



## ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

# Anthropological and stable isotope overview of Al-Subiyah protohistoric communities (Kuwait, 6th-2th millennium BCE)

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## Abstract

The Al-Subiyah region in Northern Kuwait Bay shows human occupation from the 6<sup>th</sup> millennium BCE, with notable Ubaid settlements and dry-stone tomb necropolises spanning millennia. This study explores subsistence strategies in these communities through stable isotope analyses of bioarchaeological samples, focusing on resource use amid changing socio-environmental conditions. Recent fieldwork by the University of Geneva, in partnership with Kuwait's Ministry of Culture, involved excavating new sites and sampling human, animal, and plant remains. Analysis of  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  and  $\delta^{15}\text{N}$  in 22 humans and 12 animals suggests a dietary shift from  $\text{C}_3$  to  $\text{C}_4$  plants, coinciding with increased aridity around the 3<sup>rd</sup> millennium BCE, despite limited sample success. Notable differences in caprine samples across time indicate a shift from a  $\text{C}_3$  plant diet in early periods to  $\text{C}_4$  consumption later. A human sample from Muhaita showed high  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  and  $\delta^{15}\text{N}$  values, possibly from a diet rich in animal protein and marine resources, reflecting complex dietary practices. These findings align with evidence of seafaring activities and marine resource exploitation. The study underscores how environmental and economic factors influenced dietary practices, shaping Al-Subiyah's cultural landscape. Future isotopic analyses will further investigate mobility patterns and resource networks in these communities.

## Keywords

Kuwait, diet, subsistence strategies , stable isotopes, protohistory

## Session

6. Life and death: Human behaviour and practices

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