

# **ABSTRACT SUBMISSION**

## Unearthing Connections: Characterizing the Early Iron Age Ceramics of Kimirek-kum 1 (KK1), Uzbekistan

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### Abstract

This presentation provides preliminary analyses of KK1 ceramics, comparing production techniques and styles with those from contemporary Central Asian sites. The ceramics mostly align with the Yaz I or Handmade Painted Ware cultures in terms of shapes (pots/jars, bowls), ware types (coarse to medium), forming techniques (coiling, pinching, and molding), and surface treatments (slipping, burnishing/polishing) of the pottery assemblage at the site. However, significant variations have been observed in the presence/absence and proportion of techno-cultural traits typically used as the characterizing of the Early Iron Age pottery complex in southern Central Asia (*e.g.*, painted pottery). Several elements of the KK1 pottery complex underscore the site's distinctiveness within the context of Early Iron Age cultures in Central Asia. We will examine this variability to gain insights into pottery production and functionality at the site level and assess the position of the KK1 pottery within the Handmade Painted Ware cultures. The study emphasizes the uniqueness of the KK1 ceramic complex, reflecting the site's geographical location, its role, and its connections within the broader Central Asian region.

#### **Keywords**

Kimirek-kum 1 (KK1), Early Iron Age, Yaz I ceramics, Handmade painted ware cultures, Central Asia

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