

Wednesday, 10.12.2025, 18:00 C.T.

**Describing the Late Chalcolithic Leylatepe Phenomenon
in the Southern Caucasus:
A Multidisciplinary Archaeological Study in Karabakh Steppe**



The site of Janavartepe (bottom center), the steppe and the Lesser Caucasus in the Background. Taynaq near Quzanli, Aghdam District, Azerbaijan. Photocredit: Mark Iserlis

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The Leylatepe phenomenon emerged in the central and eastern parts of the Southern Caucasus at the dawn of the 4th millennium BC, during a period marked by significant economic and political transformations across the Middle East and Europe. Despite over 40 years of research, this phenomenon remains shrouded in mystery, characterized by a loosely defined ceramic typology, exotic artifacts, and theories suggesting migration from Mesopotamia and contacts with distant regions. Our project, launched in 2022, aims to provide a comprehensive analysis that will inspire renewed discussions on the nature of the Leylatepe phenomenon and its place within the broader context of Near Eastern and European cultures. Through systematic interdisciplinary research of two neighboring settlements, Leylatepe and Janavartepe, we identify key elements of the material culture and economy of the Leylatepe phenomenon and explore the social dynamics of Late Chalcolithic communities.

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