



ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Metallurgy and Cultural Interaction on the Upper Euphrates: Resource Appropriation and Technological Exchange at Arslantepe

HEIL N. 1*

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Abstract

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In the late 4th and early 3rd millennium BCE, complex socio-political developments are evident in the Upper Euphrates region, particularly at the site of Arslantepe, where influences from diverse cultural groups led to significant transformations. This period marks the transition from the Late Chalcolithic to the Early Bronze Age, characterized by intensified metallurgical activity.

This paper presents findings from the archaeological and archaeometallurgical investigation of metal artifacts and metallurgical remains from Arslantepe, with a focus on questions of provenance and resource appropriation, assessed through chemical and lead isotope analyses. To achieve a refined understanding of lead isotope signatures from regional ore sources, geological reference samples were collected in a targeted regional survey.

The metallurgical data reflects shifts similar to those seen in the settlement patterns. The role of interactions with cultural groups such as those associated with the Kura-Araxes phenomenon will be examined, exploring how these interactions may have driven metallurgical developments and how networks facilitated the exchange of raw materials and innovations.

Keywords

Arslantepe, Metallurgy, Lead-Isotope analysis, Resource appropriation, Kura-Araxes phenomenon

Session

2. Natural resources and anthropised landscapes

Type of paper

Oral presentation