



## ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

# Salvaging Braidwood's Legacy Assemblages: Asiab, Gird Chai, and Gird Ali Agha

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## Abstract

The Archaeology of the Eastern Fertile Crescent (EFC) Neolithic stands on the shoulders of Robert Braidwood, who excavated Jarmo in the 1950s. However, he tested more than a dozen other sites whose assemblages have mostly stayed unpublished. We discuss our study of his unpublished Gird Chai, Gird Ali Agha, and Asiab assemblages. The former two, located 1km apart and being some of the only surviving Early Neolithic assemblages from the Upper Tigris lowlands, allow an unprecedented window into diachronic cultural change at the onset of the Neolithic. Asiab, consisting of more than 100,000 artefacts and having been recently re-excavated, further exemplifies what legacy assemblages can contribute to modern archaeology.

We present preliminary analysis of the entire assemblages, including quantitative chipped stone analysis and micro-usewear study, obsidian XRF sourcing, analysis of mammal and mollusc remains, ground stone, ceramics, architecture, and small finds. Our results for Gird Chai and Ali Agha suggest the Upper Tigris lowlands was a key conduit for transmitting Early Neolithic developments, and our results for Asiab suggest the site was occupied for much longer than was previously believed. For both, we discuss the upside of, and strategies for, studying assemblages whose context and documentation have been largely lost.

## Keywords

Neolithic, EFC, Lithics, Chipped Stone, Legacy

## Session

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