

Program of Iranian Studies

With the Support of the Jahangir and Eleanor Amuzegar Chair in Iranian Studies

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

A Lecture by

Daniel T. Potts

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Tuesday, May 15, at 4:00 PM — Haines 39



Daniel T. Potts: is the Edwin Cuthbert Hall Professor of Middle Eastern Archaeology at the University of Sydney. He is the author of *The Archaeology of Elam* (1999), *Excavations at Tepe Yahya, Iran, 1967-1975, Volume III: The Third Millennium* (2001), *Mesopotamia, Iran and Arabia from the Seleucids to the Sasanians* (2010), and more recently, *A Companion to the Archaeology of the Ancient Near East* (2012).

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.