



## ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

# Economy and status from the Neolithic to the Early Bronze age sites in the Kura and Ararat basin (Southern Caucasus): the groundstone tools evidence.

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### Abstract

In southern Caucasus, the evolution of the economies from the Neolithic to the Bronze age (VIth-IIIrd mill. BC) is often questioned through the prism of the impact of constricted landscapes and environments (arid plain, high mountains, subtropical western coasts) on the strategies of natural resources exploitation. This question will be discussed through an overview of the technological and functional characteristics of ground stone tools, including grinding equipment and craft stone tools, of about 20 sites of the Kura and Ararat valley (Armenia, Georgia, Azerbaijan). After an overview of the evolution of the tool types in a long term perspective, several issues will be addressed. How can they inform us on the importance of agriculture versus pastoralism, and also the degree of sedentarity versus mobility of the populations evolving in these different environmental contexts? Which evidences do they bring to understand better the technical evolutions which accompany the great changes of these periods (neolithisation, mining phenomenon) ?

### Keywords

Caucasus, groundstone tools, technology, economy

### Session

7. Characterizing culture ?

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