



ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Human food practices, supply and mobility in the light of socio-political changes in the 3rd millennium in the South Caucasus?

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Abstract

Recent research on traditional stable isotopes (carbon and nitrogen) has highlighted some trends in terms of ingroup/intra-group homogeneity of Kura-Araxes (KA) dietary practices (Herrscher et al 2021), confirming the importance of dietary practices in the construction of a Kura-Araxes cultural identity. This pattern contrasts with isotopic data from post-KA/Early Kurgan populations, which indicate a greater diversity of food resources consumed, which may be associated with greater human mobility. In the framework of the KUR(A)GAN project, the acquisition of new bio-anthropological material aims to provide new data to verify these trends in Kura-Araxes dietary practices, as well as the ability to systematically study those of Early Kurgan communities. Thanks to recent archaeological discoveries, new human and animal isotopic data (n=96) have been obtained in order to describe more precisely the relationship between humans and their environment and to consolidate the diachronic changes in human dietary practices during the 3rd millennium BC. In addition, sulphur stable isotope ratios were measured on new and previous samples (n=109) to characterise for the first time the geographical area of the Southern Caucasus and to understand the possible mobility of animals and humans.

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