

WARFARE, CONFLICT AND VIOLENCE IN PREHISTORIC NEAR EAST AND CENTRAL ASIA

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Despite the gradual increase in interest for the prehistoric warfare and conflict in archaeological discourses, particularly in prehistoric Near East since early 2000s this topic has not received enough attention yet. Recent fast growing and expanding wars and conflicts both in the Near East and all around the world in Europe, Asia, Africa and the South America caused by a wide range of factors, such as shortage of natural resources, climatic deterioration, ethnic and religious conflicts, poverty, hunger, economic and political issues, migration, honor and pride violations urge us to rethink about the origin and nature of the ancient warfare and conflicts. Therefore, this session aims to explore both the evidence and nature of wars, conflicts and violence in archaeological contexts from a multidisciplinary perspective by focusing on prehistoric Near East and Central Asia. Our focus on the ancient Near East and Central Asia is primarily based on the gap in our archaeological knowledge about the topic of this session in these two regions.

The session will focus on theoretical discussion of warfare, conflict and violence; their material remains and manifestations; methodologies and techniques for exploration of the past wars, conflicts and violence; the role of Archaeology and archaeologists in rereading of ancient, historical and modern oral and written history; landscape of battles; impact of warfare on prehistoric societies and landscape; the role of women and children in ancient warfare; gender and age based status.