



## ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

# The Materiality of Figurines and Terracottas in the Iron Age Southern Levant

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## Abstract

Clay figurines and other figurative objects (as figurative stands or models) are common artifacts linked with cult and tradition in antiquity in general, and in the Iron Age Levant in particular. On top of their symbolic and stylistic characteristics, which relate to the message they may convey, and their social or cultural attributes, the technology of their manufacture or their “materiality” is another important component, whether related to household religion, or to more formal, public temple cult. For example, whether these objects were locally produced in the site they were used or imported from other locations, can indicate their meaning and function in relation to regional pilgrimage. Also, if they were mass-produced in a single workshop, this might indicate a temple-related workshop, or certain centralization of household cult. Non-centralized production may indicate a different tradition. The paper, employing compositional analysis of the clay of these objects, will focus on the Iron Age Southern Levant, examining two assemblages of terracottas: One related to a temple in Philistia (stands or house models from Yavneh) and the other, related to Judean household cult (figurines).

## Keywords

figurines, petrography, Levant, Iron Age

## Session

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