



## ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

# Rural settlement patterns in southern Jordan (centuries 12th-16th): preliminary remarks from the Petra and Shobak areas

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## Abstract

This paper examines the material evidence from archaeological excavations conducted at four sites in southern Jordan: Al Wu'ayra (Petra), Shbeikeh and Sihan (Shobak), and Jarba (Udruh). The research focuses on rural settlements from the 12th to the 16th centuries, a period characterized by the continuous presence of semi-imperial and imperial powers such as the Crusaders, Ayyubids, and Mamluks. The analysis is based on material evidence uncovered during survey and excavation activities in these areas, following a light archaeology approach. These activities were conducted by the Medieval Petra/Shobak Project archaeological mission of the University of Florence - directed by Michele Nuccioti - during the 2021-2024 campaigns. The study aims to shed light on the social, economic, and cultural dynamics of these rural communities under the influence of successive powers. To this end, four different types of sites were selected: one demoted from Crusader castle to village, one in close proximity to, and one peripheral to, the central political hub of Shobak, and a possible small town located on the highland plateau of Udruh. The material findings from these sites provide new insights into the interactions between local populations and ruling elites during a transformative period in the region's history.

## Keywords

Islamic archaeology, Medieval Transjordan, material culture, rural settlements, Middle Islamic period

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