



## ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

# Beginning and development of pottery traditions in Upper Tigris as indicators of cultural transformations in the Neolithic of SW Asia

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## Abstract

The beginning of pottery production in Southwest Asia has long intrigued archaeologists, with research over the last two decades offering new insights into the initial forms and functions of this technology. Evidence suggests that pottery production emerged in a series of sites along a line from the Upper Tigris Basin to Çukurova, reflecting a new way of life established at the beginning of the 7th millennium BCE.

Although cultural elements varied across these sites, early pottery shared certain features: mineral tempering, hole-mouth shapes, well-burnished dark surfaces, and lugs placed in pairs near the rim, which made these vessels suitable for cooking. By the second half of the millennium, plant-tempered pottery traditions appeared, signalling increased production, greater diversity of wares, and the emergence of regional styles. These traditions are categorized as Pre-Halaf in the Northern Levant, Proto-Hassuna in Upper Mesopotamia (particularly in the Tigris Basin), and the Zagros Group in Western Iran.

Using new data from Sumaki Höyük in the Upper Tigris Basin, this study examines the relationship between cultural transformations and the development of Neolithic pottery, focusing on the functional and technological characteristics of mineral- and plant-tempered traditions that emerged during the 7th millennium BCE.

## Keywords

Neolithic, Pottery, Southwest Asia

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