



ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Integrating Bioarchaeology into Southwest Asian Archaeology: research and collaboration in Lyon

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Abstract

For over 30 years, bioarchaeology specialists have been integrated into archaeological research teams at the Maison de l'Orient et de la Méditerranée (MOM), contributing significantly to the study of Southwest Asian sites. These specialists have played a pivotal role in advancing research on key themes such as Neolithisation, early plant and animal domestication, and the emergence of agro-pastoral societies. Building on this foundation, natural scientists from MOM's Archéorient laboratory expanded their focus to later historical periods, examining critical societal transformations—urbanisation, socio-economic complexity, and the intensification of long-distance trade in state societies—and their impacts on natural and agro-pastoral resource management, human health, and phenotypic changes in domestic animals. This paper traces the history of archaeozoology, archaeobotany and biological anthropology research in Lyon, in the Near East and into adjacent regions such as the southern Caucasus and Turkey. It highlights the integration of specialists into fieldwork, the challenges of material analysis, the development of multidisciplinary projects, and the promotion of training programs.

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