



ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

New Insights into Kura-Araxes and Bedeni Funerary Practices: Burials from Janavartep (Azerbaijan)

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Abstract

During the Kura-Araxes culture, a wide diversity of burial practices emerged. The existence of both single and multiple inhumations, alongside primary and secondary burials, demonstrates the variety in practices and choices related to funerary recruitment and body treatment. Additionally, Kura-Araxes funerary practices were more complex than previously understood, with evidence of post-sepulchral practices in certain cases.

In Azerbaijan, the funerary practices of this culture are mostly represented by kurgans from the KA I, with burial chambers intentionally set on fire at the end of their use. The recent discovery of early KA II burials at Janavartep provides a first insight into the funerary practices of this later period in Azerbaijan. In addition, an individual primary Bedeni burial was also uncovered, marking the first non-kurgan burial of this culture found in this part of the Southern Caucasus.

Following our research into the diet of KA populations based on traditional isotopes (C, N and S), 11 human individuals discovered at Janavartep were analysed to verify the homogeneity of dietary practices within KA communities.

Keywords

Kura-Araxe, Funerary Practices, Isotopic Analyses, Diet, Azerbaijan

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