



ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Late Prehistoric Investigations at Shakar Tepe in the Shahrizor Plain, Iraqi Kurdistan: The 2023 and 2024 Excavations

ODAKA T.^{1*}, MAEDA O.², MIKI T.³, HAYAKAWA Y.⁴, ITAHASHI Y.², SALIH R.⁵, FATTAH H.⁵, HAMA GHARIB H.⁵

¹ Kanazawa University, Kanazawa, Japan

² University of Tsukuba, Tsukuba, Japan

³ Keio University, Tokyo, Japan

⁴ Hokkaido University, Sapporo, Japan

⁵ Slemani Antiquities and Heritage Directorate, Sulaymaniyah, Iraq

*Corresponding author

Abstract

The Shahrizor Plain is one of the ideal fields for tracking the process from Neolithisation in the Fertile Crescent to Urbanisation in the Mesopotamian lowland because of its geographical location connecting the mountainside valleys along the Zagros and the downstream Diyala River that flows into the Tigris. Our field project aims to obtain archaeological materials to unveil this process. Following the first excavations at Shakar Tepe (or Gird-i Shakir) conducted in 2019, we excavated additional areas at this site in 2023 and 2024, including the one at one of the three satellite mounds that were newly identified around the main mound. Operations at Shakar Tepe I yielded thick deposits of the Hassuna and the Late Chalcolithic occupations dated to ca. 6250–6000 and 3800–3600 calBC. On the other hand, the cultural remains of the Late Halaf settlement were uncovered at Shakar Tepe II, which dates to approximately 5600–5400 calBC. The recovered materials fill the time ranges in the late prehistoric chronology of the site and will contribute to our understanding of the historical role of this region in the transition from Neolithisation to Urbanisation.

Keywords

Late Neolithic, Chalcolithic, chronology, Shahrizor Plain, Iraqi Kurdistan

Session

1. Advances in Near Eastern Archaeology

Type of paper

Oral presentation