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ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

The role of pottery in communities from the southern Levant to Anatolia 9000-6000 cal BP

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Abstract

Pottery assemblages from the Pottery Neolithic period and onwards were the focus of countless studies. They addressed their main typologies, vessel surface treatments, raw material procurement, and production technology. These studies provided the foundation for subregional, regional and interregional time-space systematics and cultural subdivisions—issues often discussed and debated in archaeology.

This session wishes to view and consider pottery from a different perspective, which recognizes the role that pottery played in the cultural and perceptual makeup of communities throughout the Pottery Neolithic and Chalcolithic periods (9000–6000 cal BP) from the southern Levant to Anatolia.

In particular, the session will address the effects ceramic vessels and their production had, on the one hand, on divorcing the hunter-gatherer lifeway and ethos and, on the other hand, the later, full establishment of productive, fully-fledged agriculture-based economies on the verge of urban societies. We would like to address the impact of pottery on socio-economic dynamics during the Pottery Neolithic and Chalcolithic periods, examine how it is expressed in human behaviors, and discuss the extent to which pottery took part in shaping the newly established worldviews and state of mind of these communities.

The geographical scope considered extends from the southern Levant to Anatolia, so that we can discuss issues related to how pottery may have affected connectivity between different regions of the Near East while offering an opportunity to explore the wide-ranging role of pottery and allowing for a comparative view of its effects in various parts of the Ancient Near East.

Keywords

pottery, neolithic-Chalcolithic, Near East, role, social behaviors

Program

Isabella Caneva (Università del Salento, Lecce, Italy): Pottery and society at Mersin-Yumuktepe, Turkey, between the seventh and the fifth mill. BC.

Arkadiusz Marciniak (Adam Mickiewicz University Poznań, Poznań, Poland): The potential of pottery in strengthening and expanding of the Central Anatolian Neolithic.

Mehmet Özdoğan (Istanbul University, Istanbul, Turkey): From kebab to soup—changes consequential to introducing pottery.

Akira Tsuneki (University of Tsukuba, Tsukuba, Japan): Containers for spirits-symbolic meaning of early pottery and stone vessels discovered in Tell el Kerkh.

Avi Gopher (Tel Aviv University, Tel Aviv, Israel): Trends of change in pottery assemblages along the Pottery Neolithic sequence of the southern Levant: an anatomy of divorcing the Hunter–Gatherer ethos.

Ianir Milevski (Israel Antiquities Authority, Jerusalem, Israel): The social evolution of the Late Prehistory of the southern Levant through the lens of pottery production. A dialectical perspective.

Dina Shalem (Israel Antiquities Authority, Akko, Israel): A suggested counting system in the southern Levant during the Pottery Neolithic–Chalcolithic periods based on finds from 'En Esur, Israel.

Type of paper

Workshop