



## ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

# Bazhera Archaeological Project: Material Evidence of a Stopover Station in Iraqi Kurdistan During the Ottoman Period

VEZZOLI V. <sup>1\*</sup>, HASAN B. <sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Università degli studi di Udine, Udine, Italy

<sup>2</sup> Directorate of Antiquities and Heritage of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, Dohuk, Iraq

\*Corresponding author

## Abstract

In 2023, an archaeological research project was initiated by the University of Udine, with the Dohuk Directorate of Antiquities and Heritage of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, on the site of Bazhera, on the eastern bank of the Nahr al-Khazir, in the Akre district. The site consists of a partially standing building, which would have played a role in the communication system of the region during the late Islamic period, as one of the stations in support of travellers. The main objective of the project is to reconstruct the functioning of this structure, its material culture and its relationship with other archaeological remains on the site and with the surrounding landscape, in order to provide data regarding land management and protection of a frontier region of the Ottoman empire, which has been neglected by archaeological research. This presentation discusses the evidence that emerged in two seasons of investigation (intensive survey and excavations), which provided data regarding building techniques and materials of the station and revealed the presence of an intense occupation of the area surrounding the main building, including the presence of a cemetery. A new chronological horizon emerged through fieldwork, highlighting an occupation throughout the Islamic period.

## Keywords

Ottoman period, khan, stopoverstation, Kurdistan Iraq, roads

## Session

8. Islamic archaeology

## Type of paper

Oral presentation