



## ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

# Collectivity in Death: Variation, Social Organization, and Early Urbanism in EB I Mortuary Practices at Bab adh-Dhra, Jordan

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## Abstract

In the Southern Levant, the emergence of urbanism during the Early Bronze Age (EBA), c. 3700-2000 BCE, was characterized by agglomeration into larger walled towns and cities, new designs in civic architecture, agricultural intensification, and changes in mortuary practices. The site of Bab adh-Dhra', Jordan, began as a shared mortuary center during the EB I, c. 3700-3050 BCE, and grew into the first walled town in the Southern Ghor in the EB II-III, c. 3050-2500 BCE. I use statistical methods to analyze similarities and differences in EB IA and IB mortuary practices in order to investigate the development of shared mortuary traditions in the pre-urban and urbanizing periods at Bab adh-Dhra'. I first account for the variation present as a result of changes in material culture over time; I second discuss the specific evidence for purposeful differentiation in practices between groups. This research contextualizes the EB I tombs at Bab adh-Dhra' within the wider ceramic chronology and considers how the spread of shared mortuary practices in the region may have been indicative of other social, economic, and political interactions, eventually setting the stage for transition to urbanism at the site.

## Keywords

Early Bronze Age, Mortuary Practices, Statistical Analyses

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