



## ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

# The Late Chalcolithic Early Bronze Age Transition at Kani Shaie: Questioning the Collapse.

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## Abstract

The Late Chalcolithic (LC, c.4500-3200 BCE) saw the increasing interconnectivity of much of Mesopotamia, culminating with the globalising Uruk Phenomenon. Its collapse saw the reversal of many trajectories which characterised the previous millennia, seen most characteristically via the re-emergence of highly decorative pottery traditions. The first half of the Early Bronze Age (EBA; c.3200-2600 BCE) then sits somewhat uncomfortably between the highly interconnected 'World System' of the Uruk Phenomenon, and the second half of the EBA as an interluding period of cultural fragmentation, even societal collapse.

Pottery production is the realisation of a set of social and technological choices. Thus, sudden changes to it are socially and culturally significant. Within this presentation, I will present the stratigraphic and ceramic sequence of the LC-EB transition at Kani Shaie and explore aspects relating to pottery production across this period to investigate the effects of these societal transformations, and how the occupants at Kani Shaie adapted to them. Despite undeniable changes at the end of the LC, evidence presented suggests a greater degree of continuity between the LC and EBA than anticipated and perhaps a more nuanced appreciation of this transition is therefore warranted.

## Keywords

Ceramics, Zagros, Late Chalcolithic, Early Bronze Age, Kurdistan

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