



## ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

# Exploring the Ruins of Kangavar: Temple of Anahita or Palatial Complex?

SAFFARIAN D. 1\*

<sup>1</sup> Masters student in Cultural and Social History at Universitde Versailles Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines, Guyancourt, France

\*Corresponding author

## Abstract

This research investigates the ongoing debate surrounding the ruins of Kangavar in present-day Iran, which have long been believed to be the remains of a temple dedicated to a goddess often identified as Artemis, the Persian Diana, or Ishtar, before being associated with Anahita, the goddess of pure waters. While the timeline of this name change is unclear, the Iranian association has become more pronounced over the last two centuries.

Despite excavations conducted from 1968 to 2002, the site's identity remains contentious. The earliest mention of the "Temple of Artemis in Concohar" by Isidore of Charax in the 1st century BCE supports the sacred interpretation. However, Masoud Azarnoush, who led later excavations, argued that the structure was palatial rather than religious, a theory supported by the dating of a mortar fragment.

This poster examines various perspectives, from ancient legends and medieval travel diaries to 19th-century archaeological records. It also considers alternative theories, including the possibility that the monument served multiple functions, such as a fortress. Additionally, I explore the authenticity of ongoing restoration efforts and the resulting shift in academic consensus regarding the monument's historical significance.

## Keywords

Iran, Kangavar, Anahita, Parthian, Sassanid

## Session

1. Advances in Near Eastern Archaeology

## Type of paper

Poster session