



## ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

# Towards the cultural and social dimension of a funerary landscape of the Oxus Civilization: the case study of Gonur Depe's Main Necropolis (Turkmenistan)

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## Abstract

The settlement of Gonur Depe is a major site of the Oxus Civilization (2300/2250 - 1500 BC or NMG V - VI periods) with an exceptional corpus of 5,000 graves excavated over the last forty years. The burials produce evidence of the socio-economic changes that took place during the Middle Bronze Age, indicating homogeneous yet diversified funerary practices within various burial grounds. The funerary landscape is divided between burials within the settlements, and the appearance of necropolises outside proto-urban cities, introducing a topographical distinction between a world of the living and a world of the dead. Located 200 meters west of the Palace of Gonur Depe, the Main Necropolis excavated over ten years (1992-2002), has brought to light 3,000 graves providing an important amount of data to reassess how the funerary practices are organized within the funerary landscape. The re-evaluation and analysis of archaeological and anthropological data (funerary architecture, funerary offerings, burial practices) based on a typological and spatial approach, has revealed how the spatialization of funerary practices reflects the evolution of the cultural and social system during the Middle and Final Bronze Age.

## Keywords

Gonur Depe, Funerary practices, Burial ground, Spatial analysis, Bronze Age

## Session

6. Life and death: Human behaviour and practices

## Type of paper

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