



## ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

# Excavating the Last Dolmens of Kufr Yuba (Northern Jordan 4th-3rd Millennia BCE )

*BESSE M.*<sup>1\*</sup>, *STEIMER T.*<sup>1</sup>, *DEFOURS-RIVOIRA M.*<sup>1</sup>, *ESCHENLAUER E.*<sup>1</sup>, *DORKEL A.*<sup>1</sup>, *RUIZ-FLORES J.*<sup>1</sup>, *BOSSI J.*<sup>1</sup>, *LUISIER C.*<sup>1</sup>, *KHASSWANEH S.*<sup>3</sup>, *VARALLI A.*<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Department of F.-A. Forel for Environmental and Aquatic Sciences, University of Geneva, Switzerland, Geneva, Switzerland

<sup>2</sup> Aix Marseille Univ, CNRS, Minist Culture, LAMPEA, Aix-en-Provence, France

<sup>3</sup> University of Yarmouk, Irbid, Jordan

\*Corresponding author

## Abstract

The "Dolmen Project in Irbid – Southern Kufr Yuba" seeks to document dolmens and uncover insights into the societies that built them. Using GIS data from a 2005 survey, when 189 dolmens remained (Caminada et al., 2024), the project highlights the varied distribution of dolmen clusters, ranging from pairs to groups of up to 58 monuments. This distribution, combined with dispersed Early Bronze Age settlements, raises questions about whether these builders were sedentary or mobile. Excavations in September 2024 focused on one of the last clusters within a landscape that once held over 800 funerary monuments. The excavations established the "chaîne opératoire" for 39 dolmens. Findings from three excavated dolmens revealed human remains and artifacts spanning the Early Bronze Age to Roman and Byzantine periods, highlighting enduring burial practices. The DPI-SKY project aims to place these findings within a regional context, comparing the Rjile necropolis with other dolmen necropolis, such as Ajlun, Jaulan, Leja, and Zarqa. The objective is to determine whether Rjile forms a coherent group and to identify social characteristics that connect or distinguish it from other sites, offering insights into the social dynamics of megalithic cultures in the Southern Levant.

## Keywords

Dolmen, Architecture, Datation, Ritual, Jordan

## Session

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