



## ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

# Marginality, ecology and imagination: what the Neolithic of the arid zone contributes to our concept of the Neolithic

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## Abstract

The semi-arid and arid regions of southwest Asia were initially of little interest to archaeologists who sought the origins of food production in the Fertile Crescent. In recent years, both the Late Epipalaeolithic and early Neolithic occupations of these regions have come more sharply into focus. Based on the multi-year fieldwork in the Qa' Shubayqa of eastern Jordan, where multiple Late Epipalaeolithic and early Neolithic sites were located and excavated, I will discuss how on the one hand geographical imaginations revolving around ecological marginality have shaped research and the discourse around the Neolithization of southwest Asia. On the other hand, I will use this discussion as a starting point to consider how we can think about the Epipalaeolithic – Neolithic transition in a region that never followed along the same trajectory as more temperate zones. I suggest that the definition of the Neolithic is stretched by the kind of evidence we find in the marginal zones.

## Keywords

Jordan, Badia, Natufian, PPNA

## Session

5. Neolithic paths

## Workshop

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## Type of paper

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