



ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Collective resilience in a prehistoric diaspora; Insights from the Kura-Araxes cultural tradition

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Abstract

incorporating perspectives from semiotics, collective memory, social psychology, and anthropology, this study offers a comprehensive view of the social identity of Kura-Araxes groups. This paper explores the Kura-Araxes community's adaptation and social cohesion in the context of displacement. Communities moving beyond familiar cultural zones face the dual challenge of adapting to new landscapes and maintaining social solidarity. Migrants often have to navigate fluctuating identities, balancing self-redefining in unfamiliar host areas with reaffirming their own cultural essence. By analyzing the Kura-Araxes material culture, this study investigates how the KA people addressed these social challenges to preserve cohesion despite displacements. We hypothesize that the Kura-Araxes communities utilized the representative qualities of pottery style to signify and keep their social and cultural identity in diaspora, transmitting collective memories as a form of semantic knowledge, across generations. Findings suggest that social identification was central to Kura-Araxes's resilience, fostering solidarity across their diaspora beyond their core region. Exploring shared social identity and collective memory as resilience factors offers valuable insights into the dynamics of diaspora processes and underscores their role in community resilience amid adversity.

Keywords

Social identity, pottery style, collective memory, resilience, diaspora

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