



ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Investigating the agro-pastoral landscapes at the Zagros foothills: a diachronic and multiscalar approach.

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Abstract

The Zagros foothills of the Duhok Governorate constitute an ideal observatory on the interactions between sedentary and semi-nomadic communities in the past and present, as this area features diverse and multiperiod intertwined agropastoral landscapes. Archaeological research has neglected these in the past in favour of the rich archaeological sites of the fertile Tigris plains. The survival of this heritage is today at great risk, as in recent decades, this territory has experienced rapid and ongoing transformations—physical, social, and economic—that threaten the survival of these already fragile and ephemeral landscapes. In light of this, the new joint project CARE (Università Ca' Foscari Venezia and Università di Udine) was specifically designed to enhance our understanding of the interplay between the different communities living and interacting in ancient Upper Mesopotamia and to contribute to the documentation and protection of a highly threatened territory. This paper presents an innovative methodological approach that is both diachronic and multiscalar. It focuses on investigating (both remotely and on the ground) the interconnected patterns of cultural features associated with both pastoral nomadic and agro-pastoral societies (e.g., cairns, enclosures, corrals, terraces, walled fields). The preliminary results from the remote and field survey will also be showcased.

Keywords

Upper Mesopotamia, Landscape Archaeology, Pastoralism, RemoteSensing, Field Survey

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