ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Anatomy of a Collapse: A Case Study at Tell Ushayer, Jordan

KALLAS N. [1], WOLTER F. [1], ALSHBOUL L. [1], SEELE J. [1]*

[1] Freie Universit Berlin, Berlin, Germany

*Corresponding author

Abstract

Stone collapse contexts in the archaeological record are often overlooked as valuable data sources, typically regarded as mere debris rather than informative deposits, and rarely receive the detailed analysis they deserve. However, these seemingly disordered layers can contain critical information about the structures they once composed, offering insights into their construction, destruction, and post-abandonment history. This presentation shares the results of a pilot project at Tell Ushayer, Jordan, conducted as part of an ongoing excavation by the Freie Universität Berlin. Using multiple 3D recording techniques, a massive stone collapse at the site was meticulously documented in great detail, and computational analysis was employed to reverse the collapse process, reconstructing the original elevation of the Iron Age fortification wall. This approach highlights the untapped value of stone collapses as data-rich archaeological deposits that can enhance our understanding of the site's architectural and historical development. The methodology developed at Tell Ushayer also demonstrates the broader potential of 3D modeling for post-excavation spatial analysis and can be well-suited for application at other archaeological sites or those of cultural heritage importance.

Keywords

Stone collapse, Iron Age, Tell Ushayer, 3D recording, Spatial analysis

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