



ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

A Tale of Four Valleys in mountainous Kurdistan: Settlement and landscape strategies in a long-term perspective

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Abstract

In the past three decades, elements of landscape archeology have increasingly entered Middle Eastern research, and this approach now occupies a prominent place in the study of the past in many regions. This trend significantly stimulated the development of theory, led to transformation of the research agenda and significant expansion of methodology towards non-destructive and interdisciplinary approaches. The departure from the traditional "tell paradigm" of Mesopotamian archaeology and the growing interest in much more ephemeral phenomena such as rural settlement, dry farming, pastoral communities, mineral processing, communication and water management is best seen in the mountainous regions of northern Iraq and Kurdistan. An ongoing survey project in the northern part of Koya District (Koy Sanjaq) provides evidence of significant density, remarkable dynamics and continuity of settlement in the Holocene, which left fossilized, above-ground visible remains in the landscape. Potential regional centres have also been identified, whose transformations indicate demographic and administrative changes during the Bronze and Iron Ages.

Keywords

landscapes, survey, Iraqi Kurdistan, Holocene, rural settlement

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