



ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Urbanising environments exploring Levantine MBA urbanisation from cemetery data in Sidon, Lebanon

MAARANEN N. ^{1,2*}, *COWARD F.* ², *DOUMET-SERHAL C.* ³

¹ Finnish Institute in the Middle East, Pieksämäki, Finland

² Bournemouth University, Bournemouth, United Kingdom

³ CNRS, Paris, France

*Corresponding author

Abstract

Urbanisation is one of the most impactful settlement shifts in human history. At its best, it provides opportunities for economic advancement, social mobility, cultural exchange and access to resources; at its worst, it has a negative impact on health and wellbeing, often with unequal effects on different segments of society. Urbanisation of the Levantine Middle Bronze Age has been widely discussed using a wealth of data from settlements and material culture, providing various models of urban order based on the development of top-down and bottom-up processes.

When only partial settlement records are available, investigating local urban structures and life becomes increasingly challenging, requiring an adaptation of methods to available sources. Here, the MBA cemetery of Sidon, Lebanon, was explored for diachronic changes in burial numbers, burial goods and structures, patterns of behaviour, and other factors. Together, these multiple lines of evidence provide clues about quantitative patterns, such as population growth, relative site areal growth, economic growth and wealth disparities. By adjusting methodology in the theoretical framework, even partial records may offer insights into the types of economic systems, regimes and polities that prevailed during the Bronze Age in this region.

Keywords

cemetery, funerary archaeology, osteology, human remains

Session

1. Advances in Near Eastern Archaeology

Workshop

A16540HW - City Invincible: Middle Bronze Age Urbanism in the Levant

Type of paper

Oral presentation

