



## ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

# Hunting the Neolithic in Northern Jordan

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## Abstract

Surveys in the southern Levant have had very uneven and generally meagre results when it comes to discovering Neolithic sites. In fact, most of the well-known ones, especially of PPNB, were discovered by accident during road-building and construction projects. The Wadi Ziqlab Project and its successor surveys have attempted to fill the gap in our knowledge of the Neolithic in northwestern Jordan through a combination of methods and innovations. Over some four decades of research the project has used conventional pedestrian survey by fieldwalking, survey by test-pitting stream terraces, geoarchaeological survey of wadi cuts, GIS predictive modelling, and Bayesian allocation of survey effort, all in an attempt to optimize chances of discovering late prehistoric, and especially Neolithic, sites and artifacts. Fieldwork of varying intensity in three wadi systems - Wadi Ziqlab, Wadi Taiyyibah, and Wadi Qusaybah - has detected a higher density of Neolithic remains than almost anywhere else in the Mediterranean zone of Jordan. These include at least one PPNB village site, one Yarmukian cemetery, two Yarmukian settlements, and five Wadi Rabah sites, as well as many other localities where we found Neolithic artifacts.

## Keywords

Neolithic, Jordan

## Session

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