



ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Dating the Late Chalcolithic Shakar Tepe in Iraqi Kurdistan

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Abstract

The Late Chalcolithic of Northern Mesopotamia in the early fourth millennium (LC2–3 phases) is a crucial period that significantly marks indigenous proto-urbanism. Current research in Iraqi Kurdistan has also been changing the picture of the Uruk expansion, explaining more regionally differentiated complex interactions, rather than a simple homogeneous commercial process as argued before. To discuss this, however, the ceramic chronology remains poorly established, especially in trans-Tigridian Mesopotamia. In this paper we present our quantitative morpho-typological and ware analysis of the recently discovered Late Chalcolithic ceramic sequence from Shakar Tepe in the Shahrizor Plain, Sulaymaniyah (Iraqi Kurdistan). The pottery assemblage, radiocarbon-dated to a few hundred years straddling the late LC 2 and LC3 phases, consists primarily of coarse chaff-tempered wares. Notably, among many local types, it is characterised by a number of “Bevelled Rim Bowls” (perhaps mass-produced) but lacking other genuine southern types. We will argue that the new evidence from Shakar Tepe can be an essential key to reassessing the elusive chronological framework by detecting ceramic changes in the middle part of the Late Chalcolithic in Iraqi Kurdistan, and contributing to understanding the early contact period.

Keywords

Late Chalcolithic, Iraqi Kurdistan, ceramic chronology, Bevelled Rim Bowls, Uruk expansion

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