



## ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

# Beyond Gekli Tepe Tracing the invisible water networks of the Atatrk Dam as hyperobjects

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## Abstract

The actions of today create the archaeology of the future. Human impact on earth increased dramatically since the industrialization and will be permanently traceable in the stratigraphy as the Anthropocene. How can we as archaeologists grasp this entanglement of contemporary human-material dynamics and the remains they produce? In our talk, we rely on the concept of “hyperobjects” to investigate the visible and invisible networks related to the Atatürk Dam in southeastern Anatolia. As massive intrusions into the landscape, reservoirs produce long-term disruptions in ecosystems. But the effects of these systems go beyond the obvious changes in biodiversity, distribution and access to water, and, of course, damage to archaeological sites. In discussing a future archaeology of the present, we explore the far-reaching economic, political, ecological, social, and ethical elements of such a network, a “hyperobject”. We show how the coring of tunnels leave hydrological scars in the landscape, how cotton planting and workers’ strikes, fast fashion and garbage dumps in Africa are integrated into a huge material network and reflect on possibilities for its reconstruction in an archaeological future. Our investigation puts standard “Near Eastern” archaeological work into a much-needed perspective that integrates our practices into the world of the Anthropocene.

## Keywords

water, hyperobjects, materiality, future archaeology, Anthropocene

## Session

2. Natural resources and anthropised landscapes

## Type of paper

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