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ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Changes in Burial Practices in the Southern Levant During the Middle Bronze Age: Israel as a Case Study

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Abstract

Changing burial practices over time can be a key indicator of changes in culture, society and economy. In this regard, the Middle Bronze age southern Levant was an interesting period, with significant changes and contrasts in burial practices within a small region that was heavily influenced by external cultures and factors. Unfortunately, due to the attraction of other periods in Israeli archaeology, the Middle Bronze age funerary culture has been largely ignored. Therefore, this presentation will attempt to present a novel survey of the available evidence for Middle Bronze age burials from the southern Levant while creating a mutual language to better understand the period and the Middle Bronze burial culture. The burials will be discussed in light of a number of characteristics, including location, tomb type, and period. In doing so, the different burial practices and geographic regions will be compared to highlight the shift in funerary culture. The presented material can be used as a foundation for future investigations and comparisons of the burial culture in the Middle Bronze age southern Levant.

Keywords

Burial practice, Middle Bronze age, Southern Levant, Database, Israel

Session

6. Life and death: Human behaviour and practices

Type of paper

Oral presentation