



**World
Neolithic
Congress**

ŞANLIURFA • 2024

**WORLD NEOLITHIC CONGRESS 2024
4-8 NOVEMBER 2024 ŞANLIURFA, TÜRKİYE**

ABSTRACTS

WORLD NEOLITHIC CONGRESS 2024

The 2024 World Neolithic Congress aims to bring together discussion of diverse Neolithic formations that took place across different geographical locations in different time-frames following diverse cultural and socio-economic trajectories. The Congress will provide a platform for comparing increasing Neolithic social complexity in different parts of the world.

The emergence of Neolithic cultures has been one of the most critical turning points in human history laying the foundations for our present global impact and population size, and playing a significant role in the evolution of human society over the past 12,000 years.

The Congress intends to challenge conventional theories and terminologies on the emergence and the development of productive and newly adapted ways of living.

Focus will be on sedentary lifeways, impacts on nature, the built environment , social hierarchies, the cognitive frameworks for ever-shifting norms, ontological approaches, symbols, identities, beliefs, cult practices, sanctuaries, artworks, cognition, innovation , technologies, languages, craft specialization, resilience, demographic pressure, climatic fluctuations, defining the impact of environmental settings; the use and implications of natural and bioscience research, particularly genetic, isotopic, residues, radiocarbon dating, physical anthropology, geoarchaeology, and also the most recent archaeological results from primary and secondary core areas of Neolithic formations.

The Congress aims to foster new ways of looking and thinking about Neolithic phenomena on both local and global scales.

The last Mesolithic hunter-gatherers at Damjili Cave, west Azerbaijan, the South Caucasus

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Abstract: The advent of the Neolithic socio-economy in the South Caucasus probably resulted from the immigration and cultural spread from Southwest Asia and their interaction with local Mesolithic hunter-gatherer societies. Recent studies have revealed that the Neolithic Period began around ca. 6000 BC across the South Caucasus regions. However, the details of this process, including immigrant-local interactions and their regional variations, remain unclear. In this regard, the archaeological evidence obtained from Damjili Cave in western Azerbaijan is significant. Excavations conducted by the authors' team between 2016 and 2022, yielded cultural remains from the late Mesolithic (ca. 6500-6000 BC) and Neolithic (ca. 6000-5300 BC) periods. Moreover, the stratigraphy has been firmly established by two dozen radiocarbon dates. Thus, for the first time in the South Caucasus, it became possible to examine the process by which a local Mesolithic hunter-gatherer society transformed into (or was replaced by) a Neolithic agro-pastoralist society at a single site. This presentation illustrates our research results, focusing on evidence of Mesolithic hunter-gatherer cultural remains, and provides observations on the relationship between the last Mesolithic and the first Neolithic societies in west Azerbaijan.

Keywords: Neolithization, South Caucasus, aceramic, animal domestication, plant cultivation

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