



ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

What is the Jhukar? The concept of archaeological culture vis a vis an archaeological style at the end of the Bronze Age Harappan, Southern Indus River Valley, c. 1900-1300 BCE

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Abstract

Polychrome painted pottery has been found at a number of sites in Sindh Province, Southern Pakistan, overlaying classic Harappan bichrome painted pottery along with a characteristic suite of small finds indicative of the Mature or Urban Harappan culture. Early interpretations of this Jhukar painted pottery (and the very limited settlement remains at the sites of Amri and Chanhudaro), were seen as evidence of a new population and thus a new archaeological culture that appeared at the end of the urban Harappan period (and culture). Research from the 1990s onward, has dismissed this interpretation and instead the Jhukar painted ceramics are seen as “only a pottery style emerging in association with the continuing Mature Harappan ceramic tradition without any... change in cultural continuity (Mughal 1990).” This presentation will explore the implications of interpreting the Jhukar as an archaeological culture in contrast to the Jhukar as a stylistic shift, in order to explore the ways the concepts of style and culture interact with each other within the context of our understanding of what an archaeological culture is, or is not. The implications of this impinge on how we assess cultural change within a context of partial cultural continuity.

Keywords

style, archaeological culture, Harappan, painted pottery, Late Harappan

Session

7. Characterizing culture ?

Type of paper

Oral presentation