



## ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

# Umma Survey Project: Results on the Uruk Period (4000-3100 BC)

*ROST S. <sup>1</sup>\*, DI MICHELE A. <sup>2</sup>*

<sup>1</sup> City University of New York QCC, Bayside, NY, United States

<sup>2</sup> independent researcher, Bologna, Italy

\*Corresponding author

## Abstract

The Uruk Period (4000–3100 BC) represents a watershed moment in Mesopotamian history, associated with the advent of urbanism and state formation. However, the processes behind the rise of urban state society are poorly understood due to insufficient archaeological data, especially on settlement behavior and demographics. When large-scale data were collected in the 1950s, no reliable pottery sequence for Mesopotamia existed. What has been defined archaeologically as the “Uruk Period” spans nearly an entire millennium. Although subsequent excavations allowed for a division of the Uruk Period into early, middle, and late, uncertainties still plague the pottery sequence. This paper presents preliminary results from the Umma Survey Project, which targets a 2,000 km<sup>2</sup> area east of Al-Rifai in Dhi Qar Province, South Iraq. Of the 57 surveyed sites, 16 show Uruk occupation, while four have a single-period occupation. The ceramic assemblages of those sites are crucial for refining the pottery sequence and improving its chronological resolution. This, in turn, will allow us to describe the settlement history of the region with greater precision and enhance our understanding of the development of urbanism and socio-political complexity in Southern Mesopotamia.

## Keywords

South Mesopotamia, Uruk Period, Early Urbanism, Archaeological Survey , Umma Region

## Session

1. Advances in Near Eastern Archaeology

## Type of paper

Oral presentation