



## ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

# From Sherds to Traditions: Revisiting Old Data to Generate New Perspectives and Methodologies in Northeastern Irans Ceramic Studies from the Late Chalcolithic to the end of the Middle Bronze Age

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## Abstract

While access to many excavations sites remains challenging in several countries due to the world's geopolitics, such as in Iran, valuable new data in ceramic studies can still be generated. This research focuses on ceramic analysis, utilizing previously unpublished excavations archives and material from key archaeological sites in Northeastern Iran explored from the 1930s to the end. By employing stratigraphic context analysis, typology, and anthropology of techniques, this study aims to reconstruct cultural identities from the Late Chalcolithic to the Middle Bronze Age (c. 3500-1800 BCE), using the major site of Tureng Tepe as a primary case study. This multifaceted approach challenges essentialist narratives, particularly those related to so called Indo-Europeans studies, which often interpret the emergence of grey ceramics as indicative of Indo-European presence. Instead, it emphasizes a nuanced understanding of local production techniques and cultural practices in a strategic region whose ceramic production is not yet well understood. Furthermore, integrating new methodologies, such as 3D technologies, enhances our ability to visualize and analyze production methods. This fosters a deeper understanding of cultural interactions and contributes to ongoing dialogue on characterizing cultural spaces, underscoring the importance of methodological reflexions and interdisciplinary collaborations in the field of ceramic studies.

## Keywords

Pottery, Northeastern Iran, Late Chalcolithic, Bronze Age, Methodology

## Session

7. Characterizing culture ?

## Type of paper

Oral presentation