



## ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

# Megalopolis, City, Mega-village, Corporate Village or Just Plain Village? Comments on Social Organization in the Late Prehistory of the Levant

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## Abstract

A tendency in the literature to describe settlements, especially those boasting fortifications as "cities", or even in one instance of a very large agglomeration of domiciles as a "megalopolis", suggests specific levels of social organization, i.e., "urbanism" that are, I believe, unwarranted by available data. This presentation proposes different interpretations of available evidence within the milieu of Levantine late prehistory. Instead, it suggests a significantly more nuanced, alternative vocabulary for defining the variations in social organization that may be presently discerned in the archaeological record. In particular it will take into account the evidence of several major sites of the fifth, fourth and third millennia BCE, Byblos, Tel Arqa, Tell Fadous-Kfarabida and Sidon Dakkerman in the northern Levant and En Esur, Megiddo, Beth Yerah, Tel Yarmouth and Tel Erani in the southern Levant. In addition, it will also include comparisons with other sites of lesser dimensions in the region, some of which were fortified and which may be classified within this new vocabulary. References will be made to examples of similar types of social organization from the contemporary ANE beyond the Levant.

## Keywords

social organization sm, urbanism , village , late prehistory of the Levant

## Session

7. Characterizing culture ?

## Type of paper

Oral presentation