



14<sup>th</sup> International Congress on the Archaeology  
of the Ancient Near East

## ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

# Kura-Araxes Cultural Phenomenon: Variability, Continuity and Dissolution

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## Abstract

Kura-Araxes (KA) communities (3500/3600-2500/2400 BC) spread in the first half of the 3rd millennium BC over a wide area between the Great Caucasus and Dagestan in the north, Jordan Valley in the south, from the Amuq Valley in the west to the Kangavar Valley in the east. Throughout the territory of its distribution, the material culture of the phenomenon is characterized by variability on the one hand and conservatism on the other. Each of KA communities had a somewhat different trajectory of development, resulting in distinct patterns of material culture. Being conservative, KA communities preserved the principles formed in homeland and refused to take part in the growing centralization of production and technological innovations. The proposed workshop asks to discuss these features and especially the manner in which KA conservatism and variability are manifested in material culture in different regions of the distribution of the phenomenon.

The workshop aims to discuss how Kura-Araxes communities shape, reproduce and dissolve their lifestyles and traditions by exploring different aspects of the material culture and their social and cultural implications. The second purpose of the workshop is to discuss the specific aspects of KA phenomenon in comparison with preceding and subsequent cultures and traditions. The participants in the workshop are researchers working on various cultural and social aspects of KA communities in the Caucasus, Anatolia and Levant. The following topics will be discussed:

Variability and invariableness of different components of KA material culture.

Site-specific and regional narratives of economic and social processes in different KA communities.

Cultural and social boundary making.

Intercommunal cultural interactions and shared social practices identified in the material culture.

The concepts of change and transitions in KA communities and the mechanisms involved in change.

Possible connections of the KA phenomenon with preceding and subsequent phenomena and cultures.

## Keywords

Kura-Araxes, Caucasus, Boundary making, Variability, Cultural interactions

## Program

R. Badalyan (Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography, National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Armenia) "Homogeneity and Heterogeneity: General and Specific Aspects in the Kura-Araxes Culture of Armenia"

E. Luneau (German Archaeological Institute), G. Chilingarashvili (Georgian National Museum) and S. Hansen (German Archaeological Institute) "Variability and variation in the Kura-Araxes and Bedeni pottery assemblages from Irmis Rka, Georgia"

N. Ismayilova (University of Oxford), G. Maurer (University College London) and S. Ashurov (Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology, Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences) "Establishing Kura-Araxes socio-economic practices in Azerbaijan: Continuity or Change?"

B. Perello (CNRS), L. Aghikyan (Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography, National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Armenia), R. Badalyan (Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography, National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Armenia), C. Menager (CNRS) and T. Mibord (CNRS) "The Ayrum-Teghut Facies in the Kura-Araxes Context: Synthesis and New Data from the Tavush Region (Armenia)"

Y. Rotem (Israel Antiquities Authority), K. Hruby (German Archaeological Institute) and M. Iserlis (German Archaeological Institute) "Opportunistic variability, anti-urbanism, or both? Ground stone tools of the KKW and local villagers based on new findings from the Tel Yaquash, Jordan Valley"

S. Paz (Università Ca' Foscari Venezia) "Assembling the Kura-Araxes: The Emergence, Spread and Persistence of Material, Cultural and Social Identity in the Caucasus and Beyond"

G. Palumbi (CNRS), M.B. D'Anna (Österreichisches Archäologisches Institut), P. Fragnoli (Österreichisches Archäologisches Institut), M. Rageot (Eberhard-Karls-Universität Tübingen). "Changes and continuities in pottery making and foodways along the 3rd millennium BCE. Comparing Kura-Araxes and Bedeni communities at Qaraçınar (Azerbaijan)"

N. Knudsen (Tel Aviv University) "Khirbet Kerak Ware figurines in the southern Levant: a comparative overview"

## Type of paper

Workshop