

Exploring territoriality during the Second Venetian period in the Peloponnese.

A. Kalliopi Efkleidou¹

¹Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, University Campus, 54124, Thessaloniki, Greece,
kalefkleidou@hotmail.com

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Abstract

The recently published cadastral maps (*disegni*) drawn by the Venetians during their second rule of the Peloponnese (1687-1715) provide a wealth of information regarding the administrative land divisions in force. The cadastral maps, which documented the settlements and the limits of their territory, formed integral parts of the cadastral books (*catastici*). In the latter we find descriptions in text of the settlements, their territorial boundaries, and their economic resources and yield. What is noticeable in these cadastral maps is the fact that the territories are highly irregular in shape and size. This irregularity highly contrasts the results of various computational approaches proposed to date to model site territories.

The purpose of this paper is to explore how settlement territories were constructed and enacted during the Second Venetian rule following an agent-based analysis of their qualitative and quantitative characteristics. Making a combined use of the spatial attributes of the territories shown on the cadastral maps and the text descriptions of land uses and population figures for each territory, these territories will be analysed based on their land use variability and agricultural yield, as well as aspects of visibility and mobility. The results of these analyses are subsequently compared to computational models developed on the principles of von Thünen's model of the Isolated Town, Christaller's Central Place theory and Thiessen Polygons and widely implemented today by archaeologists to model past territories.

The underlying goal, then, of this paper is to pinpoint some of the factors that may have influenced communities in the past in defining the limits of their settlement territories.