



## ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

# Qedesh in the Galilee the emergence of decline of an early urbanized megasite in the southern Levant

*DAVIDOVICH U. <sup>1</sup>\*, WACHTEL I. <sup>1</sup>*

<sup>1</sup> The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Jerusalem, Israel

\*Corresponding author

## Abstract

The turn of the fourth millennium BCE was a time of wide-ranging changes in the southern Levant that are commonly associated with the first wave of urbanization in this region. Key elements in regional narratives of urbanization are large fortified sites viewed as regional centers, the local history of which is often perceived as a paradigmatic expression of the regional social process. In this lecture, we present the results of our 2016-2023 excavations at the site of Qedesh in the Galilee, one of the largest Early Bronze Age sites in the southern and central Levant. Our research, which tracked the stratigraphic, architectural, and material changes in different segments of this large site, offers new observations on economic processes, interregional connectivity and increased social differentiation during the late 4th and early 3rd millennium BCE in this region. In tandem, the abrupt contraction of Qedesh soon after the site reached its zenith, coupled with the collapse of the regional settlement system, serve as an overt testimony to the experimental nature of early south Levantine urbanization and the fragility of the newly-formed urbanized landscapes.

## Keywords

Early Bronze Age, Urbanization, Southern Levant, Commodification, Fortifications

## Session

1. Advances in Near Eastern Archaeology

## Type of paper

Oral presentation