



ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Farming and its Societal Impacts during the Bronze and Iron Ages in Southwest Asia

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Abstract

Developments in farming are closely tied to socio-economic, political, and environmental changes. In Southwest Asia throughout the Bronze and Iron Ages, we see the use of ploughing, manuring, and irrigation, as well as the existence of pastoralism, horticulture, and specialised economies. This is a period in history characterised by so-called waves of urbanism: intense urbanisation phases alternated with periods of de-centralisation and ruralisation, both showing signs of complex economies. We also see the rise of empires practising expansionist policies (including colonialism), the influx of new cultural groups and peoples, and major climatic events such as the 4.2 ka and 3.2 ka events causing aridification.

Research suggests changes in farming had consequences for the economy, culture, and urbanism in past societies. To understand the impacts agriculture has on society, different methodologies and materials can be used: biochemical analyses, textual evidence, architecture, bioarchaeology, ceramic typology, etc.

This workshop will be part of the theme "Life and death: human behaviour and practices, focussing on the subsistence and economy of past societies, particularly food provisioning and land use. The goal is to understand the similarities and differences in how farming affects societies throughout Southwest Asia, and how past empires, landscapes, economies, and cultures impact this. Through the presentation and discussion of case studies and syntheses, a broader narrative can be constructed for Southwest Asia which can eventually be fitted into a global overview.

Keywords

Farming, Urbanism, Land use, Society, Economy

Program

SLOT 1 (4 talks)

The political economy of farming in Late Bronze Age western Anatolia

Tom Maltas

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Empires of cattle and grain: Traction related bone deformations and feeding practices of cattle as indices of political economies in Bronze and Iron Age Anatolia

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The agropolitics and agroecologies of farming in Bronze and Iron Age central Anatolia

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Animal management in Shahr-i Sokhta. A zooarchaeological perspective to understanding the rise and decline of the settlement between the half of the 4th and the end of the 3rd millennium BC

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SLOT 2 (4 talks)

The tell in its landscape: first results of archaeobotanical analyses from Gird i Dasht, Soran, Iraqi Kurdistan

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The rapid success and failure of a self-provisioning food system at Early Bronze Age III Tell el-Hesi

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The emergence of fruit-tree cultivation: a socio-economic perspective

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Farming and empire in the southern Levant during the Bronze and Iron Ages

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Type of paper

Workshop