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## ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

# Alabaster in the Southern Levant. Regional Dynamics in the Use of Alabaster Objects

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## Abstract

In archaeology, “Alabaster” describes that precious, white-yellowish, rock out of which various types of stone vessels were produced. Those were often used for funerary or cultic purposes, with its peak during the Bronze Age. However, when archaeologists use the term “Alabaster” they could be describing different geological materials: Calcium-carbonate (referred to as “Calcite-Alabaster” by the author), traditionally interpreted as an Egyptian import, and calcium-sulfate (referred to as “Gypsum-Alabaster” by the author) which is usually interpreted as crafted locally in the Southern Levant.

These vessels can be found in various contexts, often used for funerary or cultic purposes. This paper aims to investigate the distribution and usage of Calcite-Alabaster and Gypsum-Alabaster vessels in the Southern Levant. It examines their appearance in different contexts and how different types of vessels were used across the region. By analyzing these regional differences, the paper aims to reveal how the use of Calcite-Alabaster and Gypsum vessels reflects broader trade and cultural patterns, for instance, if there are shifts in the vessel's cultural or economic significance.

## Keywords

Alabaster, Bronze Age, Southern Levant

## Session

7. Characterizing culture ?

## Type of paper

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