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of the Ancient Near East

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

The Arabian Neolithic: towards a comprehensive definition

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Abstract

Archaeological research and excavation projects exploring the origins and development of the Neolithic era in the Arabian Peninsula have been active since the 1970s across various regions of the Peninsula. With archaeologists pursuing diverse research interests and agendas, our understanding of the Neolithic period in Arabia (approximately 8000-4000 BC) has evolved into a complex and varied picture over the past 50 years. Consequently, our current understanding of the Arabian Neolithic remains fragmented. Given the Peninsula's strategic geographical location, it likely played a pivotal role in facilitating cultural exchanges between the Fertile Crescent, East Africa, and Central Asia. However, without a comprehensive understanding of Neolithic societies in Arabia, the full scope and nature of these interactions remain unclear. Recent progress in paleoenvironmental and paleoclimatic studies has laid the groundwork for establishing a general chronological framework for the Neolithic era in the Arabian Peninsula. Changes in climate would have significantly impacted human societies and their use of diverse environments. Despite these advances, it remains crucial to integrate archaeological findings from the various research institutions involved in Neolithic studies in the region. The upcoming workshop at ICAANE in Lyon in June 2025 aims to unite leading specialists to address and define the key questions, challenges, and shared objectives in this field. In addition to exploring the origins of the Neolithic and working towards a comprehensive chronological framework, the workshop will facilitate the integration of archaeological data from areas such as prehistoric technology and findings from excavations, surveys, and expeditions, which shape our current understanding of the Arabian Neolithic. The conference will also cover aspects of paleoclimates and paleoenvironments, lithic technology, ornamentation and ceramics, mobility and settlement patterns, social structures, and subsistence strategies on a broad regional scale.

Keywords

Arabia, Neolithic, theory, dispersals, interdisciplinarity

Program

- 1) The human environmental resilience and desert subsistence in Neolithic Oman (HERDS in Oman) Archaeological Project**
Lucas Proctor (J.W. Goethe University Frankfurt, Germany), & Maria Pia Maiorano (Czech Academy of Sciences, Prague, Czech Republic)
- 2) First insights into mobility and subsistence in Southeastern Arabian Neolithic: the isotopic evidence**
Alb?ta Danielisová, & Jiří Šneberger, (Czech Academy of Sciences, Prague, Czech Republic)
- 3) Lost in transition: the Final Paleolithic / Neolithic assemblages of Shaqat Jadailah and Wadi Sayy (7500-4500 BCE, Southern Oman)**
Maria Pia Maiorano (Czech Academy of Sciences, Prague, Czech Republic), & Dominik Chlachula (Czech Academy of Sciences, Brno, Czech Republic)
- 4) The Neolithic of the Arabian Peninsula: a synthesis**
Rémy Crassard (CNRS Archéorient, Lyon, France)
- 5) Last results from the As-Sabiyah Neolithic settlement, Kuwait**
Piotr Bielinski (Warsaw University, Poland)
- 6) Very early Neolithic from northern Saudi Arabia: the PPNB influence**
Sumio Fujii (Kanazawa University, Japan)
- 7) Mustatils and the Middle/Late Neolithic occupation of Arabia**
Hugh Thomas, & Melissa Kennedy (University of Sydney, Australia)
- 8) The Ghagha Neolithic sites in perspective (United Arab Emirates)**
Noura Al Hameli (DCT Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates)
- 9) Underwater Neolithic projects in the Abu Dhabi emirate**
Richard Cuttler (DCT Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates)
- 10) Faunal remains from the Neolithic sites of Marawah, Delma, and Ghagha (United Arab Emirates)**
Kevin Lidour (DCT Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates)
- 11) The NeoArabia Project: a synthesis**
Jean-François Berger (CNRS EVS, Lyon, France)
- 12) Cave sites in UAE and Oman: perspectives**
Ash Parton (Oxford University, UK) & Knut Bretzke (Iena University, Germany)

Type of paper

Workshop