

# **“Home away from home” Institutionalizing notions of Home and Homeland in Greek migrations in Antiquity**

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## **Abstract**

Ancient Greek migrations of the mid-8th to the late 6th century BCE constitute a unique body of evidence for comparative migration studies. From a world-historical perspective we can, for the first time, study systematically the movement of people from their Homeland to a “New World”.

The ancient Greeks themselves called the cities of their New World “apoikia”, literally meaning “Home away from Home”. The Greek migrations created a new cultural geography which resulted in the mutual recognition of cultural similarities between Homeland and “New World”, between Homeland and “Home away from Home”. This paper addresses the production of notions of Home and Homeland at a household and community level in ancient Greek migrations, from selected case studies.

Notions of Home and Homeland cultivated on an individual or household level are often difficult to understand. The evidence is often fragmentary but seems to point to the reproduction of Home and Homeland through the use of particular vessels for the preparation and consumption of food and drinks, as well as for domestic ritual.

Links to Home and Homeland on a household level probably were short-lived and might not have been maintained beyond (presumably) the third generation of migrants. Notions of Home and Homeland were, however, soon institutionalized at a community level. The new mixed communities that resulted from migration and integration generated new identities in which belonging was expressed in terms of a single foundation act of the community by a “leader”. This leader could be a mythical hero (e.g. Heracles), a god (e.g. Apollo) or an (invented) human noble. Foundation myths and shared community identities were materialized through public monuments, festivals and rituals.

