


# Content and statistical evaluation of forms, styles and relative chronology of Horand Rock Arts, East Azerbaijan, Iran

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## Abstract

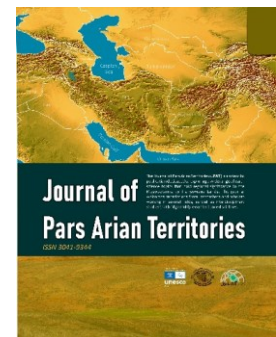
The first glimpses of the study of rock arts in Iran date back to 1969 around the Lorestan Plateau. Due to the importance of studying rock carvings in Iran, significant studies have been carried out by archaeologists and anthropologists regarding the introduction and recognition of rock art in different parts of Iran. Their dating has been discussed less. One of the interesting points to note in all the rock motifs in all cases, in addition to the thematic integrity and execution style, is the similarity in the location and geographical location of these works, so that it can be said that most of the rock motifs are next to water sources and in the climate. There are special semi-arid areas that are covered with stones and rocks. In the archaeological survey of the Horand region, which was conducted at the request of the cultural heritage organization of East Azarbaijan Province in 1392 under the supervision of the authors, 310 sites were identified. Among them, five sites with rock art were found in Qutanlu and Noghada regions. Due to the significance of these rock art sites, a detailed study of the rock motifs at these locations was undertaken with a focus on understanding their historical and cultural context and their relationship to other archaeological sites in the area. In this research, in addition to field studies of the motifs, content and statistical analysis of the motifs, and comparison with other archaeological finds near the motifs were conducted. To determine the age of the motifs, a comparative study with other rock art sites in different parts of Iran and a general relative chronological framework were utilized. The research findings indicate that the motifs date back to the 3rd to 1st millennium BCE (Bronze Age to Iron Age), show a gradual decrease in human motifs over time, a preference for goat motifs, and an increase in the use of linear style compared to volumetric style in more recent times. flow.

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