



## ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

# Inhabiting the Mountains: The Bronze Age Uplands of Lebanon

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## Abstract

Characterized as inaccessible and challenging, upland landscapes in the Levant have often been cast in the role of static backwaters. Their significance, vibrancy, and resiliency, however, has often been underestimated. Drawing inspiration from recent survey and excavations in central and northern Lebanon, this paper brings together new and existing datasets to investigate and reconstruct settlement and activity in the Lebanese uplands during the Bronze Age. Rather than upland areas following a single trajectory, inhabitation across these landscapes seems to have varied, with our evidence “switching on” and “switching off” at different points throughout the third and second millennia BC. Shared material culture also hints towards important interconnections between different upland and lowland regions, but more research is needed to understand these material (and immaterial) flows. By considering the Lebanese mountains within their broader socio-cultural and economic setting, this paper will start to provide insights into some of the key factors influencing settlement and activity, or lack thereof, in these upland landscapes over the course of the Bronze Age. Moreover, by zooming in on a number of key case studies, we will demonstrate the dynamism of such landscapes and their important role in both ancient and contemporary lives.

## Keywords

upland, challenging, bronze age, Lebanon, landscape

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