



ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

All the same in the Netherworld? Assessing identity and social markers in the Middle Assyrian and Middle Babylonian burials.

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Abstract

I propose to present the results of a research on the concept of foreigner in archaeology, for the Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age. In fact, vast geographical areas are recognized as belonging to the Middle Assyrian or Cassite State, thanks to dominant ceramic assemblages, combined with the precious informations relied by the texts. However, when speaking about the second half of the 2nd millennium, the nature of what is national and what is foreign is more than mobile and blurry, in particular because in both countries, the throne is taken by two minority-based dynasties. It seems particularly difficult to identify all these small nations and political entities which compose, often despite their will, what was the Mesopotamian world. I wish to assess the possibility to retrieve identity markers and comparative associations, between the population who reigned at the time (Cassites or Assyrians), the dominant culture in the local territories (Babylonian, Hurrian, etc), the neighboring States (Elam, Mittani), influencing certain practices and productions in the “frontier-zone”, the presence of emigrants and foreign merchants, and eventually local-indigenous populations, who may be recognizable through micro-practices and regional choices.

Keywords

Middle Assyria, Cassite and Post-Cassite, Identity markers, Nations, Foreigner

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