



ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

The Human-Nature bond: the vegetation in Late Bronze Age Northern Levantine iconography

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Abstract

This presentation aims to explore the role of the environment in the lives and imaginaries of Northern Levantine societies during the Bronze Age, research pursued as part of a PhD thesis. The method developed focuses on analysing the forms and cultural meanings of vegetal motifs in the iconography, comparing these with textual, archaeological and environmental sources.

Analysing ancient societies environments is essential to understanding them. How did these societies perceive their natural environment and the vegetation world?

The meanings associated with plants are many and varied: a living environment for humans and wildlife; a resource to be exploited; a means of subsistence; a symbol with magical or religious value.

The iconological approach underlying this research focuses on the image as a vehicle for thought, transmitted by intentionally chosen figurative motifs. How and in which forms does the vegetation play a part in the construction of societies?

These societies flourished in different types of Mediterranean landscapes: the Syrian coast, the semi-arid eastern edges, the mountain ranges of Lebanon and Anti-Lebanon, the island of Cyprus. A number of examples from the North Levantine iconography dating to the Late Bronze Age will be presented.

Keywords

Anthropised landscapes, Northern Levant, Iconography, Environment, Late Bronze Age

Session

2. Natural resources and anthropised landscapes

Type of paper

Oral presentation