



14th International Congress on the Archaeology
of the Ancient Near East

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Exploring food production and consumption in cultic settings: revisiting the socio-economic development of Southern Levant communities from Late Chalcolithic to Early Bronze Age II through a ritual perspective.

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Abstract

Excavations conducted in Southern Levantine sites have revealed that, since Late Chalcolithic, food preparation and consumption were related to cultic activities. For instance, at Teleilat Ghassul and En Gedi, there were structures dedicated to preparation and storage of food in the sacred areas. In the Early Bronze Age these traditions seem to persist within some Southern Levantine communities, as demonstrated by the Early Bronze Age I Temple of the Serpents at Jebel al-Mutawwaq. Furthermore, food seems to be related to cultic practices even as meal offerings, as attested, for example, in the EBI temple area of Megiddo and the Great Enclosure at Jebel al-Mutawwaq. The paper aims to reconstruct the evolution of the role of food in cultic activities, from the Late Chalcolithic period through to Early Bronze Age II, when proper cities emerged. The study seeks to understand how this role changed and the extent to which this transformation was connected to the socio-economic development of EBI-II communities. The ceramic assemblage and related objects from the examined contexts will be included in the analysis to determine whether the evolution of cultic practices impacted the material culture too.

Keywords

Transjordan, Early Bronze Age, Jebel al-Mutawwaq

Session

6. Life and death: Human behaviour and practices

Workshop

A16075NH - Connecting Socio-Economic Spheres in the Early Bronze Age Southern Levant

Type of paper

Oral presentation

