



## ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

# Beyond Rurality Addressing the Function of Small Sites in Urbanised Mesopotamia

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## Abstract

Near Eastern Archaeology as a discipline is traditionally focussed on the investigation of cities with their urban institutions, monumental buildings, and extensive residential areas. In the past years, this focus has increasingly shifted to also include smaller, rural sites, which are usually interpreted as 'villages' or 'hamlets' due to their small size and their location in the hinterland of a larger, urban site.

While numerous of these small, rural sites have been identified through archaeological surveys no definition of what constitutes a village or hamlet, apart from its site and location, has been proposed yet. At the same time, excavations of small sites not only indicate a certain degree of complexity regarding their organisation but also suggest that some supposedly rural sites had no agricultural functions whatsoever but, e.g., religious ones.

This paper seeks to demonstrate the functional diversity of small sites in Mesopotamia based on recently investigated sites, such as Muqable in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, and previously excavated sites.

## Keywords

Bronze Age, Rural Archaeology, Muqable

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