

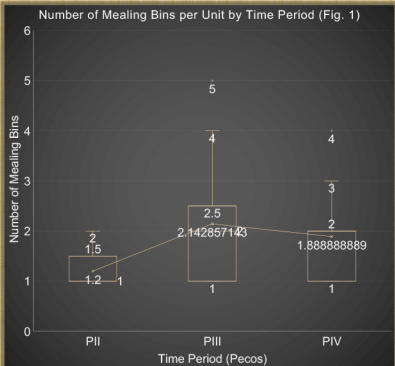


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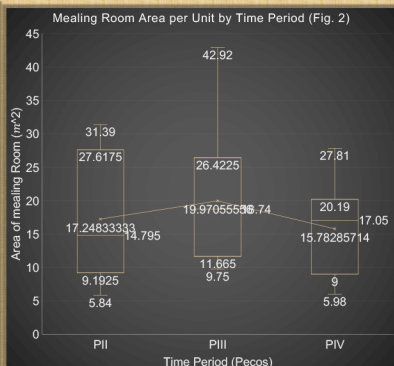
Introduction: Archaeology is the study of people through the objects they have left behind; however, as a result of its foundation in western ideology a large portion of its research is biased. Using what archaeologists now understand about the biases of the past, I consider gender in the Mogollon-Mimbres region during the Pithouse to Pueblo transition through the archaeological feature of mealing bins. Mealing facilities are an object found in both pithouse and pueblo sites that were used to ground various materials, one of the most important products being maize, the major food staple of the Mimbres-Mogollon. Mealing facilities can be useful in understanding the causes of the Pithouse to Pueblo transition, because they are a critical step in food production. My project is grounded in previous archaeological analyses and critiques of the study of the spatial components of a structure and their relation to cultural analysis and past biases in archaeology (Lekson 2006; Naranjo 2008; Ortman 1998; Pasqual 2017; Wylie 1992). In my analysis I used four major components of the data I collected time period, subregion, number of mealing bins, and mealing room area. My goal is to understand women's roles in society, how they were viewed by society, and if this changed as a result of this period. In this thesis, I examine the mealing facilities of the Mimbres-Mogollon archaeological culture dating to before and after the Pithouse to Pueblo transition.

Conclusions

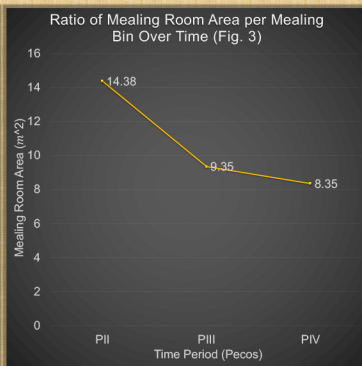
Conclusions: Based on the evidence I think there are two possible actions at play in the Pithouse to Pueblo Transition. One possibility is given the overall decrease in mealing room area per one mealing bin (Figure 3), I think this could relate to the peripheralization of women in the Mimbres-Mogollon. Like the shift discussed by Mobely-Tanaka, this could be the result of a disappearance of specific ritualized subterranean mealing spaces after the PII period. I did not come across any evidence for subterranean ritualized spaces, but there is a shift in occupation in the Mimbres-Mogollon from subterranean structures to above ground structures. I think it is entirely possible that there is a similar shift in the peripheralization of women. Another possibility is the transition and shift in household groups. In the analysis of the time periods, it was clear that through time the number of mealing bins per unit increased from PII to PIII and then decreased after the start of PIV (Figure 1 and 2). In following Peoples (2011) and Ortman (Ortman 1998) I believe the data represents evidence of smaller household organization and solidarity. This trend in mealing room area and mealing bin number through time seems to have been the result of a shift in the household organization from a larger model seen in the PIII to a smaller model seen in PIV, despite the increased population (Ortman 1998; Peoples 2011). Additionally, due to the decrease in mealing room area per one mealing bin it also seems that there must have been a shift in the visibility and ritual agency of women at this time period (Mobley-Tanaka 1997).



From **Figure 1**, through time there is a growth in mealing bins per unit from the PII which exhibits a peak in the PIII period and a subsequent decrease in the PIV period. This raises the question of how come at the end of the transition there was a decrease in mealing room area, knowing that there was also an increase in population during this timeframe.



Using **Figure 2** we can see even more trends in the means of the area of mealing room area through time that again doesn't correspond exactly with the pithouse to pueblo transition. Again, the trend shows that from PII to PIII there is an increase in the mean of the mealing bins per unit over time, and then following the PIII period there is a decrease into the PIV.



Given these initial observations (Figure 1 and 2) I also created a figure of the ratio between the mealing room area and the number of mealing bins in **Figure 3**. This proves further that the space allotted for mealing has a negative association with time, in that over time in the Mimbres-Mogollon region the ratio of mealing bins to mealing area decreases.