



## ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

# Selective material strategies for specialized regional ceramic economies: geochemical and petrographic views on Iron Age ceramics from Tell Yamoun and Tell AlAssara in Northern Jordan

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## Abstract

This talk focuses on comparative compositional analysis of Iron Age I–II ceramics from Tell Ya'moun and Tell Al'Assara in Northern Jordan, carried out to explore local ceramic traditions and ceramic economy activities shared by the communities. In 2022, a Finnish-Jordanian team of archaeologists, affiliated with the Centre of Excellence of Ancient Near Eastern Empires (ANEE) of the University of Helsinki, and the Yarmouk University, carried out small-scale archaeological excavations at the sites. The excavated structures revealed rich repertoires of utilitarian and domestic ceramics, representing regional ceramic material culture systems of several occupational and cultural phases. The geochemical profiles of 90 pottery samples, including coarse ware containers, such as pithoi, amphorae, jars and bottles, and cooking ware forms, were characterized via energy dispersive X-ray fluorescence spectrometry (ED-XRF). In addition, ceramic fabric technologies and mineral compositions were examined with thin-section petrography and X-ray diffraction analyses. The results indicate a regional ceramic economy characterized with selective procurement and application of available raw materials, namely functionality-driven material processing to facilitate specialized production. Regional products dominate both Tell Ya'moun and Tell Al'Assara ceramic repertoires. Ceramics were regionally distributed as containers of agrarian products, as well as primary objects of exchange.

## Keywords

Ceramics, Iron Age, North Jordan, Ceramic technologies, Geochemistry

## Session

7. Characterizing culture ?

## Type of paper

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