



ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Establishing Kura-Araxes socio-economic practices in Azerbaijan: Continuity or Change?

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Abstract

The paper aims to elucidate the socio-economic variabilities within the Kura-Araxes archaeological complex in the South Caucasus and Eastern Anatolia during 3500 – 2500 BC. It is becoming increasingly clear that because of the broad geographic and temporal spread of the complex, Kura-Araxes studies have suffered from unilinear and uniform classifications and explanations. Given the discrepancies in the current chronology of KAC due to insufficient absolute data and the reliance on pottery for periodization, this study seeks to integrate new radiocarbon dates with zooarchaeological and isotopic datasets to clarify the timing and nature of economic and social practices within the KAC. Hypotheses being tested include whether observed variabilities in pastoral practices, architectural traditions, settlement and material culture datasets at the sites in Nakhchivan, Azerbaijan reflect contemporaneous heterogeneity or diachronic changes possibly tied to the spread of the KAC or other regional developments.

The talk seeks to answer several questions, including are these contemporaneous variabilities in KAC practices, thereby suggesting old uniform models of KAC homogeneity are incorrect? Are these diachronic changes related to the spread of the KAC or other regional social and economic developments? Are variability in pastoral systems linked to variability in architecture and material traditions?

Keywords

Caucasus, Azerbaijan, Kura-Araxes, Chronology

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