



ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Rooting for routes: A journey through the land of Mannea

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Abstract

This study aims to reconstruct and analyze possible ancient routes in the southern region of Lake Urmia, focusing on the Iron Age period from the 9th to the 7th centuries B.C. This region had always been of interest to major ancient powers. The Neo-Assyrian Empire from the west and the Urartian Kingdom from the north carried out military campaigns, consequently leaving us with a broad corpus of texts mentioning geographical names. Former studies on the historical names were based on geographical instances and some speculations. This study rather deals with the archaeological data in the current state of our knowledge from the excavations to create a better picture of the settlements in this region and avoid dealing with ancient toponyms. The preliminary results from settlement pattern analysis, hierarchical analysis, optimal path and Spatial Interaction Modeling illustrate a wide range of settlements with different statuses in this region mainly dispersed along the main axes of communication corridors across plains and valleys in the southern region of the Lake Urmia.

Keywords

Mannea, Neo-Assyrian, Settlement patterns, least cost path analysis, Southern Lake Urmia

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