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A Diverse Landscape of Archaeological Research Volume 14, Number 1

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Volume 14, Number 1 of the Iranian Journal of Archaeological Studies presents a diverse range of research on the archaeological heritage of Iran and the broader region. The volume features contributions from both Iranian and international scholars, reflecting the growing global interest in this field.

The articles cover a variety of topics, including:

The Origins of Writing: "*Comparing Linear-Elamite and Indus writing Systems*" (Fuls 2024). systems to understand the development of literacy in Southwest Asia.

Prehistoric Tool Assemblages, Settlement Patterns and Land Use: "*New Insight on the Tool Assemblage of the Early Holocene Epoch from Amarkantak Plateau, Madhya Pradesh, India*", (Kumar and Paray 2024) *& "A Study of Lithic Assemblage from Battherma Nala, Southern Bargarh Upland, Western Odisha, India*",(Barik 2024). Investigating the technological and socio-cultural aspects of early Holocene human populations in India. And investigating the geographical distribution of archaeological sites across the Amarkantak Plateau and Battherma Nala to understand Holocene settlement patterns and resource management .

Cultural Interactions and Exchange and Regional Comparisons: "*Explanation and Configuration of South Caucasus and Azerbaijan (NW Iran) Cultures during the Bronze and Iron Ages*",(Karimikiya *et al*. 2024).Examining the cultural and archaeological features of the Khojaly-Gadabay culture in the South Caucasus and northwest Iran; and the connections between cultures in the South Caucasus and Azerbaijan during the Bronze and Iron Ages.

Human-Environment Relationships: "*Human, Environment and Food: Human Productivity of the Environment in the Mesolithic and Neolithic Periods in the Southeast of the Caspian Sea*", (Safari *et al*. 2024). Exploring the ways in which humans adapted to and modified their environments in the Mesolithic and Neolithic periods.

Archaeological Theories and Methodologies: "*Archaeology of Liberation vs. Political Archaeology: Rethinking the Past for a Just Future*", (Mortazavi 2024). Exploring the relationship between archaeology and politics, and the potential for archaeology of liberation to challenge biased narratives in historical interpretations.

Palaeolithic Research in Kyrgyzstan: "*Tosor and Ak-Ölön Sites, a Review of Two Open-Air Palaeolithic Sites in the High-Altitude basin of Issyk-Kul Lake, Kyrgyzstan*",(Ceylan and Karatas 2024). Examining the Tosor and Ak-Ölön sites in the Issyk-Kul Lake basin to understand high-altitude hominin adaptation.

Lithic Raw Materials in the Zagros Mountains: "*Deeper Insights Into the Lithic Raw Materials on the Iranian Plateau: West-Central Zagros Mountains*", (Hariri *et al*. 2024).Investigating the variety and extension of stone raw resources used in the Bawa Yawan Rockshelter in the West-Central Zagros region .

Book Review: Analyzing the book "*Persistent Pastoralism: Monuments and Settlements in the Archaeology of Dhofar,*" (Mosapour Negari 2024). which explores the long-standing pastoralist traditions and their enduring impact on the cultural landscape of Oman. By bringing together these diverse perspectives, this volume aims to contribute

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to a deeper understanding of the rich and complex archaeological heritage of the region and to inspire future research and exploration.

Key Highlights:

Strong Focus on Indian Archaeology: The majority of authors are from India, reflecting the significant research being conducted in this field.

International Collaboration: The inclusion of authors from Germany, Kyrgyzstan, India and Azerbaijan demonstrates the growing global interest in the region's archaeological heritage.

Diverse Thematic Coverage: The articles cover a wide range of topics, providing a comprehensive overview of the latest research developments.

Regional Focus: The titles of the articles highlight a strong focus on specific regions within Iran and the broader South Asian and Central Asian region.

Temporal Depth: The articles span a wide range of time periods, from the Paleolithic era to the Iron Age, demonstrating the journal's interest in exploring the long-term development of human civilizations in the region.

Methodological Innovation: Some articles suggest a focus on specific methodological approaches, such as archaeology of liberation, indicating a commitment to critical thinking and innovative research methods.

This volume offers a valuable resource for researchers, students, and anyone interested in the archaeological heritage of Iran and the broader region.

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