ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Exploring 'Marginal Landscapes': Tracing Late Iron Age Occupation Patterns in Oman

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Abstract

This talk introduces the Jebel Madar Survey, a PhD project investigating occupation patterns in Central Oman during the Late Iron Age (LIA, ca. 300 BCE – 300 CE). Initiated in 2024, the study integrates field surveys with Remote Sensing and Archaeological Predictive Modelling to examine LIA traces around the Jebel Madar (Sharqyyah North, Oman), a region often considered marginal. A primary objective is to understand how LIA communities adapted to different landscapes, especially in areas far from the upper wadi streams, where LIA sites are usually concentrated.

Preliminary findings from the 2024 survey reveal activity predominantly through the reuse of Bronze Age tombs, with this region exhibiting a higher rate of such reuses than other parts of south-eastern Arabia. While no settlements have been identified yet, these early results suggest the area was part of the larger LIA sphere of activity. Ongoing research aims to reinforce these findings through predictive modelling and further ground-truthing, with the dual objective of investigating how these communities expanded their activity radius and refining our understanding of this period.

This presentation will discuss preliminary results and insights from the recent 2025 survey season.

Keywords

Late Iron Age, Occupation Patterns, Archaeological Predictive Modelling, Remote Sensing, Tomb Reuse

Session

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