The rock art of the Qeydu valley in Central Iran: Style, Relative Dating, and Landscape

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Rock art is a quite young field of archaeological studies in Iran. After a few decades of rock art research, there are still no acceptable answers for some fundamental questions on Iranian rock art including its chronology, regional stylistic distribution of the art, and the context in which the petroglyphs were produced. With a focus on the rock art of the Qeydu valley in central Iran, this presentation will discuss these research gaps.

The fieldwork conducted in the Qeydu valley has resulted in the identification of a large number of petroglyphs. Therefore, this talk will present the result of the fieldwork and will describe the rock art and its associated landscape. The stylistic features of the petroglyphs will be discussed and the relative dating of the art, as well as the problems associated with establishing a regional chronology for rock art in central Iran will be addressed. In addition, using GIS analysis, the spatial distribution of the engravings and their possible relation with hunting and herding activities in the landscape of the Qeydu valley will be explored.

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