

## **PRINCESS**

**Politics & Royal Foreign Women in the Court of Egypt: A New Analysis of Diplomatic Marriages during Late Bronze Age (1550-1060 BC)**

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The PRINCESS project aims to study the foreign women of the royal entourage during the Late Bronze Age in Egypt (1550-1060 BC) through the analysis of diplomatic marriages. These political unions that the Pharaoh contracted with the sisters and daughters of the rulers of the foreign Great Powers (Hatti, Mittani, Assyria and Babylonia) are well attested in the textual documentation of the Ancient Near East and Egypt. However, these unions were unilateral between the Egyptian kings and their neighbours as Pharaoh always refused to give one of his daughters in marriage.

The originality of this project is based on the fact that it involves the study of both Egyptian and Ancient Near Eastern sources (textual, archaeological and iconographic data), which allows an interdisciplinary approach. In addition, it combines the study of the funerary practices of these royal women, as well as of their ladies-in-waiting. Indeed, new archaeological data coming from tombs recently discovered in Luxor will be associated with fieldwork led by the fellow on the site of Gurob (Fayum, Egypt) connected with the remains of a harem-palace and an important foreign population. All the data will be analysed in the light of gender studies and gender archaeology, in order to set up innovative models of reflection and methodology. An interdisciplinary comparative investigation on marriage policy and the relation between women and power on a broader scale will be led.

The aim of the research is to highlight their role and status as well as their degree of acculturation at the Egyptian court. This project is crucial to understand the complexity of alliances in ancient worlds through the study of foreign women. This project is housed by the CNRS, team HAROC, under the supervision of Dr. Aline Tenu and a secondment will take place at Basel University under the supervision of Pr. Susanne Bickel.