

## **Patterns of Elite Harappan Pottery in the Indus Civilization Borderlands of Gujarat**

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### **Abstract**

Research presented in this paper tests prevailing models about the spatial patterning of Harappan pottery in the Indus Civilization borderland region of Gujarat, where it is found in association with regional non-Harappan pottery at many walled cities and towns. Prevailing models conclude that Harappan pottery was introduced into Gujarat by migrants from the Indus Valley. An untested premise of these models is that Harappan vessels were the only pottery types utilized by elite residents and were restricted to use inside the perimeter wall. In contrast, non-Harappan pottery was utilized by non-elite residents who were forced to live outside the perimeter wall. In this paper I present new pottery data from the walled site of Bagasra, which contradicts prevailing models. These new data establish the spatial distribution of many Harappan pottery types on both sides of Bagasra's perimeter wall, where they occur in association with a variety of non-Harappan pottery types. Based on these data, I contend that elite residents of Indus settlements in borderland areas utilized both Harappan and regional non-Harappan pottery. I offer a revised model for the spatial patterning of Harappan pottery in borderland regions, which accounts for their documented distribution at walled settlements.