicultural hub, and studying social dynamics during the Greek colonial period on the island allows us to approach the modern world with a more holistic understanding (of what). The Greeks in Sicily are often assumed to have dominated the region, but the archaeological evidence reflects a different reality. This project aims to provide an answer to the question, "When does a group lose their identity and gain a new one?"

Sicilian identity in the 8th to 5th c. B.C.E. formed around an intercultural society primarily influenced by Greek culture. During an extended period of Greek presence in Sicily, indigenous Sicilian identity was progressively absorbed into Greek identity, until it became impossible to separate one group from the other. The Greeks stopped being 'Greek' when they became Sicilian, the archaeological record reflects this in the steadily shifting ritual and funerary architecture of both the indigenous Sicilian groups and the Greek settlers. Consistent cultural contact caused the groups to become unrecognizable from one another.

The poster for this project would be image-based, as the sources used are almost entirely archaeological. The primary goal in designing the poster is to be accessible and immediately comprehensible. The introduction and primary argumentation would be centered, while the main examples would be on the sides of the poster, the conclusions and recommended further reading would be at the bottom so the poster is linear.

## Bibliography

- Johnson, R. 2020. "The curse tablets of Selinous: Evidence of Social Strife?" In M. Jonasch, eds, *The Fight for Greek Sicily: Society, Politics, and Landscape*. Oxford: Oxbow. 107-117
- Hall, J. M. 2012. "Early Greek Settlement in the West: The Limits of Colonialism." In K. Bosher, eds. *Theatre Outside Athens: Drama in Greek Sicily and South Italy*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 19–34.
- Leighton, R. 2000. *Indigenous Society Between the Ninth and Sixth Centuries BC: Territorial, Urban, and Social Evolution*. Edinburgh University Press
- Modrall, E. B. 2011. *Indigenous Identities in Punic Western Sicily*. Diss. University of Pennsylvania.
- Pratolongo, V. 2014. "The Greeks and Indigenous Population of Eastern Sicily in the Classical era." *MedArch* 27: 85-90
- Shepherd, G. 1995. "The Pride of Most Colonials: Burial and Religion in the Sicilian Colonies." *ActaHyp* 6: 51-76
- Spatafora, F. 2018. "Phoenicians, Greeks, and 'Indigenous Peoples' in the Emporia of Sicily." In Gailledrat, E. Dietler, M. and Plana-Mallart, R. eds. *The Emporion in the Ancient Western Mediterranean, Trade and Colonial Encounters from the Archaic to the Hellenistic Period*. Montpellier: Presses Universitaires de la Méditerranée. 181-190.
- Sterngrass, A. 2019 *It's Complicated: Relations Between Greek Settlers and Indigenous Sicilians at Megara Hyblaea, Syracuse, and Leontinoi in the 8<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Centuries BCE*. Diss. Haverford College

Tusa, S. 2019. "Cultural and Ethnic Dynamics in Sicily during Greek Colonization." In Lucas, J., Murray, C. and Owen, S. eds. *Greek Colonization in Local Contexts*. Oxford; Philadelphia: Oxbow. 43-56

Uruquhart, L. 2017. "Graves, Gods, and Extratextual Ritual in Archaic Colonial Sicily." In Blakely, S. eds. *Gods, Objects, and Ritual Practice*. Atlanta, GA: Lockwood Press. 305-328