



ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Places of power and territorial dynamics from the 6th cent. BC to the 7th cent. AD in the irak Province (Armenia): a new archaeological project

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Abstract

In 2023, an Armenian and French team has started a joint archaeological project focusing on field research in the Armenian Širak province. The program follows an unusual approach that tries to break the conventional chronological divisions based on the succession of dynasties ruling the Armenian Highlands during the historical periods. It intends to reveal the spatial and material aspects of a long-time process of territorial development starting with the Achaemenid dominion (6th cent. BC) and leading to the first centuries of the Early Christian period (7th cent. AD). The team involved specialists in architecture, in material culture studies and in landscape archaeology. By implementing a consistent methodology, we have resumed studies on and around two regional central places partly studied in the last decades. In 2023 and 2024, field campaigns were undertaken at the Achaemenid to Classical site of Beniamin (6th cent. BC – 2nd cent. AD) and on the Early Christian place of Ezeruyk? (6th cent. AD) funded on an earlier Antique settlement. Based on the first results, renewed research questions have been defined regarding the evolution of places of power and of the land use in the Širak region over a long millennium after the Late Iron Age.

Keywords

Armenia, Achaemenid, Early Christian, Beniamin, Ezeruyk?

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