



## ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

# Local and Regional Ceramic Traditions in Northwest Arabia: From the Bronze to the Iron Age. New insights from Dadan and Khaybar

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## Abstract

Recent archaeological investigations in Northwestern Arabia, specifically in the Al-Ula and Khaybar oases, conducted by the Dadan Archaeological Project and the Khaybar Longue Durée Archaeological Project, have revealed large ceramic assemblages dating from the 4th millennium BCE to the Islamic era. These findings highlight notably a long tradition of autochthonous ceramic production within these oases.

Drawing on preliminary results from archaeological excavations, substantial efforts have been made since 2020 to identify and characterize the local ceramic “culture” from the late Chalcolithic to the Iron Age, using a multi-method approach. While chemical and petrographic analyses are still ongoing, observations on macrofabrics, morpho-typology and manufacturing techniques (fashioning technique, surface treatment and decoration), combined with quantitative data, have already yielded significant results for tracing the development of local production through time.

This presentation discusses the diachronic evolution of ceramic traditions across both oases during the four millennia BCE, addressing key research questions: Were certain technologies exclusive to one site or more widely shared? Do these techniques correspond to specific periods or span multiple eras? To what extent can a ceramic assemblage be considered a cultural marker?

## Keywords

Northwestern Arabia, Dadan, Khaybar, Local pottery, Characterizing Ceramic Culture

## Session

7. Characterizing culture ?

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