



## ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

# Exploring local Ceramic Production and Typologies at the Early and Middle Islamic Qurh/al-Mabiyat, Northwestern Arabia

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## Abstract

This paper investigates the local ceramic production during the Early and Middle Islamic periods (9th/10th – 11th centuries) at Qurh/al-Mabiyat in Northwestern Arabia, focusing on defining local ceramic typologies and wares and highlighting the interactions between local potters and imported ceramics. It examines pottery from the 2022-2023 excavations conducted by the German Archaeological Institute (DAI), funded by the Royal Commission for AlUla (RCU).

The research employs archaeological data, historical narratives, and material analysis to contextualize the ceramics, with a focus on technological traditions, innovations, and adaptations. Central to the study is the chaîne opératoire approach, which reveals the potter's techniques and skills. By applying this approach alongside other analytical methods, the paper presents the characteristics of the locally produced pottery - using local fabrics better represented by the materials of the uncovered kiln in the site - and distinguishes local materials from imported ones, providing insights into the local production processes and their interaction with external influences. This comprehensive analysis enhances our understanding of ceramic production at the site and the region during the Early and Middle Islamic periods.

## Keywords

Northwestern Arabia, AlUla, Islamic period, Local pottery, Pottery production

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