

SITUATING GENDER IN EUROPEAN ARCHAEOLOGIES

Edited by

**Liv Helga Dommasnes, Tove Hjørungdal, Sandra Montón-Subías,
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Front Cover Illustration

Gold foil from Rogaland in western Norway showing a man and a woman, often interpreted as the Nordic Vanir god Freyr and his wife Gerd from the family of Giants. 7th–8th century AD.

(Photo: Svein Skare. © Bergen Museum, University of Bergen, Norway.)

Back Cover Illustration

Dama Elche (Museo Arqueológico Nacional, Madrid)

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Preface

The seeds for this volume began as plans to ensure that gender would be addressed explicitly at the 2008 meeting of the European Association of Archaeologists. Two separate groups of us each began planning a session to propose for the upcoming conference. However, as we became aware of how similar our ideas were, we decided to join together and propose one unified all-day symposium. Thus a session on “New Pathways to Engendering the Past” was organized by the five co-editors for the 14th Annual Meeting of the EAA held at Valletta, Malta, on 19 September 2008. We would like to thank the conference organizing committee for accepting our proposal and making it possible to have such a large session.

Almost all of the presentations at Valletta are now published here. Many of the authors were able to enlarge their conference contributions and a few adjusted their topics somewhat. The contacts we established at that meeting have been invaluable through the writing and editing process for this book and also contributed to the formation of an EAA working party on Archaeology and Gender in Europe (AGE).

Editing a book with five co-editors may sound like an unwieldy process. To a certain extent, we took different roles in the process, but we all read and commented upon each of the papers. Thus we had input from many points of view, and in each case authors received comments from readers outside their own language groups. By design, it was a feminist multi-vocal expression.

Our sincere gratitude goes to Erzsébet Jerem for her encouragement and her willingness to accept this volume in the Series Minor of *Archaeolingua*. We are delighted that our collection of papers is published by *Archaeolingua* since one of the issues we take up is how gender archaeology varies among different linguistic and national groups of Europe.

As five co-editors, we each have many personal thanks that we cannot express here, but I (Nancy) would like to thank Liv Helga Dommasnes for procuring funds from the University of Bergen for me to come from Uppsala to Bergen to work on the book face-to-face in November 2009 while I was on sabbatical from the University of Mississippi. I also want to acknowledge my considerable debt to Fruzsina Cseh of *Archaeolingua* Press who graciously answered my tedious questions as I took on an additional editing role as the only native English speaker among the five co-editors.

We (Sandra, Marga, Tove, and Liv Helga) also want to thank Nancy for acting as a contact person between the group of editors and *Archaeolingua*. Even more

important, she took on the task of reviewing the language of all the contributions. In doing this, she had to keep the balance between two considerations. On the one hand, the language should be brought into line with standard English, but on the other hand, the various cultural and academic traditions represented must be respected. We think she has succeeded very well. Thank you!

Finally, our greatest thanks are extended to the authors for entrusting their papers to us and for their thought-provoking contributions.

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Bergen, Gothenburg, Barcelona, Granada, and Oxford MS, June 2010

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Margarita Sánchez Romero, and Nancy L. Wicker