



## ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

# Connecting Mesopotamian Sites and Landscapes: Recent Micro-Botanical Research in the Erbil Plain

LAUGIER E. <sup>1</sup>\*

<sup>1</sup> Utah State University, Logan, United States

\*Corresponding author

### Abstract

Phytolith analysis, though underutilized in Mesopotamian archaeology, is emerging as a powerful tool for examining this dryland region's anthropized landscapes and agro-pastoral practices. However, significant work remains to disentangle the regionally specific environmental, human, and taphonomic factors influencing phytolith production and preservation. This paper presents the ongoing results from landscape-scale phytolith analyses conducted within the Erbil Plain Archaeological Survey (EPAS) region, demonstrating how these data capture regional environmental and land-use heterogeneity and inform site-based investigations. These findings highlight the value of integrating multiple scales, data types, and time frames to refine site-based research and advance the study of Mesopotamian landscapes.

### Keywords

Archaeobotany, Landscape, Arid environment, Spatial analysis, Iraqi Kurdistan

### Session

2. Natural resources and anthropised landscapes

### Type of paper

Oral presentation