



## ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

# From Archaeological Myth to Tangible Evidence: What if we finally characterized a proto-Elamite Culture?

PALADRE C. <sup>1,2</sup>\*

<sup>1</sup> mus du Louvre, DAO, Paris, France

<sup>2</sup> CNRS UMR 7041 ArScAn-VEPMO, Nanterre, France

\*Corresponding author

## Abstract

At the end of the 4th millennium BCE, numerous sites in Iran appear to be linked by the sharing of common material assemblages, considered as evidence of the existence of a common culture known as proto-Elamite. Yet, defining this culture remains ambiguous and subject to ongoing debate, to such an extent that the term “proto-Elamite culture” is today discarded in favor of the deliberately vague “proto-Elamite phenomenon”.

A clearer understanding arises from the study of specific categories of material. The stylistic, typological and iconographic specificities of precious crafts, particularly glyptic productions, reveal pre-established norms and codes that were developed and shared over nearly 200 years. This likely reflects a solid organizational structure. These artifacts also highlight strong concepts and an imaginary shared by Iranian societies. By cataloging common practices and productions, we aim to propose a more refined definition of a « proto-Elamite culture », suggesting the emergence of a cohesive social and potentially political entity in Iran.

## Keywords

proto-Elamite, Iran, 4th millennium BCE, culture, crafts

## Session

7. Characterizing culture ?

## Type of paper

Oral presentation