



ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

The Arabian cairns project : a collaborative, multidisciplinary approach to protohistoric monumental tombs in the Arabian Peninsula

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Abstract

This contribution presents the ARABIANCAIRNS Project, funded by the French National Research Agency (2022-2026), and which aims to analyze the large-scale megalithic phenomenon of cairn tombs, emblematic of protohistoric Arabia (c. 5500-300 BCE). Based on a large and well-distributed corpus, ARABIANCAIRNS aims at reconstructing the history of these tombs and their builders through an integrated, multiscale and interdisciplinary approach combining archaeology, biological anthropology, isotope geochemistry, paleoproteomics, geoarchaeology and spatial analyses. Our goals are to (1) characterize the cultural identities, subsistence strategies, lifestyles, and interconnections of the societies that erected these tombs; (2) define a reliable chronological framework for understanding the temporal diffusion of this megalithic phenomenon; (3) create a GIS for necropolises and associated metadata throughout the Arabian Peninsula in relation to their environment and provide a geoarchaeological framework for tracking exchange networks.

To achieve these objectives, the methods consist in compiling, homogenizing, analysing, and mapping a considerable amount of data - implying archaeological, bioanthropological, isotopic, radiocarbon, as well as geographic and environmental data - acquired during this project through 3 study windows, and from literature and unpublished previous studies.

Keywords

Tombs, Arabia, protohistory

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