

The Impact of Ancient Greek Migration on Sicily: The Case of Morgantina

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Abstract

The ancient city of Morgantina in central east Sicily is one of the key sites for understanding the encounter and interchange of Greek and local communities at the time of the Greek colonization in the central Mediterranean. The city, located on a mountain ridge at the eastern border of the plain of Catania, became increasingly influenced by Greek culture during the Archaic period (600-480 B.C.). Elements of Greek culture are represented in the domestic sphere by architectural features and large amounts of Greek pottery. In the funerary sphere the increasing inclusion of Greek artefacts as well as the adoption of Greek burial customs are observable.

The talk aims to answer the question whether Greek people were residing at the archaic town, and how the process of acculturation of Greek cultural elements by the local population might have worked. By drawing on a number of concepts such as 'elite distinction', 'cultural memory' and the 'agency of things', it is being argued that besides others the usage of Greek items in daily life and particularly in the funerary rituals contributed to a process of identity transition of the local population in several stages.