



ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Of lava and water, land development, and site organization of the Lejat (Southern Syria) during the Third Millennium

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Abstract

Fifty kilometers southeast of Damascus, in the Lejat plateau, the buildings largely made of basalt are well preserved. This allows for a relatively detailed picture of various types of settlement, particularly those dating back to the 3rd millennium. Given its geological and climatic characteristics, the Lejat, covering almost 900 km² has repeatedly been an attractive place for different pastoral and agricultural populations, as evidenced by the large number of sites. Fortified towns, villages, and isolated farms illustrate the diversity of these settlements and the variability of their functions. Their locations and the study of their environment enable us to identify different local and inter-regional forms of agro-pastoral production depending on soil type and water resources. The different scenarios and occupation patterns identified in the area can be used as heuristic models for other regions of the Southern Levant where the sites are less well preserved.

Keywords

Lejat, Early Bronze, Settlements, Economy

Session

6. Life and death: Human behaviour and practices

Workshop

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