

24th EAA Annual Meeting

BARCELONA,
5-8 SEPTEMBER 2018

REFLECTING FUTURES

Abstract Book VOLUME II



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Edicions

04 GEOARCHAEOLOGICAL AND GEOPHYSICAL ANALYSES AT THE COPPER/BRONZE AGE SETTLEMENT OF CASE BASTIONE (VILLAROSA) AND THE PREHISTORIC LANDSCAPE OF CENTRAL SICILY

Author(s): Ianni, Filippo - Giannitrapani, Enrico (Arkeos - Servizi integrati per i Beni Culturali, Enna) - Dolfini, Andrea - Shillito, Lisa Marie (School of History, Classics and Archaeology, University of Newcastle) - Anguilano, Lorna (Experimental Techniques Centre, Brunel University, London) - Di Mattia, Paolo (Geologist, independent researcher, Enna)

Presentation Format: Oral

Case Bastione is a large prehistoric settlement (ca. 2 ha) located along the Morello river (central Sicily), a major tributary of the Imera meridionale river. The site is located within a landscape marked by sandstone and clay conglomerates of the Terravecchia geological formation and by the typical elements of the Evaporitic series of the Messinian. The settlement, investigated since 2007, was inhabited from the Late Neolithic to the Early/Middle Bronze Age (5th-2nd millennium BC). The excavations have brought to light complex domestic and productive structures dating to the Late Copper Age and Early Bronze Age (ca. 2600-1600 BC), as well as diagnostic pottery and stone tools. The paper presents the site focusing in particular on the scientific analyses carried out by the multidisciplinary research team on the structural remains and portable material culture to identify the prehistoric production/craft processes, which seem to have centred on the use of shallow, clay-lined pits; the geological survey and analyses carried out both on site and in the surrounding landscape in order to map out the geological raw materials (e.g. salt, sulphur, granite, and flint), which may have been sourced, used, and exchanged in the 3rd and 2nd millennia BC; and complementary investigations including geophysical prospections and coring, which aimed to reconstruct the layout of the prehistoric settlement, its stratigraphy, and its soil morphology.

05 PROTOHISTORIC LANDSCAPES IN SARDINIA (ITALY): TERRITORIAL CONTROL AND EXPLOITATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES IN THE MIDDLE AND LATE BRONZE AGE

Author(s): Cicilloni, Riccardo (University of Cagliari) - Cabras, Marco (Doctorado en Historia y Artes – Arqueología y Cultura Material, Universidad de Granada)

Presentation Format: Oral

During the Bronze Age, in many areas of the Western Mediterranean (Spain, France, Italian peninsula, islands), we can observe the development of a series of fortified centers and structures, often on high places, aimed to the defense of strategic locations and resources. These fortifications, which began to be built from the Copper Age, are the answer to a need for possession and control of the territory linked to a greater degree of social complexity of populations, with an ever-increasing hierarchy and the rise to power of persons or groups linked to the possession of weapons and then to warlike activities.

On the island of Sardinia, in the western Mediterranean, during the proto-historic period, the Nuragic phenomenon developed; an extraordinary civilization, from the Middle Bronze Age to the end of the Iron Age (XXIII-VIII cent. BC), characterized by the building of great monuments. This civilization stands out particularly for the construction of more than 8,000 nuraghi, cyclopean-type constructions similar to towers. These great buildings have multiple functions, but in particular to surveil the whole island territory. We have mainly carried out different GIS analyzes on different sample areas with the aim to reading the visual-perceptive aspects and to try to investigate the relationship between settlements and landscape and the mobility systems across different territories through the applying of the least-cost path analysis. In order to reconstruct the Archaeological Landscape of proto-historic age, we propose some cases of important settlement systems pertinent to the Nuragic civilization. GIS-based analysis shown as these territorial control systems consisting of several nuraghi and settlements, were intended to control the more considerable natural and economic resources and transit routes.

06 PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL DYNAMICS AND THE LATE BRONZE AGE/IRON AGE OCCUPATION (1300-600 CAL BC) OF THE EREI UPLANDS (CENTRAL SICILY)

Author(s): Valbruzzi, Francesca (Soprintendenza BB.CC.AA. - Enna)

Presentation Format: Oral

The Erei uplands is a hilly area located in the innermost part of Sicily, recently the focus of intense archaeological research, producing a large amount of new data concerning the settlement patterns, the material culture, and the social structures of the communities which occupied the area from the Neolithic to the Iron Age. This geographical space is marked by the constant interplay of rolling clay hills, with sudden and sharp limestone and sandstone ridges. The area is also crossed by long and slow-flowing rivers, heading eastwards towards the Ionian coast. In the central part of the region, close to Enna, is the Lago di Pergusa, an endorheic basin of tectonic origin. Palaeoenvironmental analyses carried out on the lake sediments allowed a detailed reconstruction of past vegetation and climatic history, covering the entire Holocene. These environmental data are used as a basis for a new narrative related to the long-lasting social dynamics that have led to the development of a complex proto-urban settlement system. After a crisis during the Middle Bronze Age, a large number of new hills-top settlements started to develop since the late Bronze Age. These had a proto-urban and then urban development during the Iron Age, concentrated in particular in the Pergusa area and along the Torcicoda and Morello river valleys. This new phase of settlement expansion is also accompanied by significant cultural community practices, clearly evidenced at Cozzo Matrice, and by a process of monumentalization of death, represented by the vast Iron Age rock-cut cemeteries, documented at Pergusa and in the territory of Calascibetta. This process ended during the 5th century BC, possibly because a synecism process in favour of the new founded polis of Enna, started both for defence reasons and to respond to the cultural competition with the colonial city-states of the coastal areas.

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