From Sedentism to Nomadism
Transformations in Iranian Economy and Demography since Prehistory

A Lecture by

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Abstract: In recent years many scholars have asserted that nomadism in Iran emerged around 8000 BC, more or less as early as sheep and goat were domesticated. From this premise a whole series of claims have been made for the role of nomads in Iranian prehistory. In this lecture a contrary view will be argued, namely that Iran was a land of sedentary village and town dwellers for most of its prehistoric and early historic past, and that nomadism did not play a significant role until a relatively late date when changes began to occur which utterly transformed the demography and land-use of the region.