



ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Dietary trends as indicators of social stratification in northern Mesopotamia: a case study of the Early Bronze Age site of Gird Lashkir

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Abstract

The archaeological site of Gird Lashkir (northern Mesopotamia, modern-day Iraqi Kurdistan) has documented an important Early Bronze Age occupation (3000 – 2500 cal. BCE), characterized by the presence of pluricellular houses and multiple burials both inside and outside of the living spaces. In order to ascertain whether social status is reflected in the skeletal remains of the deceased, we have undertaken an investigation into dietary trends. The objective is to determine if differential access to food existed in this population. Our approach entails a study of diet through the analysis of stable isotopes and traceology, with a particular focus on buccal microwear pattern analysis. Twelve individuals were sampled for bone collagen, and the subsequent negative results prompted the sampling of an additional ten individuals for enamel hydroxyapatite. The latter samples were used to interpret $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ signatures. Ten individuals with well-preserved buccal microwear patterns were selected and provided positive results for diet abrasiveness. In addition to the aforementioned proxies, archeoethnatology, ornaments, and offerings, were also considered in order to gain a more comprehensive understanding of social stratification.

Keywords

Diet, Stable Isotopes, Traceology, Early Bronze Age, Northern Mesopotamia

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