



## ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

# Ritual and Feasting. The connection between burial practices and social performance.

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## Abstract

The "Ritual Landscapes of Murayghat" project studies the dolmens, standing stones structures and archaeology of Murayghat, an EB I site in central Jordan. Around 90 dolmens (all empty) have been surveyed on the surrounding hills. In the centre of the site, several structures with non-domestic characteristics have been excavated. The site was most likely not permanently settled, but used for regular visits connected to burials and other meetings.

Both the architecture of the buildings and some of the pottery are unique and have little or no contemporary comparisons. In one of the buildings, such unusual ceramic was found, which is used here to discuss the connection between ritual activities such as burial practices and feasting with the socio-political situation during the EBI. This is a time of political change, possible instability, characterised by the end of the Chalcolithic system of prestige goods and regionalism, and before the urbanism of the later EB phases.

I thus propose that ritual burial sites such as Murayghat were necessary places for the population to gather and negotiate everything from mundane herding rights to local conflicts (as examples). Places like that were important for a society with unclear hierarchies.

## Keywords

EBA, ritual, feasting, dolmen, Levant

## Session

6. Life and death: Human behaviour and practices

## Workshop

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