



## ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

# Hunting for food, prestige or both ? Animal exploitation in Kunara (Kurdistan, Iraq) by the end of the 3rd millenium BC.

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## Abstract

As at most 3rd millennium BC sites, the diet of the inhabitants of Kunara was based on domestic livestock. Caprines (sheep and goat) and, to a lesser extent, swine and cattle were predominant in breeding and consumption. However, the site is characterised by the presence of bones from a great diversity of wild species, hunted in various environments. This implies the exploitation of a wide territory for different human activities. Nevertheless, a recent discovery has raised new questions about hunting practices in relation to the site. Indeed, in 2022 and 2023, the excavation of two rooms revealed the presence of very numerous wild sheep (*Ovis orientalis*) horncores, red deer (*Cervus elaphus*) antlers and a few lion (*Panthera leo*) bones. It may indicates that hunting not only plays a secondary dietary role in Kunara, but also constitutes an important social practice we had not understood previously. This paper will reflect on some hypotheses on the complex bond between human beings and their environment in this particular archaeological context of the site.

## Keywords

Archaeozoology, Hunting, Animal exploitation, Iraqi Kurdistan

## Session

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## Type of paper

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