



ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Ritual Practices and Cult Spaces of a Small Urban Center in the Zagros Foothills (Iraqi Kurdistan) at the End of the 3rd Millennium BCE. New evidence from Kunara.

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Abstract

Recent archaeological research at Kunara (Suleymaniya province) has revealed the remains of a small urban center. Around 2200-2100 BCE, Kunara was one of the region's major centers, a very active administration seat, and part of a long-distance exchange network with Southern Mesopotamia and Anatolia. The settlement shows dense urban planning, a sophisticated canalization system, and many public buildings mainly intended for administrative and economic activities. Ongoing excavation in Area C brought into light two notable constructions, standing out for specific architectural features, pottery assemblages, and objects that suggest a ceremonial function. Based on archeological data from Area C, this communication aims to discuss the presence of cultic spaces in Kunara, their characteristics, and the associated ritual practices. The discussion will focus on the architectural remains and their spatial organization in the settlement layout to identify possible spatial markers of sacred places. On the other hand, the analysis of installations and artifacts will target to define functional elements possibly linked to ritual practices. These elements will provide a valuable framework for questioning the contribution and limits of archaeological material culture in defining the religious traditions that developed on the fringes of Mesopotamia at the end of the 3rd millennium BCE.

Keywords

Kunara, Cultic Space, Ritual Practices, 3rd millennium BCE, Northern Mesopotamia

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