



ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Life and death at the southern margins of the Umm an-Nar culture

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Abstract

During a rescue excavation in the spring of 2024, an Early Bronze Age tomb (Umm an-Nar period, 2700-2000 BCE) was unearthed at Al-Musalla, Sharqiyah North, Sultanate of Oman. The two-storey, semi-subterranean stone-built tomb yielded a rich inventory, providing insight into the complex mortuary practices and social organization of the Umm an-Nar period. Al-Musalla is located on the southern edge of what is currently recognised as the distribution of the Umm an-Nar culture. This paper explores how the peripheral location of Al-Musalla, outside the so-called oasis belt, influenced the characteristics of the Umm an-Nar culture there, compared to its otherwise highly homogeneous appearance. The findings from the rescue excavation will be analysed alongside new data from an intensive field survey in Al-Musalla planned for spring 2025 further enriching our understanding of the spatial and cultural complexity of the Umm an-Nar period.

Keywords

Early Bronze Age, Mortuary practices, Umm an-Nar, tombs, Oman

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