



ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Contextualizing Bronze Age burials at Tayma, north-west Arabia: Space, Time, and Identity

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Abstract

Within the funerary landscape of the Tayma Oasis, recent research has focused on the area of Rujum Sa'sa' to the south of the settlement, where thousands of built graves have been identified on the surface. Based on interdisciplinary excavations by the German Archaeological Institute and the Heritage Commission, funded by the German Research Foundation, archaeologists and bioarchaeologists have systematically investigated more than 20 graves, providing information on the osteological record, architecture, grave goods, chronology, topography and distribution. While the architectural variation of the tombs seems to be a characteristic element, some standardized grave types are attested more frequently in both the Late Early Bronze Age and the Middle Bronze Age. Collective burials without sex- and age-specific treatment seem to be the rule rather than the exception, and several graves also show architectural modifications. The study of the excavated contexts also provides an important contribution to analyzing commingled remains. Against the background of increasing evidence for funerary archaeology in the region, the results from Tayma are discussed in terms of the dynamics of utilization in space and time and local and regional cultural identities.

Keywords

Funerary Archaeology, Arabia, Tayma, Bronze Age

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