
Comparing floor constructions from the epicenter and the periphery of Teotihuacan: A microcontextual investigation

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Résumé

This poster presents microcontextual analysis of floor constructions from Teotihuacan, Mexico. Our research investigates craftsmanship, domestic and political life and the relation of these to processes of urbanization, administration, and governance. To this aim our geoarchaeological study focusses on the reconstruction of building techniques of floors, their use and maintenance as well as variation in different contexts. We employ micromorphology coupled with Fourier-transform infrared spectroscopy on the constructed floors. Our materials come from excavations of the *Proyecto Arqueológico Tlajinga, Teotihuacan* in 2013 and 2014 as well as from excavations of the *Proyecto Plaza de las Columnas* in 2017. These excavations uncovered domestic households and an obsidian workshop at *Tlajinga*, located in the periphery of Teotihuacan, as well as palatial structures and elite residential units at the *Plaza de las Columnas*, in the epicenter of the city. Our preliminary analyses show variations between these two broad contexts, the epicenter and the periphery, as well as within each of these contexts. Floors at *Tlajinga* are mainly simple stamped earth floors and more rarely crushed *tepetate* floors. Little microscopic remains could be observed on the surface of the floors; they appear to have been regularly swept. At *Plaza de las Columnas* building techniques are more elaborate. We observed a predominance of crushed *tepetate* floors, of variable thickness and sorting, in outdoor areas. Plastering of floors also occurred. Indoor floor constructions in elite residential and administrative buildings are typically composed of a subfloor of crushed *tepetate* followed by a concrete layer, topped with a lime plaster layer, which is often colored with red pigment. We also observed replastering in one instance. These preliminary analysis illustrate the great potential of microcontextual analysis of construction materials to reconstruct domestic life and status variability at Teotihuacan.

Mots-Clés: Teotihuacan, Floor constructions, Micromorphology, FTIR

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