



5th International Landscape Archaeology Conference

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5TH INTERNATIONAL LANDSCAPE ARCHAEOLOGY CONFERENCE

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Classics and Archaeology, Newcastle University
and
The Department of Archaeology, Durham University*

NEWCASTLE AND DURHAM, UK



The major Early Bronze Age eruption of the Monte Somma Vesuvius (1995+-10 BC) must have had an enormous impact on the landscape and inhabitants of the Campania region. The so-called Avellino (AV) eruption buried the landscape around the volcano in a deep layer of volcanic ash. However, a small initial eruption had probably allowed the population to flee before this devastating event, heading inland rather than towards the sea. A multi-disciplinary research involving geology, palaeobotany and archaeology has been set up to unravel the project's hypothesis, that a significant percentage of the refugees must have decided to resettle in the nearest coastal plains to the north - the Pontine Plain and Fondi Basin of South Lazio, and that we should therefore be able to prove this by tracing the ecological, demographic and cultural impacts that this immigrant population must have had. A detailed palaeogeographical reconstruction was made to identify the different lake-marsh settings in which the distal AV-tephra has been preserved within the context of Middle to Late Holocene evolution and to combine these locations with areas suitable for Early Bronze Age habitation. The palaeobotanical research, palynological and macrobotanical, has focused on reconstructing the regional and local vegetation in this area before and after the AV eruption, to detect the environmental impacts that should have been brought about by the influx of possible immigrants from Campania. The distal ash from the AV is present in the sediments, acting as a stratigraphic marker. Where possible, terrestrial plant macrofossils were radiocarbon dated allowing the construction of a precise chronology for the profiles. With the project about to reach its end, this paper will present a detailed overview of the palaeogeographical and palaeobotanical investigation that allowed the reconstruction of the Bronze Age landscape in the Pontine plain and the Fondi basin.

SESSION 40E - MOVESCAPE: INTEGRATED STUDY OF MOVEMENT, PATHWAYS AND SETTLEMENT

84 Settlement and path networks from Prehistory to Roman Age in Trexenta, Sardinia (Italy)

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This poster is in the range of archaeological landscape studies which has developed in Sardinia over the last decades of the 20th century and allowed a better documentation of archaeological heritage. This contribution is intended to represent the first step of a research project developed by L.Ar.P. (Laboratorio di Archeologia del Paesaggio – Landscape Archaeology Laboratory - University of Cagliari), focused on a homogenous geomorphological sample area located inside the historical-geographic region of Trexenta in South-Eastern Sardinia-Italy (Western Mediterranean) with the goal to analyse a series of insights about settlement systems from prehistory to Roman times, the general framework of the archaeological landscape and landforms, the path network and their transformations through the epochs. The landscape is characterized by hilly convex forms, not very pronounced, and weak slopes modelled on marly-arenaceous rocks of the Miocene, quite alterable and erodible, that are connected to small concave valleys or wider floodplains (Holocene). The numerous monumental traces span from the Neolithic to the Middle Ages, and show different settlement configurations related to changing forms of the landscape. The Authors, using a series of statistical and spatial GIS analyses, have evaluated the locational preferences at different times and how these are strongly connected to geomorphological conditioning of the movement and pathways of this region. After this analyses it might be possible to argue pathways that create a network between Nuragic sites of the area and to compare this data with the roman way known as A Karalibus Olbiam which localisation in this territory is attested by ancient and epigraphic sources. The diachronic analysis of the area's population, considered in its relationship with the landscape, has highlighted several settlement choices and different systems of pathways, also linked to the succession of different forms of economy and society.