



## ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

# Dalma in Detail: A Techno-Social Characterization of Dalma Pottery in NW Iran

SALAMAT S.<sup>1\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Freie Universit Berlin, Berlin, Germany

\*Corresponding author

## Abstract

Located in the southern basin of the Urmia Lake, Dalma Tepe is considered as the origin of a prehistoric tradition in northwestern Iran, dating back to the 5th millennium BC. The site and its archaeological materials were briefly investigated in the 1960s, and since then, few sites attributed to the Dalma tradition have been identified. Consequently, a convincing regional chronology for northwestern Iran has not yet been established. The most distinctive feature of the Dalma tradition is the wide chronological and geographical distribution of its pottery, extending into the Central Zagros region, northern Mesopotamia, and the South Caucasus. However, no comprehensive internal classification, whether temporal or regional, has yet explained this distribution pattern. This research aims to revisit Dalma Tepe and re-examine its archaeological data using modern methods developed over the past five decades. Based on newly acquired archaeological data from recent excavation at Dalma Tepe, this study seeks to establish a valid typo-chronological pottery sequence and provide new insights into the Dalma tradition, including its origin, social organization, and distribution patterns in northwestern Iran and beyond, shedding light on socio-cultural dynamics in northwestern Iran during the 5th millennium BC.

## Keywords

Dalma tradition, pottery classification, technological attributes, Dalma Tepe, NW Iran

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