

Gender Stereotypes in Archaeology

An illustrated booklet deconstructing 21 commonly encountered gender stereotypes in archaeology



The project in a nutshell

Were men the only hunters and producers of tools, art and innovation in prehistory? Were women the only gatherers, home-bound breeders and caregivers? Are all prehistoric female depictions mother goddesses? And do women and men have equal career chances in archaeology? To put it short, no. However, these are some of the gender stereotypes that we still encounter on a daily basis in archaeology from the way archaeologists interpret the past and present it to the general public to how they practice it as a profession.

This booklet is a short but informative and critical response by archaeologists to various gender stereotypes that exist in the archaeological explanation of the past, as well as in the contemporary disciplinary practice. Gender and feminist archaeologists have fought for decades against gender stereotypes through academic writing, museum exhibitions and popular literature, among others. Despite their efforts, many of these stereotypes continue to live and even flourish, both in academic and non-academic settings, especially in countries where gender archaeology does not exist or where gender in archaeology is barely discussed. Given this context and the rise of far right or ultraconservative ideologies and beliefs across the globe, this booklet is a timely and thought-provoking contribution that openly addresses often uncomfortable topics concerning gender in archaeology, in an attempt to raise awareness both among the professionals and fans of the discipline.

The booklet includes the 21 most commonly encountered gender stereotypes in archaeology (see table of contents below IMAGE 1), from the classical image of men as hunters and producers of tools, art and innovation, and women as gatherers and home-bound breeders to queer archaeology being practiced by gay and lesbian researchers or the equal career opportunities of women and men in archaeology. Each stereotype is explained and deconstructed in 250 words by authors consisting of archaeologists with expertise on gender in the past and in contemporary archaeology, most of them being members of the Archaeology and Gender in Europe (AGE) Community of the European Association of Archaeologists. In addition, the stereotypes are beautifully illustrated by Serbian award-winning artist Nikola Radosavljević.



“Gender Stereotypes in Archaeology. An illustrated booklet deconstructing 21 commonly encountered gender stereotypes in archaeology” is a publishing project of the Archaeology and Gender in Europe (AGE) Community of the European Association of Archaeologists.

The funds necessary for carrying out the project are currently being raised through a crowdfunding campaign on the Kickstarter platform. You can read more about the project and support it here: <http://kck.st/3mlg790>.

The deadline for raising the funds is Wednesday, 13 January 2021, 11:37 PM UTC +2:00.

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