



ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

On the lapis lazuli roads: examining the location and role of major corridors of movement for urban development in south-east Iran

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Abstract

The valleys of south-east Iran are home to a rich array of raw materials and production centres of objects popular across West Asia in the Early Bronze Age. They share in the vast network of interactions of this period and offer an ideal setting to explore the relationship between human mobility and urban development. Multi-factor route modelling has uncovered a complex network of movement corridors across the Iranian Plateau developing in complexity from the Late Chalcolithic to Early Bronze Age (Petrie et al, submitted). In this paper, we examine the role of these overland routes for the communities at several key sites in the region: Tepe Yahya, Konar Sandal South, Shahr-e Sokhta, and in the Bampur Valley. We focus on their relation to the modelled routes and examine what role the corridors had in the development of these settlements, the persistence of occupation and the process of urban development.

We also query a regional model of movement corridors for its intersections with the interregional model, the insights it provides on how the landscape structures movement and where pivotal points of funnelling of movement are. We can therefore suggest important pinch and nodal points in the landscape which require further investigation

Keywords

Mobility, urban development, Chalcolithic, Bronze Age, south-east Iran

Session

2. Natural resources and anthropised landscapes

Type of paper

Oral presentation