



## ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

# Results of Pilot Survey of the Western Kimirek Delta: contextualizing archaeological distributions in dynamic landscapes

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## Abstract

Situated between ancient branches of the Zarafshan River, the archaeological site of Kimirek-kum 1 (KK1), provides a valuable opportunity to investigate questions of long-term socio-natural dynamics in Central Asian alluvial plains. Characterizing settlement and land use responses to environmental shifts in particular is key to understanding these dynamics in marginal desert oases. This presentation offers the results of systematic remote and pedestrian surveys around KK1 and beyond in the western Kimirek area of the Kyzyl-kum desert. These surveys detailed the paleochannel network, identified the limits of KK1's surface scatter, and uncovered several previously unrecorded activity areas spanning the Bronze Age to early Medieval periods. Preliminary results, alongside ongoing geomorphological and hydrological studies anchored at KK1, underscore the significance of post-depositional processes shaping the Kimirek-kum environment. Contrary to the perception of a static, relict landscape, we observed the volatile effects of wind, water, and anthropogenic erosion on archaeological visibility and preservation. As an active pastoral landscape in the past and present, survey of this region contributes to a holistic picture of the archaeology within it and helps contextualize the excavated materials from KK1.

## Keywords

taphonomy, survey, Kyzyl-kum desert, Bronze Age, paleohydrology

## Session

7. Characterizing culture ?

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