



ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

From pottery to people: tracing communities of ceramic practice and the development of complex societies in the Early Bronze Age Jordan Valley

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Abstract

The Early Bronze Age in the Southern Levant presents a continuously changing settlement landscape, that witnesses the emergence and subsequent abandonment of fortified urbanised centres. The Jordan Valley during the Early Bronze Age provides an ideal case-study to explore local networks relating to the distribution and exchange of both material culture items and technical practice. This project employs a technological approach that applies petrographic and geochemical analysis to the EBA ceramic assemblages from Tell um Hammad, Tell es-Sa'idiyeh, Pella and Khirbet Um al-Ghozlan, in order to shed light on specific aspects of the manufacturing process (e.g. raw material selection, surface treatment and firing conditions). It is then possible to identify local and non-local ceramics at each site, and similar and/or diverse manufacturing processes. Taken together, these data offer new insights into changing communities of ceramic practice and networks of ceramic exchange during the EBA. By taking this small-to-large approach, extending from site to local, and then regional levels, the Jordan Valley can be placed in a broader Levantine context.

Keywords

Early Bronze Age, Pottery, Jordan Valley, petrographic and geochemical analysis, manufacturing process

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