

## Corinth, Kleonai and Argos: Using Topography and Archaeology to Reevaluate Political Alliance

The Longopotamos river valley was the most travelled thoroughfare between Corinth and the Argolid. On that route, the city of Kleonai represented the northern limit of Argive control before reaching Corinthian territory. Yet the precise details of the boundary between the Corinthia and Kleonaian territory along this route remain up to debate (Bynum 1995; Gauvin 1992; Marchand, 2009). I argue that reconsideration of several features of this route, the cemetery and sanctuary on the Patima and Kibouria hills, the tower known as Kotroni which overlooks the pass, and even mythological references to the route, provide evidence that the Corinthians, and not the Kleonaians, established a fortification point along the route, but both city-states attempted to assert claims over the contested territory.

Examination of this, or any, particular route and pass cannot be carried out either in a topographic or historical vacuum as boundaries between *poleis* were a negotiation of both geography and politics. Thus, this road provides evidence for broader questions about the socio-political relationships between the Corinthia and Argolid, and how they were manifested by territorial disputes in the southern Corinthia.

### Bibliography

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