



## ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

# Cultural and social dimensions of death in the cremation graveyard of Tell Shiukh Fawqi (Syria)

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## Abstract

At the end of the 1990s, a cemetery was discovered at Tell Shiukh Fawqâni (Syria), a site in the upper Euphrates valley. It yielded more than a hundred cremation tombs, as well as rare inhumation burials.

The site provides an opportunity to understand the cultural and social dimensions of death in the late Bronze Age and early Iron Age.

The contents of the urns, which were excavated like real archaeological deposits, made it possible to identify funerary gestures and how they were carried out.

The often well-burnt remains of the deceased (adult or child) were placed in jars, sometimes wrapped in cloth, but always closed by a sherd or a bowl, but sometimes by a crater or a large basin. Few objects completed these assemblies (figurines, beakers, mortars...), but others were often placed with the deceased (jewelry, spindle whorls and iron weapons among others) in the cinerary urn; some were even burnt with him or her.

The recurrence of the gestures in the chaîne opératoire reveals the importance of the gender, age and status of the deceased in funeral practices.

## Keywords

cremation, cemetery, chaîne opératoire, Syria, funerary gestures

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