



## ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

# An Overview of Women's Roles in Achaemenid Society Based on Archaeological Evidence

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## Abstract

The role of women in Iranian culture and civilization, from ancient times to the present, has been a complex subject. Historical and archaeological evidence suggests that women in ancient Iran played key roles in religion, politics, and economy—fields often seen as male-dominated. The Achaemenid period, a significant era in Iranian history, remains ambiguous regarding women's status and roles. While hundreds of bas-reliefs exist in Persepolis, Iran's largest royal complex, none depict women. However, Greek authors explicitly mention the political influence of royal women and their significant power within the court.

The recent re-examination of Achaemenid tablets, which sheds light on daily life, challenges these Greek portrayals and adds to the complexities. This calls for re-evaluating archaeological evidence to better understand Persian women's status during the Achaemenid period.

This research analyzes historical artifacts related to women, such as seals, bas-reliefs, and other findings, revealing that women in Achaemenid society were active in daily professions and helped shape spiritual and cultural values. These contributions played a crucial role in preserving Iranian culture against foreign influences. The study concludes that understanding the complexities of ancient societies, especially regarding women's roles, requires a critical analysis of historical sources alongside new archaeological data.

## Keywords

Archaeological Evidence, Historical Analysis, Achaemenid Women, Ancient Iran, Women's Status

## Session

4. The materiality of inscribed and figurative objects

## Type of paper

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