**THE PITHOUSE TO PUEBLO TRANSITION, MEALING FACILITIES, AND THE MIMBRES-MOGOLLON**

**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 mealng bins. Mealng 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. Mealng 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; Ortmann 1998; Pasquale 1977; Wylie 1992). In my analysis I used four major components of the data I collected time period, subregion, number of mealng bins, and mealng 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 mealng facilities of the Mimbres-Mogollon archaeological culture dating to before and after the Pithouse to Pueblo transition.

---

**Conclusions:** Based on the evidence I think there are two possible actions at play in the Pithouse to Pueblo Transition. One possibility is the overall decrease in mealng room area per one mealng 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 mealng spaces after the PIII 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 mealng bins per unit increased from PII to PIII and then decreased after the start of PIV (Figure 1 and 2). In following Peeples (2011) and Ortmann (Ortmann 1998) I believe the data represents evidence of smaller household organization and solidarity. This trend in mealng room area and mealng 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 (Ortmann 1998, Peeples 2011). Additionally, due to the decrease in mealng room area per one mealng bin it also seems that there must have been a shift in the visibility and ritual agency of women at this time period (Mobely-Tanaka 1997).