



## ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

# Filling the gap: new data on the painted pottery from north-western Iran during the early third millennium BCE

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## Abstract

The material culture from the LC to EBA transition shows that in the northern Iranian area there was a socio-cultural region distinct from the Kura-Araxes which was located around the Urmia Lake, but also present in the region of present-day Iraqi Kurdistan. The Zagros Mountains has long been considered a cultural barrier, although in ancient times it was a place of interaction between Mesopotamia and the Iranian plateau. Data from archaeological works carried out by Iranian colleagues over the past 40 years have often remained little known to the international scientific community, and this has created a knowledge gap. Recently, the study of the dynamics of this region has taken on a new role in the knowledge of ancient West Asian societies. An understanding of the spatial and social dynamics between different cultures interacting in the same territory has been achieved by correlating spatial and material data to provide an integrated picture of this area, where there are still many open questions. New data from excavations in both Iran and Kurdistan open new scenarios and allow us to investigate the connections between Mesopotamia and the Iranian plateau in a period which was key for the urbanization process of the highlands.

## Keywords

Early Bronze Age, Painted pottery, Iran, Zagros, Material culture

## Session

1. Advances in Near Eastern Archaeology

## Workshop

A16348LV - Crisis and Rebirth: Re-visiting the LC-EBA transition between the Zagros fringe and the Mesopotamian Alluvium

## Type of paper

Oral presentation