

# *Ancient DNA from Mesopotamia suggests distinct pre-pottery and pottery Neolithic migrations into Anatolia*

Article

Accepted Version

Lazaridis, I. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-4094-9347>,  
Alpaslan-Roodenberg, S. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-1536-2931>, Acar, A. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-1327-6378>, Açikkol, A. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-1086-9749>, Agelarakis, A., Aghikyan, L. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5537-4144>, Akyüz, U., Andreeva, D. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2129-9016>,  
Andrijašević, G. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-9075-2112>, Antonović, D. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-6534-1258>, Armit, I. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-8669-3810>,  
Atmaca, A., Avetisyan, P. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-4469-9517>, AYTEK, A. İ. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-7620-2333>, Bacvarov, K., Badalyan, R. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-0641-5341>,  
Bakardzhiev, S., Balen, J. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-7770-184X>,  
Bejko, L. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3821-6678>,  
Bernardos, R. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4625-3727>,  
Bertsatos, A. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-8734-5236>,  
Biber, H. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3719-4120>, Bilir, A. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-7493-383X>,  
Bodružić, M. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-8112-5918>,  
Bonogofsky, M., Bonsall, C. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000->

0003-0243-3232, Borić, D. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0166-627X>, Borovinić, N. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-6542-6334>, Bravo Morante, G., Buttinger, K., Callan, K. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3170-8514>, Candilio, F. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-4668-1361>, Carić, M. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4263-6528>, Cheronet, O. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-6760-1204>, Chohadzhiev, S., Chovalopoulou, M.-E. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-8187-8031>, Chryssoulaki, S., Ciobanu, I. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-9890-4010>, Čondić, N., Constantinescu, M. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-7875-9119>, Cristiani, E. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-2748-9171>, Culleton, B. J. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-1200-9531>, Curtis, E. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-0263-0765>, Davis, J., Demcenco, T. I., Dergachev, V. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-6095-2199>, Derin, Z. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-0282-0593>, Deskaj, S., Devejyan, S., Djordjević, V., Duffett Carlson, K. S. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-7194-6608>, Eccles, L. R., Elenski, N., Engin, A. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3165-1562>, Erdoğan, N., Erir-Pazarıcı, S. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2806-3874>, Fernandes, D. M. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-7434-6552>, Ferry, M. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-7319-0085>, Freilich, S. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0472-6311>, Frînculeasa, A. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-1694-911X>, Galaty, M. L. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-7754-8347>, Gamarra, B. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3764-497X>, Gasparyan, B., Gaydarska, B. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-6236-872X>, Genç, E. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0508-7267>, Gültekin, T. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3520-5308>, Gündüz, S. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-8923-8888>, Hajdu, T. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3604-1125>, Heyd, V., Hobosyan, S., Hovhannisyan, N. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-9985-1547>, Iliev, I. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4793-9421>, Iliev, L., Iliev, S., İvgin, İ. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-8284-5346>, Janković, I.

ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-5175-6885>, Jovanova, L.,  
Karkanias, P. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-7156-671X>,  
Kavaz-Kındıǧılı, B. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-6643-8852>, Kaya, E. H. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-8853-8072>, Keating, D. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0900-0245>, Kennett, D. J. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-6144-7365>, Deniz Kesici, S. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-1594-3047>, Khudaverdyan, A. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-1458-783X>, Kiss, K. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-9371-3397>, Kılıç, S. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3424-4081>, Klostermann, P. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-4668-8520>, Kostak Boca Negra Valdes, S. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-8333-6121>, Kovačević, S. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-7197-5994>, Krenz-Niedbała, M. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-7420-5621>, Krznarić Škrivanko, M. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-6409-8663>, Kurti, R., Kuzman, P. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4477-289X>, Lawson, A. M. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0990-2329>, Lazar, C. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-7559-1843>, Leshtakov, K., Levy, T. E. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-8618-6672>, Liritzis, I. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3079-1336>, Lorentz, K. O., Łukasik, S. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2210-7434>, Mah, M. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-8987-6436>, Mallick, S., Mandl, K. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-2078-0775>, Martirosyan-Olshansky, K. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-1896-9085>, Matthews, R. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-8316-4312>, Matthews, W. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-7408-6885>, McSweeney, K. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-6488-2928>, Melikyan, V., Micco, A. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-6016-964X>, Michel, M. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5484-7974>, Milašinović, L., Mitnik, A. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-6963-4824>, Monge, J. M. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-4364-6296>, Nekhrizov, G. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0933-7980>, Nicholls, R., Nikitin, A. G. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3897-4607>, Nikolov, V., Novak, M.

ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-4567-8742>, Olalde, I.  
ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-2660-6807>, Oppenheimer,  
J. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-7973-6173>, Osterholtz,  
A. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-8437-9147>, Özdemir,  
C., Özdoğan, K. T., Öztürk, N., Papadimitriou, N. ORCID:  
<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-2894-7250>, Papakonstantinou, N.  
ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-6869-645X>,  
Papathanasiou, A., Paraman, L. ORCID:  
<https://orcid.org/0000-0001-8780-5845>, Paskary, E. G.,  
Patterson, N. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0302-684X>,  
Petraiev, I., Petrosyan, L., Petrova, V. ORCID:  
<https://orcid.org/0000-0001-7844-1058>, Philippa-Touchais, A.,  
Piliposyan, A. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-7367-5250>,  
Pocuca Kuzman, N. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4477-289X>,  
Potrebica, H. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5474-4254>,  
Preda-Bălănică, B. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-2956-2336>,  
Premužić, Z., Price, T. D. ORCID:  
<https://orcid.org/0000-0001-5951-5621>, Qiu, L. ORCID:  
<https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4377-8659>, Radović, S. ORCID:  
<https://orcid.org/0000-0001-7838-7952>, Raeuf Aziz, K., Rajić  
Šikanjić, P. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-7760-5193>,  
Rasheed Raheem, K., Razumov, S. ORCID:  
<https://orcid.org/0000-0001-6030-9390>, Richardson, A.  
ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-7376-8948>, Roodenberg,  
J., Ruka, R., Russeva, V. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-8998-6782>,  
Şahin, M. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-5153-1918>,  
Şarbak, A. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3199-1612>,  
Savaş, E. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3806-8399>,  
Schattke, C., Schepartz, L. ORCID:  
<https://orcid.org/0000-0003-1379-0817>, Selçuk, T. ORCID:  
<https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0322-2015>, Sevim-Erol, A. ORCID:  
<https://orcid.org/0000-0001-7776-3864>, Shamoony-Pour, M.  
ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-2094-002X>, Shephard, H.  
M. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0168-5462>, Sideris, A.  
ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0635-4718>, Simalcsik, A.  
ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-8639-3535>, Simonyan, H.,  
Sinika, V. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-1621-9205>,

Sirak, K. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2347-3479>,  
Sirbu, G. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-4525-1239>,  
Šlaus, M. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-4941-2212>,  
Soficaru, A. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-8658-6695>,  
Söğüt, B. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-0171-318X>,  
Sołtysiak, A. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-9040-5022>,  
Sönmez-Sözer, Ç. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-2818-5364>,  
Stathi, M. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-6698-8977>,  
Steskal, M. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-2964-3953>,  
Stewardson, K., Stocker, S., Suata-Alpaslan, F. ORCID:  
<https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0404-9381>,  
Suvorov, A.,  
Szécsényi-Nagy, A. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2095-738X>,  
Szeniczey, T. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-1546-7140>,  
Telnov, N. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-6878-0216>,  
Temov, S. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0133-5526>,  
Todorova, N. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-7117-5452>,  
Tota, U., Touchais, G. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-7225-2157>,  
Triantaphyllou, S. ORCID:  
<https://orcid.org/0000-0003-1231-6515>,  
Türker, A. ORCID:  
<https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3893-4135>,  
Ugarković, M. ORCID:  
<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-1134-7531>,  
Valchev, T.,  
Veljanovska, F., Videvski, Z., Virag, C. ORCID:  
<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-7867-7498>,  
Wagner, A. ORCID:  
<https://orcid.org/0000-0003-1859-2297>,  
Walsh, S. ORCID:  
<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-6820-8516>,  
Włodarczak, P.  
ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0359-7386>,  
Workman, J.  
N. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-0921-1803>,  
Yardumian,  
A., Yarovoy, E., Yavuz, A. Y. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-4959-5581>,  
Yılmaz, H. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-2399-5085>,  
Zalzala, F. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-8981-1277>,  
Zettl, A. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-8201-3993>,  
Zhang, Z. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-7562-7559>,  
Çavuşoğlu, R. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-0049-902X>,  
Rohland, N., Pinhasi, R. ORCID:  
<https://orcid.org/0000-0003-1629-8131>,  
Reich, D. ORCID:  
<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-7037-5292> and Davtyan, R. (2022)  
Ancient DNA from Mesopotamia suggests distinct pre-pottery

and pottery Neolithic migrations into Anatolia. *Science*, 377 (6609). pp. 982-987. ISSN 1095-9203 doi: <https://doi.org/10.1126/science.abq0762> Available at <https://centaur.reading.ac.uk/107193/>

It is advisable to refer to the publisher's version if you intend to cite from the work. See [Guidance on citing](#).

To link to this article DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1126/science.abq0762>

Publisher: American Association for the Advancement of Science

All outputs in CentAUR are protected by Intellectual Property Rights law, including copyright law. Copyright and IPR is retained by the creators or other copyright holders. Terms and conditions for use of this material are defined in the [End User Agreement](#).

[www.reading.ac.uk/centaur](http://www.reading.ac.uk/centaur)

## **CentAUR**

Central Archive at the University of Reading

Reading's research outputs online

## Ancient DNA from Mesopotamia suggests distinct Pre-Pottery and Pottery Neolithic migrations into Anatolia

Iosif Lazaridis<sup>1,2,\*†</sup>, Songül Alpaslan-Roodenberg<sup>2,3,\*†</sup>, Ayşe Acar<sup>4</sup>, Ayşen Açıkkol<sup>5</sup>, Anagnostis  
5 Agelarakis<sup>6</sup>, Levon Aghikyan<sup>7</sup>, Uğur Akyüz<sup>8</sup>, Desislava Andreeva<sup>9</sup>, Gojko Andrijasevic<sup>10</sup>,  
Dragana Antonović<sup>11</sup>, Ian Armit<sup>12</sup>, Alper Atmaca<sup>13</sup>, Pavel Avetisyan<sup>7</sup>, Ahmet İhsan Aytek<sup>14</sup>,  
Krum Bacvarov<sup>15</sup>, Ruben Badalyan<sup>7</sup>, Stefan Bakardzhiev<sup>16</sup>, Jacqueline Balen<sup>17</sup>, Lorenc Bejko<sup>18</sup>,  
Rebecca Bernardos<sup>2</sup>, Andreas Bertatos<sup>19</sup>, Hanifi Biber<sup>20</sup>, Ahmet Bilir<sup>21</sup>, Mario Bodružić<sup>22</sup>,  
Michelle Bonogofsky<sup>23</sup>, Clive Bonsall<sup>24</sup>, Dušan Borić<sup>25</sup>, Nikola Borovinić<sup>26</sup>, Guillermo Bravo  
10 Morante<sup>3</sup>, Katharina Buttinger<sup>3</sup>, Kim Callan<sup>2,27</sup>, Francesca Candilio<sup>28</sup>, Mario Carić<sup>29</sup>, Olivia  
Cheronet<sup>3</sup>, Stefan Chohadzhiev<sup>30</sup>, Maria-Eleni Chovalopoulou<sup>19</sup>, Stella Chryssoulaki<sup>31</sup>, Ion  
Ciobanu<sup>32,33</sup>, Natalija Čondić<sup>34</sup>, Mihai Constantinescu<sup>35</sup>, Emanuela Cristiani<sup>36</sup>, Brendan J.  
Culleton<sup>37</sup>, Elizabeth Curtis<sup>2,27</sup>, Jack Davis<sup>38</sup>, Tatiana I. Demcenco<sup>39</sup>, Valentin Dergachev<sup>40</sup>,  
Zafer Derin<sup>41</sup>, Sylvia Deskaj<sup>42</sup>, Seda Devejian<sup>7</sup>, Vojislav Djordjević<sup>43</sup>, Kellie Sara Duffett  
15 Carlson<sup>3</sup>, Laurie R. Eccles<sup>44</sup>, Nedko Elenski<sup>45</sup>, Atilla Engin<sup>46</sup>, Nihat Erdoğan<sup>47</sup>, Sabiha Erir-  
Pazarıcı<sup>48</sup>, Daniel M. Fernandes<sup>3,49</sup>, Matthew Ferry<sup>2,27</sup>, Suzanne Freilich<sup>3</sup>, Alin Frînculeasa<sup>50</sup>,  
Michael L. Galaty<sup>42</sup>, Beatriz Gamarra<sup>51,52,53</sup>, Boris Gasparyan<sup>7</sup>, Bisserka Gaydarska<sup>54</sup>, Elif  
Genç<sup>55</sup>, Timur Gültekin<sup>56</sup>, Serkan Gündüz<sup>57</sup>, Tamás Hajdu<sup>58</sup>, Volker Heyd<sup>59</sup>, Suren Hobosyan<sup>7</sup>,  
Nelli Hovhannisyán<sup>60</sup>, Iliya Iliev<sup>16</sup>, Lora Iliev<sup>2,27</sup>, Stanislav Iliev<sup>61</sup>, İlkey İvgin<sup>62</sup>, Ivor Janković<sup>29</sup>,  
20 Lence Jovanova<sup>63</sup>, Panagiotis Karkanás<sup>64</sup>, Berna Kavaz-Kındığılı<sup>65</sup>, Esra Hilal Kaya<sup>66</sup>, Denise  
Keating<sup>3</sup>, Douglas Kennett<sup>37,67</sup>, Seda Deniz Kesici<sup>68</sup>, Anahit Khudaverdyan<sup>7</sup>, Krisztián Kiss<sup>58,69</sup>,  
Sinan Kılıç<sup>20</sup>, Paul Klostermann<sup>70</sup>, Sinem Kostak Boca Negra Valdes<sup>68</sup>, Saša Kovačević<sup>71</sup>,  
Marta Krenz-Niedbala<sup>72</sup>, Maja Krznarić Škrivanko<sup>73</sup>, Rovena Kurti<sup>74</sup>, Pasko Kuzman<sup>75</sup>, Ann  
Marie Lawson<sup>2,27</sup>, Catalin Lazar<sup>76</sup>, Krassimir Leshtakov<sup>77</sup>, Thomas E. Levy<sup>78</sup>, Ioannis  
25 Liritzis<sup>79,80</sup>, Kirsí O. Lorentz<sup>81</sup>, Sylwia Łukasik<sup>72</sup>, Matthew Mah<sup>2,27,82</sup>, Swapan Mallick<sup>2,27</sup>,  
Kirsten Mandl<sup>3</sup>, Kristine Martirosyan-Olshansky<sup>83</sup>, Roger Matthews<sup>84</sup>, Wendy Matthews<sup>84</sup>,  
Kathleen McSweeney<sup>24</sup>, Varduhi Melikyan<sup>7</sup>, Adam Micco<sup>2</sup>, Megan Michel<sup>1,2,27</sup>, Lidjia  
Milasinovic<sup>85</sup>, Alissa Mittnik<sup>1,2,86</sup>, Janet M. Monge<sup>87</sup>, Georgi Nekhrizov<sup>15</sup>, Rebecca Nicholls<sup>88</sup>,  
Alexey G. Nikitin<sup>89</sup>, Vassil Nikolov<sup>15</sup>, Mario Novak<sup>29</sup>, Iñigo Olalde<sup>2,90</sup>, Jonas Oppenheimer<sup>2,27</sup>,  
30 Anna Osterholtz<sup>91</sup>, Celal Özdemir<sup>13</sup>, Kadir Toykan Özdoğan<sup>3</sup>, Nurettin Öztürk<sup>65</sup>, Nikos  
Papadimitriou<sup>92</sup>, Niki Papakonstantinou<sup>93</sup>, Anastasia Papathanasiou<sup>94</sup>, Lujana Paraman<sup>95</sup>, Evgeny  
G. Paskary<sup>96</sup>, Nick Patterson<sup>1,82</sup>, Ilian Petrakiev<sup>45</sup>, Levon Petrosyan<sup>7</sup>, Vanya Petrova<sup>77</sup>, Anna  
Philippa-Touchais<sup>97</sup>, Ashot Piliposyan<sup>98</sup>, Nada Pocuca Kuzman<sup>75</sup>, Hrvoje Potrebica<sup>99</sup>, Bianca  
Preda-Bălănică<sup>59</sup>, Zrinka Premužić<sup>100</sup>, T. Douglas Price<sup>101</sup>, Lijun Qiu<sup>2,27</sup>, Siniša Radović<sup>102</sup>,  
35 Kamal Raeuf Aziz<sup>103</sup>, Petra Rajić Šikanjić<sup>29</sup>, Kamal Rasheed Raheem<sup>103</sup>, Sergei Razumov<sup>104</sup>,  
Amy Richardson<sup>84</sup>, Jacob Roodenberg<sup>105</sup>, Rudenc Ruka<sup>74</sup>, Victoria Russeva<sup>106</sup>, Mustafa Şahin<sup>57</sup>,  
Ayşegül Şarbak<sup>107</sup>, Emre Savaş<sup>68</sup>, Constanze Schattke<sup>3</sup>, Lynne Schepartz<sup>108</sup>, Tayfun Selçuk<sup>68</sup>,  
Ayla Sevim-Erol<sup>109</sup>, Michel Shamooun-Pour<sup>110</sup>, Henry M. Shephard<sup>111</sup>, Athanasios Sideris<sup>112</sup>,  
Angela Simalcsik<sup>32,113</sup>, Hakob Simonyan<sup>114</sup>, Vitalij Sinika<sup>104</sup>, Kendra Sirak<sup>2</sup>, Ghenadie Sirbu<sup>115</sup>,  
40 Mario Šlaus<sup>116</sup>, Andrei Soficaru<sup>35</sup>, Bilal Söğüt<sup>117</sup>, Arkadiusz Sołtysiak<sup>118</sup>, Çilem Sönmez-  
Sözer<sup>109</sup>, Maria Stathi<sup>119</sup>, Martin Steskal<sup>120</sup>, Kristin Stewardson<sup>2,27</sup>, Sharon Stocker<sup>38</sup>, Fadime  
Suata-Alpaslan<sup>121</sup>, Alexander Suvorov<sup>59</sup>, Anna Szécsényi-Nagy<sup>122</sup>, Tamás Szeniczey<sup>58</sup>, Nikolai  
Telnov<sup>104</sup>, Strahil Temov<sup>123</sup>, Nadezhda Todorova<sup>77</sup>, Ulsi Tota<sup>74,124</sup>, Gilles Touchais<sup>125</sup>, Sevi  
Triantaphyllou<sup>93</sup>, Atila Türker<sup>126</sup>, Marina Ugarković<sup>71</sup>, Todor Valchev<sup>16</sup>, Fanica Veljanovska<sup>123</sup>,  
45 Zlatko Videvski<sup>123</sup>, Cristian Virag<sup>127</sup>, Anna Wagner<sup>3</sup>, Sam Walsh<sup>128</sup>, Piotr Włodarczak<sup>129</sup>, J.

Noah Workman<sup>2</sup>, Aram Yardumian<sup>130,131</sup>, Evgenii Yarovoy<sup>132</sup>, Alper Yener Yavuz<sup>133</sup>, Hakan Yilmaz<sup>20</sup>, Fatma Zalzala<sup>2,27</sup>, Anna Zettl<sup>3</sup>, Zhao Zhang<sup>2</sup>, Rafet Çavuşoğlu<sup>20</sup>, Nadin Rohland<sup>2</sup>, Ron Pinhasi<sup>3,134\*</sup>, David Reich<sup>1,2,27,82\*</sup>

**Affiliations:**

- 5           <sup>1</sup>Department for Human Evolutionary Biology, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA 02138, USA  
             <sup>2</sup>Department of Genetics, Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA 02115, USA  
             <sup>3</sup>Department of Evolutionary Anthropology, University of Vienna, 1090 Vienna, Austria  
             <sup>4</sup>Mardin Artuklu University, Faculty of Letters, Department of Anthropology, Artuklu, 47510,  
             Mardin, Turkey  
10           <sup>5</sup>Sivas Cumhuriyet University, Faculty of Letters, Department of Anthropology, 58140 Sivas, Turkey  
             <sup>6</sup>Department of History, Adelphi University, Garden City, NY 11530, USA  
             <sup>7</sup>Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography, NAS RA, 0025 Yerevan, Armenia  
             <sup>8</sup>Samsun Museum of Archeology and Ethnography, Kale Mahallesi, Merkez, İlkadım, 55030 Samsun,  
             Turkey  
15           <sup>9</sup>Iskra Museum of History, 6100 Kazanlak, Bulgaria  
             <sup>10</sup>Historical Museum in Kotor, 85330 Kotor, Montenegro  
             <sup>11</sup>Institute of Archaeology, 11000 Belgrade, Serbia  
             <sup>12</sup>Department of Archaeology, University of York, York, YO1 7EP, UK  
             <sup>13</sup>Amasya Archaeology Museum, Mustafa Kemal Paşa Caddesi, 05000 Amasya, Turkey  
20           <sup>14</sup>Burdur Mehmet Akif University, Faculty of Arts and Science, Department of Anthropology, 15100  
             Burdur, Turkey  
             <sup>15</sup>National Institute of Archaeology and Museum, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, 1000 Sofia,  
             Bulgaria  
             <sup>16</sup>Yambol Regional Historical Museum, 8600 Yambol, Bulgaria  
25           <sup>17</sup>Archaeological Museum in Zagreb, 10000 Zagreb, Croatia  
             <sup>18</sup>Department of Archaeology and Heritage Studies, University of Tirana, Tirana 1010, Albania  
             <sup>19</sup>Department of Animal and Human Physiology, Faculty of Biology, School of Sciences, National  
             and Kapodistrian University of Athens, 10679 Athens, Greece  
30           <sup>20</sup>Van Yüzüncü Yıl University, Faculty of Humanities, Department of Archaeology, 65090 Tuşba,  
             Van, Turkey  
             <sup>21</sup>Düzce University, Faculty of Science and Letters, Department of Archaeology, 81620 Düzce,  
             Turkey  
             <sup>22</sup>Stratum Ltd., 21218 Seget Donji, Croatia  
             <sup>23</sup>Independent Researcher, Berkeley, CA 94720, USA  
35           <sup>24</sup>School of History, Classics and Archaeology, University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, EH8 9AG, UK  
             <sup>25</sup>The Italian Academy for Advanced Studies in America, Columbia University, New York, NY  
             10027, USA



- 26Center for Conservation and Archaeology of Montenegro, 81250 Kotor, Montenegro
- 27Howard Hughes Medical Institute, Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA 02115, USA
- 28Servizio di Bioarcheologia, Museo delle Civiltà, 00144 Rome, Italy
- 29Centre for Applied Bioanthropology, Institute for Anthropological Research, 10000 Zagreb, Croatia
- 5 30University of Veliko Tarnovo "St. St. Cyril and Methodius", 5003 Veliko Tarnovo, Bulgaria
- 31Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports, Ephorate of Antiquities of Piraeus and the Islands, 10682 Piraeus, Greece
- 32"Orheiul Vechi" Cultural-Natural Reserve, Institute of Bioarchaeological and Ethnocultural Research, 3552 Butuceni, Moldova
- 10 33National Archaeological Agency, 2012 Chişinău, Moldova
- 34Archaeological Museum in Zadar, 23000 Zadar, Croatia
- 35Fr. I. Rainer" Institute of Anthropology, 050711 Bucharest, Romania
- 36Department of Oral and Maxillo-Facial Sciences, Sapienza University of Rome, 00161 Rome, Italy
- 37Institutes of Energy and the Environment, The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA 16802, USA
- 15 38University of Cincinnati, Department of Classics, Cincinnati, OH 45221, USA
- 39Independent Researcher, Aberystwyth SY23 4UH, UK
- 40Center of Archaeology, Institute of Cultural Heritage, Academy of Science of Moldova, 2001 Chişinău, Moldova
- 20 41Ege University, Faculty of Letters, Department of Archaeology, 35100 Bornova-Izmir, Turkey
- 42University of Michigan, Museum of Anthropological Archaeology, Ann Arbor, MI 48109, USA
- 43Narodni muzej Pančevo, 26101 Pančevo, Serbia
- 44Human Paleoecology and Isotope Geochemistry Lab, Department of Anthropology, The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA 16802, USA
- 25 45Regional Museum of History - Veliko Tarnovo, 5000 Veliko Tarnovo, Bulgaria
- 46Gaziantep University, Faculty of Science and Letters, Department of Archaeology, 27310 Gaziantep, Turkey
- 47Mardin Archaeological Museum, Şar, Cumhuriyet Meydanı üstü, 47100 Artuklu, Mardin, Turkey
- 48Muğla İl Kültür ve Turizm Müdürlüğü, 48000 Muğla, Turkey
- 30 49CIAS, Department of Life Sciences, University of Coimbra, 3000-456 Coimbra, Portugal
- 50Prahova County Museum of History and Archaeology, 100042 Ploieşti, Romania
- 51Institut Català de Paleoecologia Humana i Evolució Social, 43007 Tarragona, Spain
- 52Universitat Rovira i Virgili, Departament d'Història i Història de l'Art, 43002 Tarragona, Spain
- 53School of Archaeology and Earth Institute, University College Dublin, Belfield, Dublin 4, Ireland
- 35 54Department of Archaeology, Durham University, Durham, DH1 3LE, UK
- 55Çukurova University, Faculty of Science and Letters, Department of Archaeology, 01330 Balçalı-Sarıçam-Adana, Turkey

- 5<sup>6</sup>Ankara University, Faculty of Humanities, Department of Anthropology, 06100 Sıhhiye, Ankara, Turkey
- <sup>7</sup>Uludağ University, Faculty of Science and Letters, Department of Archaeology, 16059 Görükle, Bursa, Turkey
- 5 <sup>8</sup>Department of Biological Anthropology, Institute of Biology, Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest, Hungary
- <sup>9</sup>Department of Cultures, University of Helsinki, 00100 Helsinki, Finland
- <sup>0</sup>Yerevan State University, 0025 Yerevan, Armenia
- <sup>1</sup>Regional Museum of History, 6300 Haskovo, Bulgaria
- 10 <sup>2</sup>Ministry of Culture and Tourism, İsmet İnönü Bulvarı, 06100 Emek, Ankara, Turkey
- <sup>3</sup>Museum of the City of Skopje, 1000 Skopje, North Macedonia
- <sup>4</sup>Malcolm H. Wiener Laboratory, American School of Classical Studies at Athens, 10676 Athens, Greece
- <sup>5</sup>Atatürk University, Faculty of Letters, Department of Archaeology, 25100 Erzurum, Turkey
- 15 <sup>6</sup>Muğla Archaeological Museum and Yatağan Thermal Power Generation Company, Rescue Excavations, 48000 Muğla, Turkey
- <sup>7</sup>Department of Anthropology, University of California Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara, CA 93106, USA
- <sup>8</sup>Bodrum Museum of Underwater Archeology, Çarşı Neighbourhood, 48400 Bodrum, Muğla, Turkey
- 20 <sup>9</sup>Department of Anthropology, Hungarian Natural History Museum, 1117 Budapest, Hungary
- <sup>0</sup>Natural History Museum Vienna, Department of Anthropology, 1010 Vienna, Austria
- <sup>1</sup>Institute of Archaeology, 10000 Zagreb, Croatia
- <sup>2</sup>Faculty of Biology, Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, 61-614 Poznań, Poland
- <sup>3</sup>Municipal Museum Vinkovci, 32100 Vinkovci, Croatia
- 25 <sup>4</sup>Prehistory Department, Albanian Institute of Archaeology, Academy of Albanian Studies, 1000 Tirana, Albania
- <sup>5</sup>National Museum in Ohrid, 6000 Ohrid, North Macedonia
- <sup>6</sup>ArchaeoSciences Division, Research Institute of the University of Bucharest, University of Bucharest, 050663 Bucharest, Romania
- 30 <sup>7</sup>Department of Archaeology, St. Kliment Ohridski University of Sofia, 1504 Sofia, Bulgaria
- <sup>8</sup>Department of Anthropology, UC San Diego, La Jolla, CA 92093, USA
- <sup>9</sup>Key Research Institute of Yellow River Civilization and Sustainable Development and the Collaborative Innovation Center on Yellow River Civilization of Henan Province, Laboratory of Yellow River Cultural Heritage, Henan University, 475001 Kaifeng, China
- 35 <sup>0</sup>European Academy of Sciences & Arts, St. Peter-Bezirk 10, A-5020 Salzburg, Austria
- <sup>1</sup>The Cyprus Institute, Science and Technology in Archaeology and Culture Research Center, 2121 Aglantzia, Nicosia, Cyprus
- <sup>2</sup>Broad Institute of Harvard and MIT, Cambridge, MA 02142, USA
- <sup>3</sup>Cotsen Institute of Archaeology, UCLA, Los Angeles, CA 90095, USA

<sup>84</sup>Department of Archaeology, University of Reading, Reading, RG6 6AB, UK

<sup>85</sup>National Museum of Kikinda, 23300 Kikinda, Serbia

<sup>86</sup>Department of Archaeogenetics, Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, Deutscher Platz 6, 04103 Leipzig, Germany

5 <sup>87</sup>University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, Philadelphia, PA 19104, USA

<sup>88</sup>School of Archaeological and Forensic Sciences, Faculty of Life Sciences, University of Bradford, Bradford, BD7 1DP, UK

<sup>89</sup>Department of Biology, Grand Valley State University, Allendale, MI 49401, USA

10 <sup>90</sup>BIOMICs Research Group, University of the Basque Country UPV/EHU, 01006 Vitoria-Gasteiz, Spain

<sup>91</sup>Department of Anthropology and Middle Eastern Cultures, Mississippi State University, MS 39762, USA

<sup>92</sup>Paul and Alexandra Canellopoulos Museum, 105-55 Athens, Greece

15 <sup>93</sup>Faculty of Philosophy, School of History and Archaeology, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, 54124 Thessaloniki, Greece

<sup>94</sup>Ephorate of Paleoantropology and Speleology, Greek Ministry of Culture, 11636 Athens, Greece

<sup>95</sup>Muzej grada Trogira, 21220 Trogir, Croatia

<sup>96</sup>Moldovan Historic - Geographical Society, 2044 Chişinău, Moldova

20 <sup>97</sup>French School of Archaeology at Athens, 10680 Athens, Greece

<sup>98</sup>Armenian State Pedagogical University After Khachatur Abovyan, 0010 Yerevan, Armenia

<sup>99</sup>Department of Archaeology, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb, 10000 Zagreb, Croatia

<sup>100</sup>Independent Researcher, 10000 Zagreb, Croatia

25 <sup>101</sup>University of Wisconsin-Madison, Laboratory for Archaeological Chemistry, Madison, WI 53706, USA

<sup>102</sup>Institute for Quaternary Palaeontology and Geology, Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts, 10000 Zagreb, Croatia

<sup>103</sup>Sulaimaniyah Directorate of Antiquities and Heritage, Sulaimaniyah, Iraq

30 <sup>104</sup>Pridnestrovian University named after Taras Shevchenko, 3300 Tiraspol, Moldova

<sup>105</sup>The Netherlands Institute for the Near East, 2311 Leiden, Netherlands

<sup>106</sup>Bulgarian Academy of Science, Institute of Experimental Morphology, Pathology and Archeology with Museum, 1113 Sofia, Bulgaria

35 <sup>107</sup>Hitit University, Faculty of Science and Letters, Department of Antrophology, 19040 Çorum, Turkey

<sup>108</sup>School of Anatomical Sciences, The University of the Witwatersrand, 2193 Johannesburg, South Africa

<sup>109</sup>Ankara University, Faculty of Language and History - Geography, Department of Anthropology, 06100 Sıhhiye, Ankara, Turkey

<sup>110</sup>Binghamton University, Department of Anthropology, Binghamton University, Binghamton, NY 13902, USA

<sup>111</sup>Archaeological Institute of America, Boston, MA 02108, USA

<sup>112</sup>Institute of Classical Archaeology, Charles University, 11636 Prague, Czechia

5 <sup>113</sup>"Olga Necrasov" Centre of Anthropological Research, Romanian Academy Iași Branch, 2012 Iași Romania

<sup>114</sup>Scientific Research Center of The Historical And Cultural Heritage, 0010, Yerevan, Armenia

<sup>115</sup>Thracology Scientific Research Laboratory of the State University of Moldova, Department of Academic Management, Academy of Science of Moldova, 2009 Chișinău, Moldova

10 <sup>116</sup>Anthropological Center of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts, 10000 Zagreb, Croatia

<sup>117</sup>Pamukkale University, Faculty of Science and Arts, Department of Archaeology, 20070 Denizli, Turkey

<sup>118</sup>Faculty of Archaeology, University of Warsaw, 00-927 Warszawa, Poland

<sup>119</sup>Ephorate of Antiquities of East Attica, Ministry of Culture and Sports, 10682 Athens, Greece

15 <sup>120</sup>Austrian Archaeological Institute at the Austrian Academy of Sciences, 1190 Vienna, Austria

<sup>121</sup>Istanbul University, Faculty of Letters, Department of Anthropology, 34134 Istanbul, Turkey

<sup>122</sup>Institute of Archaeogenomics, Research Centre for the Humanities, Eötvös Loránd Research Network, 1097 Budapest, Hungary

<sup>123</sup>Archaeology Museum of North Macedonia, 1000 Skopje, North Macedonia

20 <sup>124</sup>University of Avignon, Avignon, France

<sup>125</sup>Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, F-75006 Paris, France

<sup>126</sup>Ondokuz Mayıs University, Faculty of Science and Letters, Department of Archaeology, 55139 Atakum-Samsun, Turkey

<sup>127</sup>Satu Mare County Museum, 440031 Satu Mare, Romania

25 <sup>128</sup>School of Natural Sciences, University of Central Lancashire, Preston, PR1 2HE, UK.

<sup>129</sup>Institute of Archaeology and Ethnology, Polish Academy of Sciences, 31-016 Kraków, Poland

<sup>130</sup>Department of History-Social Sciences, Bryn Athyn College, Bryn Athyn, PA 19009, USA

<sup>131</sup>University of Pennsylvania, Penn Museum, PA 19104, USA

<sup>132</sup>Moscow Region State University, Moscow Region, 141014 Mytishi, Russia

30 <sup>133</sup>Burdur Mehmet Akif Ersoy University, Istiklal Campus, Department of Anthropology, 15100 Burdur, Turkey

<sup>134</sup>Human Evolution and Archaeological Sciences, University of Vienna, Vienna, Austria.

35 † Co-lead authors

\* Corresponding authors. E-mail: Iosif Lazaridis (lazaridis@genetics.med.harvard.edu), Songül Alpaslan-Roodenberg (msglalpaslan@gmail.com), Ron Pinhasi (ron.pinhasi@univie.ac.at), David Reich (reich@genetics.med.harvard.edu)

**Abstract:** We present the first ancient DNA data from the Pre-Pottery Neolithic of Mesopotamia (Southeastern Turkey and Northern Iraq), Cyprus, and the Northwest Zagros, along with the first data from Neolithic Armenia. We show that these and neighboring populations were formed through admixture of pre-Neolithic sources related to Anatolian, Caucasus, and Levantine hunter-gatherers, forming a Neolithic continuum of ancestry mirroring the geography of West Asia. By analyzing Pre-Pottery and Pottery Neolithic populations of Anatolia we show that the former were derived from admixture between Mesopotamian-related and local Epipaleolithic-related sources, but the latter experienced additional Levantine-related gene flow, thus documenting at least two pulses of migration from the Fertile Crescent heartland to the early farmers of Anatolia.

**One-Sentence Summary:** Ancient DNA from Mesopotamia documents a West Asian Neolithic continuum and proves two pulses of migration contributing to the early farmers of Anatolia.

**Main Text:** Previous work has documented the existence of highly differentiated Neolithic populations in ancient West Asia(1-9) and some of their pre-Neolithic antecessors in the Caucasus(10), Iran(1, 11), Anatolia(6), and the Levant(1). To anchor our integrative genomic history of the Southern Arc, a region we define as including Anatolia and its neighbors in Southeastern Europe and West Asia(12), we sought to understand how the earliest Neolithic populations were formed, with a particular focus on the Pre-Pottery period of northern (or Upper) Mesopotamia, the area between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers of Southeast Turkey, Northwest Iraq and Northeast Syria, within the Pre-Pottery Neolithic interaction sphere (13). Despite the centrality of Mesopotamia in the archaeological record of the origin of farming(14), no genome-wide ancient DNA data from early Mesopotamian farmers has been published. We used in-solution enrichment for approximately 1.2 million single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) to study Pre-Pottery Neolithic farmers from the Tigris side of northern Mesopotamia: one from Boncuklu Tarla near Mardin in southeastern Turkey and two from Nemrik 9 in northern Iraq. We also report the first Pre-Pottery Neolithic data from Cyprus, an island to the south of the Anatolian peninsula and west of the Levant, which witnessed the earliest maritime expansion of Pre-Pottery farmers from the eastern Mediterranean; our data come from three individuals whose fragmentary remains were found in a disused water well at Kissonerga-Myllouthkia(15). We furthermore report the first ancient DNA data from the Neolithic of Armenia, from two individuals buried at the sites of Masis Blur and Aknashen in the 6<sup>th</sup> millennium BCE. These individuals represent an inland Pottery Neolithic population, which we could compare to the Pre-Pottery one from northern Mesopotamia to its south, the Pottery Neolithic one of Azerbaijan to its east(7), and later Chalcolithic individuals from Armenia (1). Finally, we sampled three Pre-Pottery Neolithic farmers from the northern Zagros at Bestansur and the Zawi Chemi component of Shanidar Cave in Iraq, who fill a gap between the more western and northern individuals and published data from the central Zagros in Iran(1).

Details of the newly sampled individuals can be found in (12), and their geographical and temporal distributions can be seen in Fig. 1. To improve the statistical power of our analyses, we also increased data quality for a number of individuals with previously reported data, making and sequencing additional ancient DNA libraries from 4 Epipaleolithic Natufians from Israel and 6 Pre-Pottery Neolithic individuals from Jordan(1), and 9 Neolithic individuals from the Eastern Marmara region (Northwest Anatolia, sites of Barcin and Menteşe)(2). From Eastern Marmara, we also sampled an individual from Barcin and two from the previously unsampled site of Ilipinar. Individuals from the three sites were genetically similar, and we analyze them, together with later Chalcolithic individuals from the same site, in a study of later periods of Anatolia (12).

We carried out principal component analysis (PCA) (16) (Fig. 2A), projecting the ancient individuals onto the variation of present-day West Eurasians(17). Two main clusters emerge: an “Eastern Mediterranean” Anatolian/Levantine one that also includes the geographically intermediate individuals from Cyprus, and an “Inland” Zagros-Caucasus-Mesopotamia-Armenia-Azerbaijan one. There is structure within these groupings. Anatolian individuals group with each other and with the ones from Cyprus, separately from Levantine individuals. Within the “Inland” cluster, individuals that are more geographically distant from the Mediterranean, such as those from the South Caucasus (Caucasus hunter-gatherers from Georgia(10) and Ganj Dareh from central Zagros), are also genetically more distant as compared to the geographically and genetically intermediate individuals from Mesopotamia and Armenia/Azerbaijan. The “Eastern Mediterranean” and “Inland” clusters are separated by a gap in Fig. 2A which may correspond to geographically intermediate areas between sampling locations, for example the Euphrates region of North Mesopotamia. The totality of Neolithic West Asia is enclosed within the range of



variation of the quadrangle formed by Caucasus hunter-gatherers, Ganj Dareh, Levantine Natufians(1) from Israel, and Epipaleolithic Pınarbaşı(6) from Central Anatolia.

In a parallel study we develop a mathematical framework for estimating the ancestry proportions of individuals of the entire Southern Arc across space and time with a common metric (12), and here we discuss the results of applying this model to the Neolithic period (Fig. 2B). This model includes Caucasus hunter-gatherers (10), Eastern European hunter-gatherers (2, 18), Levantine Pre-Pottery Neolithic(1), Balkan hunter-gatherers from the Iron Gates in Serbia(19) and Anatolian Neolithic (from Barcın in the Marmara region of NW Anatolia(2)) as surrogates for five ancestry sources. Within this framework, the highest proportion of Anatolian Neolithic-related ancestry is observed in Neolithic Anatolian populations as well as the early farmers of Cyprus. The Balkan hunter-gatherer-related affinity in the Pre-Pottery population at Boncuklu and the Epipaleolithic one from Pınarbaşı—both of which predate the Pottery Neolithic from Barcın by thousands of years—does not indicate that these older individuals were admixed with European hunter-gatherers. Rather, it means that in comparison to the Barcın population, both Pınarbaşı and Boncuklu were “less Levantine” (Fig. 2A), a finding that is consistent with the Levantine influx into the Pottery Neolithic populations that is revealed by the analysis that follows. A contrasting case is that of the Natufians who are inferred to be “more Levantine” (along the Anatolian/Levantine cline) and are unsurprisingly inferred to derive all of their ancestry from the Levant Pre-Pottery Neolithic source; this of course does not mean that the earlier Natufians are descended from the Pre-Pottery Neolithic farmers that followed them, but that both share ancestry (in reality from the Natufians to the Pre-Pottery Neolithic farmers), which is thus modeled within the limitations of the 5-way model. Similarly, the Ganj Dareh population (most extreme) of the “Inland” group derives all its ancestry from the Caucasus hunter-gatherer source used in the 5-way model, and Caucasus hunter-gatherer-related ancestry levels are high in all “Inland” populations, i.e., of the North Zagros, Armenia, and Azerbaijan, as well as those of North Mesopotamia.

The high Anatolian-related ancestry in Cyprus revealed by this model (Fig. 2) and subsequent analyses (Fig. 3) sheds light on debates about the origins of the people who spread Pre-Pottery Neolithic culture to Cyprus. Parallels in subsistence, technology, settlement organization, and ideological indicators(15) suggest close contacts between Pre-Pottery Neolithic B people in Cyprus and on the mainland(13), but the geographic source of the Cypriot Pre-Pottery Neolithic populations has been unclear with many possible points of origin(20). An inland Middle Euphrates source has been suggested on the basis of architectural, artefactual and ideological similarities (14, 21). However, the faunal record at Cypriot Pre-Pottery Neolithic B sites, and the use of Anatolian obsidian as raw material, suggest linkages with central and southern Anatolia (15, 22), and the genetic data increase the weight of evidence in favor of this scenario of a primary source in Anatolia.

The two individuals from Armenia, from the sites of Aknashen (~5900BCE) and Masis Blur (~5600BCE) differ in being more Caucasus- and Anatolia/Levant-like respectively despite being buried just ~200km and a few centuries apart; thus, Neolithic people of Armenia were not homogeneous but instead exhibited variation which also encompassed two ~5700-5400BCE individuals buried in neighboring Azerbaijan(7), who are intermediate between the two from Armenia in both PCA and the 5-way model. But, in comparison to the individuals from Mesopotamia to the south, the individuals from Armenia and Azerbaijan had more Anatolian Neolithic admixture (visible in both PCA and the 5-way model). Conversely, some Neolithic Anatolian populations from Central Anatolia had Caucasus hunter-gatherer-related admixture,

more than Pınarbaşı and the NW Anatolian source population where such ancestry is not evident, but less than the proportion inferred for the individual from Mardin from SE Anatolia which belonged (together with its neighbors at Nemrik9 in North Iraq) to the “Inland” group characterized by high Caucasus hunter-gatherer-related ancestry. These observations form a consistent picture of a Neolithic continuum characterized by the Anatolian/Levantine cline on one end and “Inland” influence related to the Zagros-Caucasus set of populations, with the geographically intermediate individuals from Mesopotamia, Armenia, and Azerbaijan occupying genetically intermediate positions.

To avoid “publication order bias”, that is, the tendency to update published models to accommodate new data rather than always inferring models taking all samples equally into account, we co-analyzed new data from the Neolithic together with previously published data to arrive at a model of Neolithic origins that can account for patterns of genetic variation in Neolithic West Asia as a whole (23). The Neolithic continuum emerges from this analysis too, as all Neolithic populations under study can be modeled as mixtures of three pre-Neolithic sources representing Anatolian (Pınarbaşı), Levantine (Natufian) and “Inland” sources (either Caucasus hunter-gatherer as in Fig. 3A or Ganj Dareh as in Fig. 3B); the two Inland sources are not independent, but to a first degree of approximation represent the same source of ancestry (Fig. 3C). When we attempt to model Neolithic populations using either Caucasus hunter-gatherers or Ganj Dareh as a source population and the other one as an outgroup, we obtain good model fits for most populations (further suggesting that neither one is a better source than the other), except (i) for the high Caucasus hunter-gatherer ancestry individual from Aknashen where the Caucasus hunter-gatherer model is not rejected ( $p=0.46$ ) while the Ganj Dareh one is ( $p<0.001$ ), (ii) the Azerbaijan and Mesopotamian Neolithic for which both models are rejected ( $p<0.01$ ), and (iii) the Barcin Neolithic for which the Ganj Dareh model is narrowly not rejected at the  $p=0.01$  level ( $p=0.0142$ ) while the Caucasus hunter-gatherer one is rejected ( $p=0.001$ ). These results tentatively suggest that Caucasus hunter-gatherer and Ganj Dareh Neolithic are interchangeable for the purposes of quantifying the amount of “Inland” admixture, although some populations may have a clearer connection with one or the other (e.g., the Neolithic of Armenia with the hunter-gatherers of the South Caucasus rather than Iran, and the geographically intermediate Azerbaijan and Mesopotamia with both).

The fact that regardless of the chosen sources, none of the Neolithic populations of West Asia were simple descendants of their pre-Neolithic antecedents when we had the data to test this (in which case some of them would occupy the corner positions of Fig. 3A, B) suggests that some history of admixture may have led to their appearance; the details of this process could be elucidated by examining even older populations from across West Asia. When pre-Neolithic antecedents are not available, as is the case for North Mesopotamia, it remains an open question whether the local hunter-gatherers were genetically continuous with the first farmers of the region, or, if there was a history of admixture across the Neolithic transition there as well. Importantly, this highlights that intermediate populations of the ternary plots of Fig. 3 need not have come about by admixture from the corner populations used to model them; alternatively, they could be drawn towards the middle by unsampled pre-Neolithic populations of West Asia, e.g., hunter-gatherers of the Tigris and Euphrates regions predating the Pre-Pottery Neolithic farmers studied here.

When we attempt to model Neolithic populations as mixtures of each other, we observed that at least in Anatolia (Fig. 3D) where most of the data is from and from which both Pre-Pottery and Pottery Neolithic populations have been published, an interesting distinction is clear. Pre-Pottery



Neolithic populations from Central Anatolia can be modeled as mixtures of the local Pınarbaşı Epipaleolithic with variable (~30-70%) Mesopotamian admixture, suggesting that Pre-Pottery cultures of Anatolia may have been formed with the contribution of both local hunter-gatherers and migrants from the east where agriculture first appeared. Conversely, we cannot model the Pottery Neolithic Anatolians with just these two sources but only with an extra ~6-23% Levantine Neolithic admixture. The source of this admixture is unclear; it need not have come from the southern Levant (Jordan) from which the Levantine Neolithic individuals were sampled, and may instead represent a geographically closer source for which there is no available genome-wide data, for example from Syria in which early Pottery Neolithic cultures such as the Halafian flourished, and for which the available PCR-based mitochondrial DNA cannot distinguish alternative scenarios(24). We caution that while our results point to migration from, and admixture with, Mesopotamian and Levantine populations, when we use the term “migration” we are not claiming that we have detected a “migratory movement,” that is, a planned translocation of a large number of people over a long distance within the space of years (for discussion of nuances in the use of the term migration see(25)).

Migration in the sense we use it may either be intentional or not; it may involve few or many individuals; and it may either be rapid or continue across many generations. Some such migration and admixture must have taken place on the basis of the genetic data, but its causes, routes, and fine-grained temporality remain to be clarified. We caution that the Levantine influence detected in Anatolian Pottery Neolithic populations need not have been the result of unidirectional migration into Anatolia but may also have come about if Anatolia and the Levant became part of a mating network spanning both regions. Data from Pottery Neolithic cultures of the Levant are needed to test this hypothesis and to determine whether there was movement of mating partners in both directions.

Levantine ancestry may have flourished during the Neolithic, and yet its later trajectory in the Levant itself (including individuals from Jordan, Israel, Syria, and Lebanon) exhibits a decrease of ~8% per millennium from the Pre-Pottery Neolithic down to the Medieval period, largely replaced by Caucasus- and Anatolian-related ancestry from the north and west (Fig. 4). This persistent and sustained trend following the formation of the Neolithic West Asian populations studied here reminds us that large-scale admixture continued in ensuing millennia. Despite the major decline in the contribution of Levantine Neolithic farmers to peoples in the region where they originated, this key ancestry source made an important contribution to peoples of later periods continuing until the present, weaving, through migrations and mixtures within and beyond the Southern Arc (12, 26), the tapestry of ancestry of all those that followed them.

## References and Notes

1. I. Lazaridis *et al.*, Genomic insights into the origin of farming in the ancient Near East. *Nature* **536**, 419-424 (2016).
2. I. Mathieson *et al.*, Genome-wide patterns of selection in 230 ancient Eurasians. *Nature* **528**, 499-503 (2015).
3. F. Broushaki *et al.*, Early Neolithic genomes from the eastern Fertile Crescent. *Science* **353**, 499 (2016).
4. Z. Hofmanová *et al.*, Early farmers from across Europe directly descended from Neolithic Aegeans. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* **113**, 6886 (2016).
5. G. M. Kilinc *et al.*, The Demographic Development of the First Farmers in Anatolia. *Curr Biol* **26**, 2659-2666 (2016).

6. M. Feldman *et al.*, Late Pleistocene human genome suggests a local origin for the first farmers of central Anatolia. *Nature Communications* **10**, 1218 (2019).
7. E. Skourtanioti *et al.*, Genomic History of Neolithic to Bronze Age Anatolia, Northern Levant, and Southern Caucasus. *Cell* **181**, 1158-1175.e1128 (2020).
- 5 8. R. Yaka *et al.*, Variable kinship patterns in Neolithic Anatolia revealed by ancient genomes. *Current Biology*, (2021).
9. M. Gallego-Llorente *et al.*, The genetics of an early Neolithic pastoralist from the Zagros, Iran. *Scientific Reports* **6**, 31326 (2016).
10. E. R. Jones *et al.*, Upper Palaeolithic genomes reveal deep roots of modern Eurasians. *Nature Communications* **6**, 8912 (2015).
11. M. Narasimhan Vagheesh *et al.*, The formation of human populations in South and Central Asia. *Science* **365**, eaat7487 (2019).
12. I. Lazaridis, S. Alpaslan-Roodenberg *et al.*, The genetic history of the Southern Arc: a bridge between West Asia and Europe (*in submission*), (2022).
- 15 13. E. Asouti, Beyond the Pre-Pottery Neolithic B interaction sphere. *Journal of World Prehistory* **20**, 87-126 (2006).
14. J. Cauvin, *Naissance des divinités, naissance de l'agriculture: la révolution des symboles au néolithique*. Empreintes de l'homme (CNRS Éditions, Paris, 1997).
15. E. Peltenburg, The colonisation and settlement of Cyprus. *Investigations at Kissonerga-Mylothkia, 1976-1996*, (2003).
- 20 16. N. Patterson, A. L. Price, D. Reich, Population Structure and Eigenanalysis. *PLOS Genetics* **2**, e190 (2006).
17. I. Lazaridis *et al.*, Ancient human genomes suggest three ancestral populations for present-day Europeans. *Nature* **513**, 409-413 (2014).
- 25 18. W. Haak *et al.*, Massive migration from the steppe was a source for Indo-European languages in Europe. *Nature* **522**, 207-211 (2015).
19. I. Mathieson *et al.*, The genomic history of southeastern Europe. *Nature* **555**, 197-203 (2018).
20. H. Simmons Alan, D. Mandel Rolfe, How Old Is the Human Presence on Cyprus? *Science* **317**, 1679-1679 (2007).
- 30 21. D. Stordeur, in *Bulletin de Correspondance Hellenique*. (2003), pp. 353-371.
22. E. Peltenburg, *The Colonisation and Settlement of Cyprus: Investigations at Kissonerga-Mylothkia, 1976-1996*. E. Peltenburg, Ed., LAP (2003), vol. III.
23. Detailed information is provided in the supplementary materials
- 35 24. E. Fernández *et al.*, Ancient DNA Analysis of 8000 B.C. Near Eastern Farmers Supports an Early Neolithic Pioneer Maritime Colonization of Mainland Europe through Cyprus and the Aegean Islands. *PLOS Genetics* **10**, e1004401 (2014).
25. N. Patterson *et al.*, Large-scale migration into Britain during the Middle to Late Bronze Age. *Nature* **601**, 588-594 (2022).
- 40 26. I. Lazaridis, S. Alpaslan-Roodenberg *et al.*, A genetic probe into the ancient and medieval history of Southern Europe and West Asia. (*in submission*), (2022).
27. S. Alpaslan-Roodenberg *et al.*, Ethics of DNA research on human remains: five globally applicable guidelines. *Nature* **599**, 41-46 (2021).
28. É. Harney *et al.*, Ancient DNA from Chalcolithic Israel reveals the role of population mixture in cultural transformation. *Nature Communications* **9**, 3336 (2018).
- 45 29. W. Haak *et al.*, Massive migration from the steppe was a source for Indo-European languages in Europe. *Nature* **522**, 207-211 (2015).

30. S. Mallick *et al.*, The Simons Genome Diversity Project: 300 genomes from 142 diverse populations. *Nature* **538**, 201-206 (2016).
31. E. R. Jones *et al.*, Upper Palaeolithic genomes reveal deep roots of modern Eurasians. *Nat Commun* **6**, 8912 (2015).
- 5 32. M. van de Loosdrecht *et al.*, Pleistocene North African genomes link Near Eastern and sub-Saharan African human populations. *Science*, (2018).
33. Q. Fu *et al.*, The genetic history of Ice Age Europe. *Nature* **534**, 200-205 (2016).
34. I. Olalde *et al.*, Derived immune and ancestral pigmentation alleles in a 7,000-year-old Mesolithic European. *Nature* **507**, 225-228 (2014).
- 10 35. M. van de Loosdrecht *et al.*, Pleistocene North African genomes link Near Eastern and sub-Saharan African human populations. *Science* **360**, 548 (2018).
36. M. Raghavan *et al.*, Upper Palaeolithic Siberian genome reveals dual ancestry of Native Americans. *Nature* **505**, 87-91 (2014).

15  
**Ethics Statement and Acknowledgments:** This study was carried following the principles for ethical DNA research on human remains laid out in (27). We are grateful to the authorities and sample stewards including museums, museum curators, and archaeologists, for providing written permission to sample each human remain. We acknowledge the ancient individuals whose genetic data we analyzed and whose permission we could not directly ask. We aimed to write a manuscript that was respectful of the ancient individuals, treating samples from them as derived from real people whose memories must be respected. We sought to reflect the perspectives of people from the diverse geographic regions and cultural contexts from which the sampled individuals came by having each sample be represented by at least one co-author who was a sample steward and was part of a network engaged with local communities. We thank J. Bennett, V. Narasimhan, H. Ringbauer; J. Sedig, A. Shaus, L. Vokotopoulos, M. Wiener, and several anonymous reviewers for critical comments.

20  
25  
30  
**Funding:** The newly reported dataset is described in detail in an accompanying manuscript where we also acknowledge the funders who supported dataset generation (12). Analysis of data was supported by the National Institutes of Health (GM100233 and HG012287), the John Templeton Foundation (grant 61220), by a private gift from Jean-Francois Clin, by the Allen Discovery Center program, a Paul G. Allen Frontiers Group advised program of the Paul G. Allen Family Foundation, and by the Howard Hughes Medical Institute (DR).

35  
**Author Contributions:**

Conceived the study: ILa, SA, RP, DR

Supervised the study: SA, DKen, NPat, NR, RP, DR

40  
45  
Assembled archaeological material and prepared the site descriptions: SA, AAca, AAçı, AAg, LA, UA, DAnd, GA, DAnt, IA, AAt, PA, AIA, KBa, RBa, JB, LB, ABe, HB, ABi, MBod, MBon, CB, DB, NB, MCa, SCho, M-EC, SChr, IC, NC, MCo, ECr, JD, TID, VD, ZD, SDes, SDev, VDj, NEI, AE, NEr, SE-P, AF, MLG, BGas, BGay, EG, TG, SG, TH, VH, SH, NH, III, SI, Iİv, IJ, LJ, PKa, BKK, EK, SDK, AK, KK, SKı, PKI, SKBNV, SKo, MK-N, MKŠ, RK, PKu, CL, KLe, TEL, ILi, KLo, SŁ, KM-O, RM, WM, KMc, VM, LM, DMi, JMM, GN, RN, AGN, VN, MN, AO, CÖ, NÖ, NPap,

NPap, APa, LPa, EPa, IP, LPe, VP, APh-T, APi, NPocK, HP, BP-B, ZP, DP, SRad,  
KRA, PRŠ, KRR, SRaz, AR, JR, RR, VR, MŞa, AŞar, ES, AS LS, TSe, AS-E, MSh-P,  
HMS, ASid, ASim, HS, VS, GS, MŚl, ASof, BS, ASoł, ÇS, MSta, MSt, SS, FSA, AS-  
N, TSz, NTe, STe, NTo, UT, GT, STr, AT, MU, FV, ZV, CV, SW, PW, AYar, EY,  
5 AYYav, HY, RÇ, RP

Performed laboratory work: SA, GBM, KBU, KC, FC, BJC, ECu, KSDC, LRE, DMF, MF,  
SF, BGam, LI, DKea, AML, KMa, MMi, JO, KTO, LQ, CS, KSi, KSt, AW, JNW, FZ,  
AZ, NR

Performed population genetic analyses: ILa, DR

10 Analyzed data: ILa, SA, RBe, OC, MMa, SM, AMic, AMit, IO, ZZ, NR, DR

Wrote the manuscript and compiled the supplementary sections with the input of all other co-  
authors: ILa, SA, DR

**Competing interests:** The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

15 **Data and Materials availability:** Genotype data for individuals included in this study can be  
obtained from the Harvard Dataverse repository through the following link (doi to be added upon  
publication). BAM files of aligned reads can be obtained from the European Nucleotide Archive  
(Accession number PRJEB54831). All (other) data needed to evaluate the conclusions in the  
20 paper are present in the paper or the Supplementary Materials

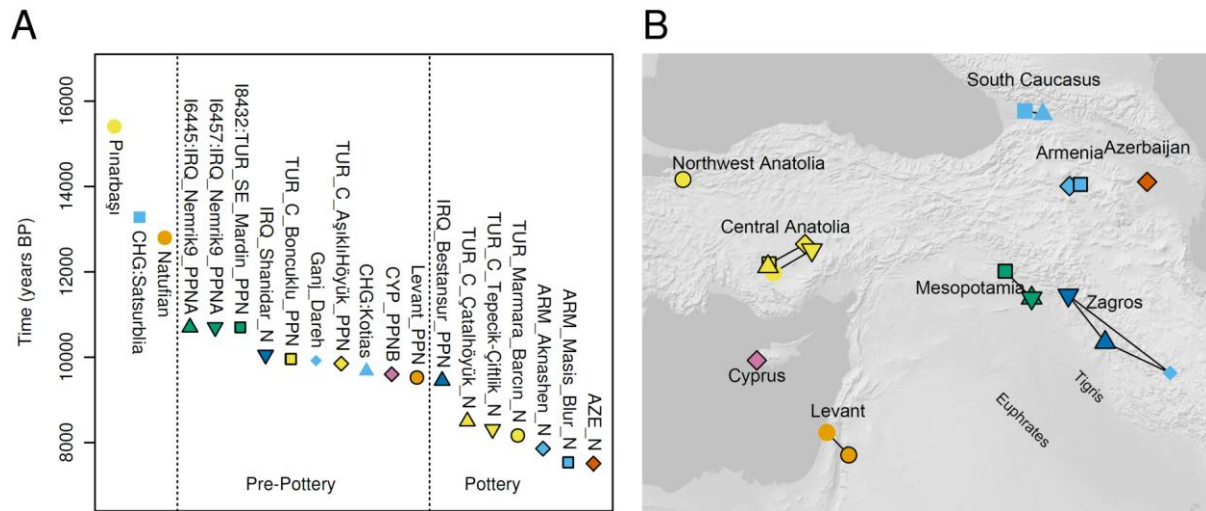
### **Supplementary Materials:**

Materials and Methods

Supplementary Text, S1

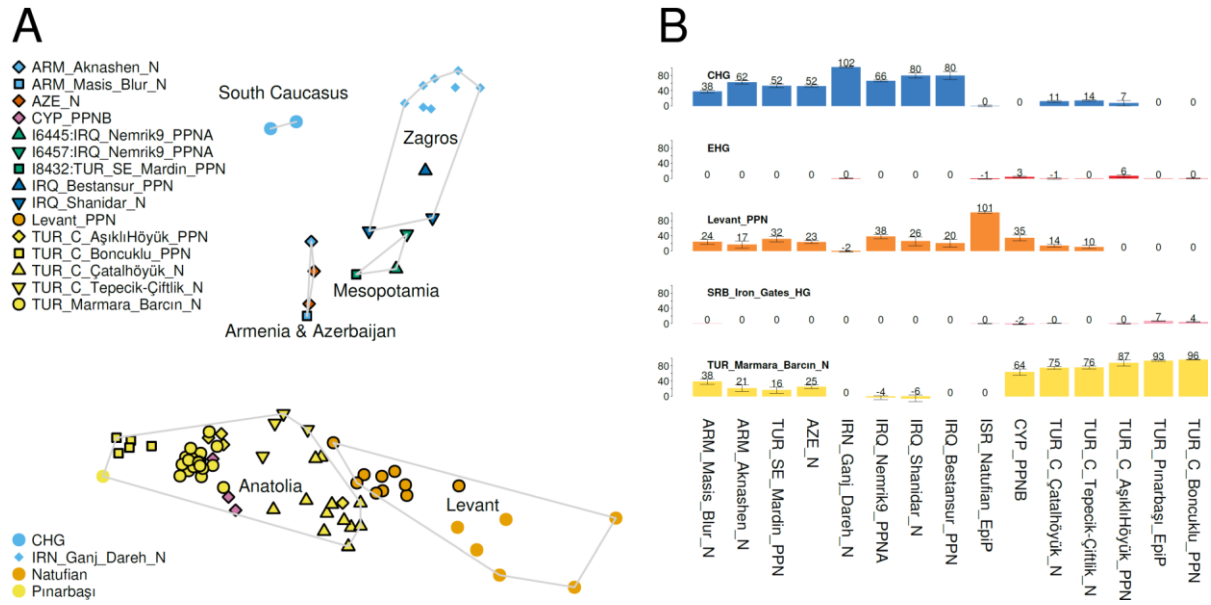
25 Tables S1-S5

References (29-36)



**Fig. 1. Studied individuals.** (A) Timeframe of Pre-Neolithic, Pre-Pottery Neolithic, and Pottery Neolithic populations in West Asia. (B) Geographical location of populations from panel (A) on the map of West Asia.

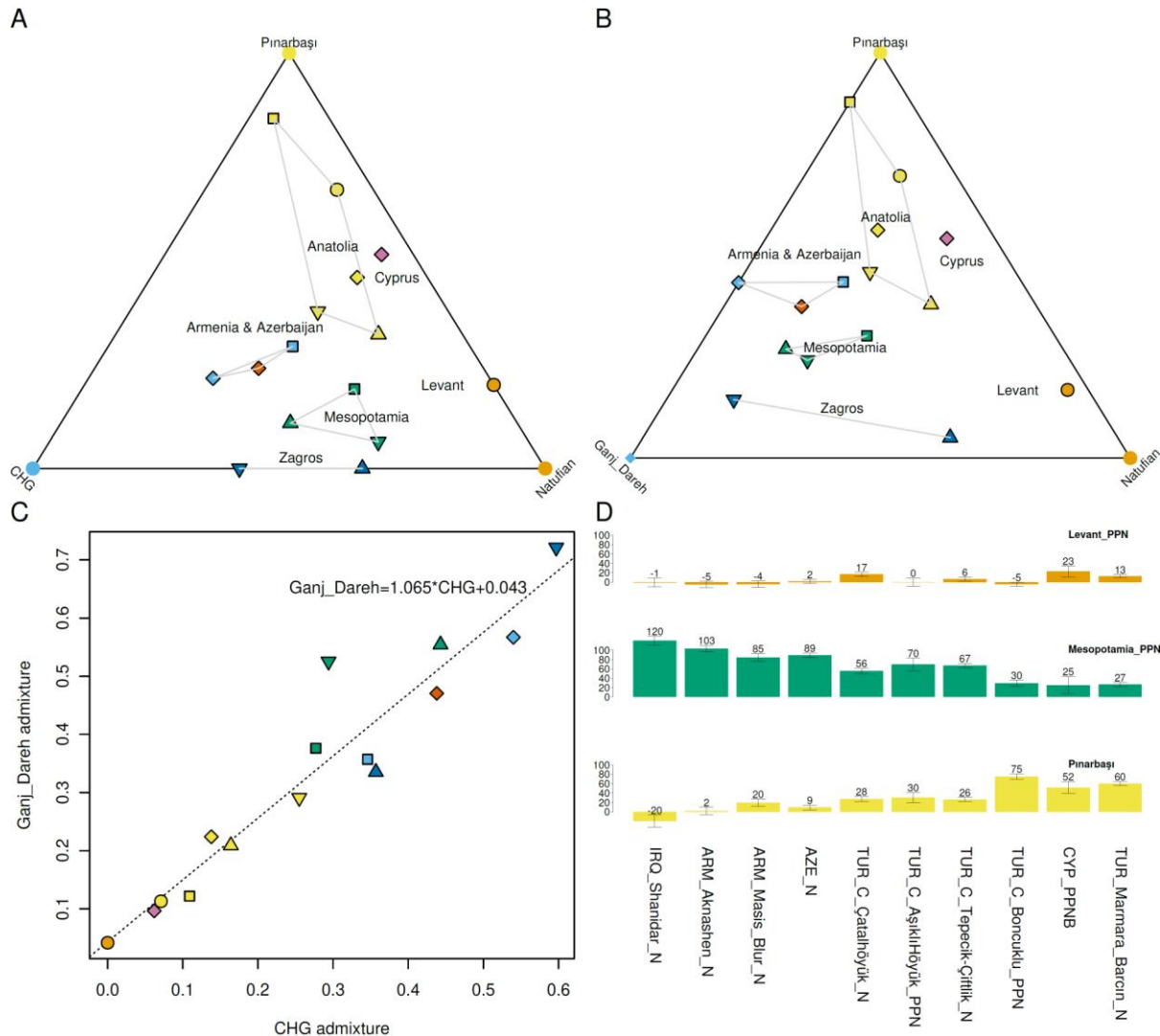
5



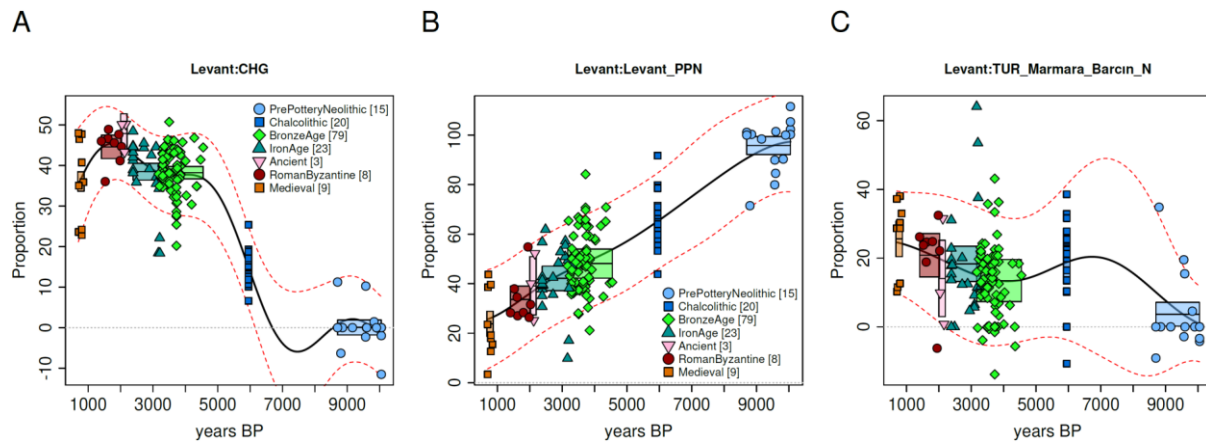
**Fig. 2. Overview of Neolithic variation.** (A) Principal component analysis of ancient individuals projected onto West Eurasian variation. (B) Application of 5-way model of (12) on Neolithic populations with Caucasus hunter-gatherer (CHG), Eastern European hunter-gatherer (EHG), Levant Pre-Pottery Neolithic (PPN), Serbian Iron Gates hunter-gatherer, and NW Anatolian Neolithic from Barcin sources.

5





**Fig. 3. The Neolithic continuum.** (A) 3-way model of Neolithic admixture with Caucasus hunter-gatherer (CHG) (10) as a source. (B) 3-way model of Neolithic admixture with Ganj Dareh(1) as a source. (C) Caucasus hunter-gatherer and Ganj Dareh admixture proportions from panels A, B are strongly correlated ( $R^2=0.91$ ;  $p<1e-7$ ). (D) We also modeled Neolithic populations with local, Anatolian (Pınarbaşı(6)) and eastern, Mesopotamian Pre-Pottery Neolithic (PPN), proximal sources. Both Pre-Pottery Neolithic populations from Anatolia (from Boncuklu(6) and Aşıklı Höyük(8)) have no significant evidence for extra Levantine ancestry. However, all three Pottery Neolithic ones (from Barcın in NW Anatolia and Tepecik-Çiftlik(5) and Çatalhöyük(8) in Central Anatolia) have significant additional Levantine ancestry.



**Fig. 4: The dilution of Neolithic ancestry in the Levant.** The trajectory of West Asian components of ancestry in the Levant. (A) Caucasus hunter-gatherer ancestry increased over time, first, by the Chalcolithic period, and furthermore by the Bronze Age, while the local Levantine ancestry (B) was diluted during the last 10,000 years; (C) Anatolian ancestry, like Caucasus hunter-gatherer ancestry, also increased by the Chalcolithic period(28), undergoing fluctuations thereafter.

5

10