



ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

A multidisciplinary investigation of funerary structures in Northwestern Saudi Arabia: Insights from the Khaybar region (Late Chalcolithic to Late Bronze Age)

BEC DRELON N.^{1*}, *POULMARC'H M.*¹, *ALARASHI H.*², *ALMUSHAWH M.*³, *CHARLOUX G.*⁴, *SHABO S.*⁴, *GUADAGNINI K.*⁴, *CRASSARD R.*¹

¹ CNRS, Université Lyon, Archéorient UMR 5133, Lyon, France

² CNRS, Université d'Azur, CEPAM UMR 7274, Nice, France

³ Royal Commission for Alula, Saudi Arabia, Al-Ula, Saudi Arabia

⁴ CNRS, Orient et Méditerranée UMR 8167, Paris, France

*Corresponding author

Abstract

The Arabian Peninsula is dotted with hundreds of thousands of dry-stone, sometimes megalithic, funerary structures. Our research area, located in northwestern Saudi Arabia near the modern city of Khaybar and spanning 56 square kilometers, has revealed more than 14,000 funerary structures. Until now, the lack of systematic, multidisciplinary research has prevented any depth study of these tombs. To address this gap, as part of the Khaybar Longue Durée Archaeological Project, we have adopted a combined approach to study both the architecture and the funerary practices associated with these structures. This presentation aims to provide an overview of our findings from the excavation of 60 tombs and the spatial and statistical analysis of the architectural characteristics of 1,200 tombs. Our results include nearly 40 radiocarbon dates, ranging from the late 4th to the 1st millennium BC. These, together with our architectural and artifact studies, have allowed us to establish a typological and chronological framework for the tombs in the Khaybar region. We will present our results on funerary practices, particularly the discovery of primary deposits and our study of the buried population. Additionally, we will propose our hypotheses about the evolution of the funerary landscape and its connection to the inhabited areas.

Keywords

megalithic funerary monument, funerary practices, Late Chalcolithic, Bronze Age, North-western Arabia

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