07TH INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE
Methodology & Archaeometry
Zagreb, 2nd – 3rd December 2019

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The scientific conference *Methodology and Archaeometry* is being organised by the Department of Archaeology, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences since 2013. The goal of the conference is to entice interdisciplinarity, critical thinking, new insights and approaches as well as new theoretical frameworks in contemporary archaeological science.

Coverage of a wide spectrum of themes and scientific disciplines has resulted in papers and discussions that promote scientific issues in the fields of methodology, documentation and interpretation of archaeological data.

The interdisciplinary character of the conference brings together archaeologists and researchers from other scientific disciplines with whom archaeologists collaborate closely; and who – through their work, projects and ideas – promote new insights about interpretation of the human life in the past.

**Section Methodology**

Obtaining and collecting data is an essential part of the archaeological research process. How we collect and interpret data defines the validity of our interpretation. We use different techniques, approaches and tools which help us to reconstruct the past processes and to give more objective and comprehensive picture of the past. Contemporary interpretation tools alleviate and speed the data collection and also provide us with countless possibilities of interpretation, protection and presentation of archaeological sites and the landscapes encompassing them.

**Section Archaeometry**

Having in mind limited information we obtain from archaeological excavations and from the classification of archaeological material, cooperation with other scientific disciplines becomes unnecessary, to obtain as much information as possible on the conditions and the way in which the humans lived in the past. Contemporary archaeology is a very heterogeneous discipline encompassing interest groups focussed on various periods, regions, theoretical frameworks and methodological techniques. Aside from the description of mechanical and physical features of a specific artefact or material, various archaeological analyses help us to direct our scientific focus to questions regarding the ways and features included in the social and cultural life of people who made, used, exchanged and discarded those objects. Cooperation with the natural sciences provides answers to many questions, but it also demands an additional level of caution when selecting adequate scientific analysis for a specific archaeological problem. It also demands a continuous cooperation of a specific expert and an archaeologist from sample collection to the final interpretation.

http://www.ffzg.unizg.hr/metarh/publications.html
LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

ALIHODŽIĆ TIMKA
Archaeological Museum Zadar
Trg opatice Čike 1, 23000 Zadar, Croatia
timkaalihodzic@gmail.com

ANĐELINOVIĆ ŠIMUN
Clinical Department for Pathology, Forensic Medicine and Cytology, Clinical Hospital Center
Spinčićeva 1, 21000 Split; School of Medicine, Šoltanska 2, 21000 Split, Croatia
siandjelinovic@gmail.com

BALEN JACQUELINE
Archaeological Museum in Zagreb
Nikola Šubić Zrinski Square 19, 10000 Zagreb, Croatia
jbalen@amz.hr

BAREŠIĆ JADRANKA
Ruđer Bošković Institute
Bijenička cesta 54, 10000 Zagreb, Croatia
jbaresic@irb.hr

BAŠIĆ ŽELJANA
University Department of Forensic Sciences, University of Split
Ruđera Boškovića 33, 21000 Split, Croatia
zbasic@unist.hr

BERNARDINI FEDERICO
Centro Fermi, Museo Storico della Fisica e Centro di Studi e Ricerche “Enrico Fermi”
Piazza del Viminale 1, 00184 Roma; Multidisciplinary Laboratory, The “Abdus Salam”
International Centre for Theoretical Physics, Strada Costiera 11, 34014 Trieste, Italy
fbernard@ictp.it

BORKOVIĆ DAMIR
Ruđer Bošković Institute, Bijenička cesta 54, 10000 Zagreb, Croatia
damir.borkovic@irb.hr

BRENKO TOMISLAV
Faculty of Mining, Geology and Petroleum Engineering, University of Zagreb
Pierottijeva 6, 10000 Zagreb, Croatia
tomislav.brenko@rgn.hr
CAMPEAU KATHRYN  
Department of Anthropology, University of Toronto Mississauga, T. Donnelly Health Sciences Complex  
HSC 300, 3359 Mississauga Road, Ontario L5C 6 Canada  
kathryn.campeau@gmail.com

CARTER TRISTAN  
Department of Anthropology  
CNH 524, McMaster University, 1280 Main Street West, Hamilton, ON L8S 4L9, Canada  
stringy@mcmaster.ca

DE MIN ANGELO  
Department of Mathematics and Geosciences, University of Trieste  
Via Weiss 8, 34127 Trieste, Italy  
demin@units.it

DIRIÉ NINA  
Römisch-Germanisches Zentralmuseum  
Ernst-Ludwig Platz 2, 55118 Mainz, Germany  
dirie@rgzm.de

DIZDAR MARKO  
Institute of Archaeology  
Gajeva 32, Zagreb, Croatia  /mdizdar@iarh.hr

DOBOSZ BERNADETA  
Medical Physics Division, Faculty of Physics, Adam Mickiewicz University  
Universtytet Poznańskiego 2, 61-614 Poznań, Poland  
benia@amu.edu.pl

DZIEGIELWSKA-GAJSKI KATARZYNA  
Zdenčice 1, Strmec Samoborski, Croatia  
kdzgajski@gmail.com

DURIĆIĆ ANA  
Laboratory for Bioarchaeology, Dep. of Archaeology, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Belgrade  
Čika-Ljubina 18-20, Belgrade, Serbia  
a.djuricic@f.bg.ac.rs

FILEŠ KRAMBERGER JULIA  
Department of Archaeology, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb  
Ivana Lučića 3, Zagreb, Croatia  
jjkrambe@ffzg.hr

GAJSKI DUBRAVKO  
Faculty of Geodesy, University of Zagreb  
Kačićeva 26, 10000 Zagreb, Croatia  
dgajski@gmail.com

GLUHAK TATJANA  
Römisch-Germanisches Zentralmuseum  
Ernst-Ludwig Platz 2, 55118 Mainz, Germany  
gluhak@rgzm.de

GROSMAN DARJA  
Department of Archaeology, Faculty of Arts, University of Ljubljana  
Zavetiška 5, 1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia  
apdarja2@outlook.com

HARSÁNYI ILDIKÓ  
Nuclear Analysis and Radiography Department, MTA Centre for Energy Research  
Konkoly Thege 29-33, Budapest H-1121, Hungary  
harsanyi.ildiko@energia.mta.hu

HULINA MATEJA  
Department of Archaeology, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb  
Ivana Lučića 3, Zagreb, Croatia  
mateja.hulina@gmail.com

HULJEV IVAN  
Sv. Josipa 14, 22202 Primoštén, Croatia  
ivanhuljev0@gmail.com

JAKLIĆ MANUELA  
Faculty of Mining, Geology and Petroleum Engineering, University of Zagreb  
Pierottieva 6, 10000 Zagreb, Croatia  
jaklicmanuela@yahoo.com

JERKOVIĆ IVAN  
University Department of Forensic Sciences, University of Split  
Ruđera Boškovića 33, 21000 Split, Croatia  
ivanjerkovic13@gmail.com

KABACIŃSKA ZUZANNA  
Institute of Chemistry and Technical Electrochemistry, Poznań University of Technology  
Berdychowo 4, 60-965 Poznań, Poland  
zuziakab@amu.edu.pl

KALAFATIĆ HRVOJE  
Institute of Archaeology  
Gajeva 32, Zagreb, Croatia  
hkalafatic@iarh.hr

KARAVIDOVIĆ TENA  
Institute of Archaeology  
Gajeva 32, Zagreb, Croatia  
tenakaravidovic@gmail.com
KASUM JOSIP  
University Department of Forensic Sciences, University of Split  
Ruđera Boškovića 33, 21000 Split, Croatia  
josip.kasum@unist.hr

KASZTOVSZKY ZSOLT  
Nuclear Analysis and Radiography Department, MTA Centre for Energy Research  
Konkoly Thege 29-33, Budapest H-1121, Hungary  
kasztovszky.zsolt@energia.mta.hu

KOVAČEVIĆ SAŠA  
Institute of Archaeology  
Ljudevita Gaja 32, 10000 Zagreb, Croatia  
sasa.kovacevic@iarh.hr

KRUŽIĆ IVANA  
University Department of Forensic Sciences, University of Split  
Ruđera Boškovića 33, 21000 Split, Croatia  
ivana.kruzic@unist.hr

KUDELIĆ ANDREJA  
Institute of Archaeology  
Ljudevita Gaja 32, 10000 Zagreb, Croatia  
andreja.kudelic@iarh.hr

KULENOVIĆ IGOR  
Department of Tourism and Communication Studies, University of Zadar  
Ulica dr. Franje Tuđmana 24i, 23000 Zadar, Croatia  
ikulenovic@unizd.hr

KULENOVIĆ OČELIĆ NEDA  
Ulica Andrije Hebranga 21, 23000 Zadar, Croatia  
nedoacelic@gmail.com

LEGHISSA ELENA  
Institute of Archaeology, ZRC SAZU  
Novi Trg 2, 1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia  
elena.leighissa@zrc-sazu.si

LESKOVAR TAMARA  
Department of Archaeology, Faculty of Arts, University of Ljubljana  
Zavetiška 5, 1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia  
tamara.leskobar@ff.uni-lj.si

LONČARIĆ VALENTINA  
Department of Archaeology, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb  
Ivana Lučića 3, Zagreb, Croatia  
valoncar@ffzg.hr

LOZINA ANTE  
University Department of Forensic Sciences, University of Split  
Ruđera Boškovića 33, 21000 Split, Croatia  
ante.lozina@unist.hr

MADERIĆ MARIN  
Čerinina 3, 10000 Zagreb, Croatia  
maminadjevic@gmail.com

MAGAŠ LUCIA  
Faculty of Geodesy, University of Zagreb  
Kačićeva 26, Zagreb, Croatia  
Imagas@geof.hr

MATIJEVIĆ VINKO  
Department of Archaeology, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb  
Ivana Lučića 3, 10000 Zagreb, Croatia  
vibubic@ffzg.hr

MAVROVIĆ MOKOS JANJA  
Department of Archaeology, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb  
Ivana Lučića 3, Zagreb, Croatia  
jmavrovic@ffzg.hr

MESTERHÁZY GÁBOR  
Castle Headquarters Integrated Regional Development Centre  
H-1113 Daróczi út 1-3., Budapest, Hungary  
gabor.mesterhazy@gmail.com

MEYER CORNELIUS  
CM Prospection  
Prenzlauer Allee 181, 10405 Berlin, Germany  
cmp@cmprospection.com

MICHALSKA DANUTA  
Department of Dynamic and Regional Geology, Institute of Geology, Faculty of Geographical and  
Geological Sciences, Adam Mickiewicz University, Krygowskiego 12, 61-606 Poznań, Poland  
danamich@amu.edu.pl

MIHAILOVIC DANICA D.  
Archaeological Institute  
Knez Mihailova 36, 11000 Belgrade, Serbia  
danamich@yahoo.com

MIHALJEVIĆ MARIJA  
Municipal museum Nova Gradiška  
Trg kralja Tomislava 7, Nova Gradiška, Croatia  
marija.mihaljevic@gmng.hr
VITEZOVIC SELENA
Institute of Archaeology
Kneza Mihaila 35/IV, 11000 Belgrade, Serbia
s.vitezovic@ai.ac.rs

VRKIĆ ŠIME
Department of Tourism and Communication Studies, University of Zadar
Ulica dr. Franje Tuđmana 24i, 23000 Zadar, Croatia
svrkic@unizd.hr

VUKOVIĆ MIROSLAV
Department of Archaeology, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb
Ivana Lučića 3, 10000 Zagreb, Croatia
mivukovic@ffzg.hr
PROGRAM

Monday, 2nd of December

10:00 – 10:20
Opening

Key-note lectures

Chair: Ina Miloglav

10:20 -10:50
Duska Urem-Kotsou
Investigating vessels content

10:55-11:25
Tamara Leskovar
Laboratory-based research on the changes caused to the in situ preserved archaeological remains by the heavy equipment compaction

11:30-12:00
Coffee break

Chair: Predrag Novaković

12:00-12:15
Dimitrij Mlekuž
Geostatistical modelling of the Neolithic settlement systems in western Carpathian basin

12:20-12:35
Gábor Mesterházy
Effects of land cover changes on non-destructive archaeological research

12:40-12:55
Cornelius Meyer & Saša Kovačević
Patterns everywhere: Geophysical prospection strategies at archaeological sites in Northern and Eastern Croatia

13:00-13:15
Dubravko Gajski, Lucija Magaš & Katarzyna Dziegielewska-Gajski
Evaluation of archaeological potential using multicriteria analysis in GIS
13:20-13:40
Coffee break

Chair: Dimitrij Mlekuž

13:40-13:55
Dinko Tresić Pavičić & Andreja Kudelić
Archaeological excavation at Donja Cerovačka cave: methods, challenges and preliminary results

14:00-14:15
Domagoj Tončinić, Vinka Matijević & Miroslav Vuković
Image-based modelling approach to the documentation of an intact late antiquity tomb at Velić, Croatia

14:20-14:35
Katarina Šprem
All aboard! Quarries and transport in Roman Istria

14:40-14:55
Darja Grosman
Tracing the ancient coastline

15:00-15:15
Predrag Novaković
Why history of methodology matters?

15:20-16:20
Lunch break

16:20-17:00
Poster presentation

Ante Lozina, Željana Bašić, Ivana Kružić, Josip Kasum & Šimun Anđelinović
Protection and hydrographic representation of underwater archaeological sites along Croatian eastern Adriatic coast – current state and recommendations for improvement

Domagoj Tončinić & Miroslav Vuković
Choosing the right spot – ALS data targets and acquisition in the AdriaRom project

Valentina Lončarić & Janja Mavrović Mokos
Old data, new perspectives – Retrieving spatial data of Bronze Age hoards in NW Croatia using GIS software

Ivan Huljev
Does the size of hillfort and enclosure sites in Šibenik area correspond to the size of available arable land?

17:10-18:00
Visit to Archaeological Museum in Zagreb
- conservation and preparation workshops, Museum depository and temporary exhibition Avars and Slavs

Tuesday, 3rd of December

Chair: Duska Urem-Kotsou

10:00-10:15
Mateja Hulina, Hrvoje Kalafatić, Marija Mihaljević & Cynthia Spiteri
A biomarker and isotopic approach to investigate pot content from the site of Mačkovac-Crišnjevi, Croatia

10:20-10:35
Federico Bernardini, Elena Leghissa, Zsolt Kasztovszky, Veronika Szilágyi, Ildikó Harsányi, Angelo De Min & Manuela Montagnari Kokelj
Locally produced or imported? Late-Copper-Age decorated bowls from the Trieste Karst (north-eastern Italy) and Deschmann’s pile-dwellings (central Slovenia) studied using non-destructive X-ray computed microtomography and Prompt gamma activation analysis

10:40-10:55
Ana Đuričić
Early Neolithic oven building techniques at the territory of the Starčevo culture
Manuela Jaklić, Vesna Zmaić Kralj & Marta Mileusnić
Sand from the sealed Middle Byzantine amphorae of cape Stoba shipwreck

11:20-11:50  
Coffee break

Chair: Rajna Šošić Klindžić

Nina Dirié, Tatjana Gluhak & Danny Rosenberg
Provenance analysis of basaltic rock tools of Chalcolithic and Early Bronze Age I periods in Israel

12:10-12:25  
Danica D. Mihailović, Tristan Carter, Kathryn Campeau, Anda Petrović & Nikolaos Skarpelis
The earliest evidence for the use of emery in toolmaking from Stelida, Naxos

12:30-12:45  
Ivan Jerković, Željana Bašić, Ivana Kružić & Šimun Anđelinović
Data archaeology in archaeometry and osteometry: can we simulate raw data from descriptive statistics?

12:50-13:10  
Coffee break

Chair: Rajna Šošić Klindžić

Marko Dizdar & Julia Fileš Kramberger
Textile through metal – Analysis of mineralized textile remains from the Middle La Téne cemetery of Veliko Polje in Zvonimirovo

13:30-13:45  
Tena Karavidović, Tajana Sekelj Ivančan & Tomislav Brenko
The last smelt with the single recipe: geochemical characterization of the bloomery iron production process at Virje - Volarski breg site

13:50-14:05  
Andreja Sironić, Damir Borković & Jadranka Barešić
Current achievement in absolute dating techniques of mortar

14:10  
Closing
ABSTRACTS
Dushka Urem-Kotsou  
Democritus University of Thrace, Department of History and Ethnology, Komotini, Greece 

Investigating vessels content

This presentation discusses archaeometric approaches which focus on food remains that have survived absorbed or adsorbed on the vessels' walls. These include chemical analysis of lipids and proteins and the analysis of plant microremains such as starch and phytoliths. I will touch upon the potentials and limits of each method and the benefits of combining them in the study of past foodways. Examples of the applications of these methods on pottery will be presented in order to illustrate the potentials of such approaches in investigations of dietary preferences and food habits.

Tamara Leskovar  
Department of Archaeology, Faculty of Arts, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia 

Laboratory-based research on the changes caused to the in situ preserved archaeological remains by the heavy equipment compaction

When planning the in situ preservation of archaeological remains, one of the issues that need consideration are changes in the physical environment and their impact on the remains. This includes mechanical loading of the surface above the site and its consequences on the various layers and artefacts within site.

This contribution represents a laboratory-based experiment on the effects of heavy equipment compaction on archaeological remains. A set of the test was performed in order to understand better the changes that mechanical loading of the surface will cause to the archaeological site. In a custom-made steel case, artificial archaeological sites were created by layers of sandy silt and gravel, in which a variety of archaeological and modern artefacts were placed. In order to measure stress and strain, some of the artefacts were equipped with strain gauges. A servo-hydraulic piston was used to simulate static and dynamic mechanical loading. Moisture and temperature were recorded before, during and after each test, while the three-dimensional recording of the artefacts and layers, and soils stiffness measurements were performed before and after each loading.

The obtained data allowed us to study the compression of layers and their moisture, movements of the artefacts, stresses and strains on the artefacts, and the macroscopically observable damage of the artefacts caused by loading. We were able to deduce how big of an influence grain size and moisture of the soil have, how important the type of material representing archaeological remains and their position within the soil is, that movements of the artefacts within the layers are also an important factor to consider, that vibrations are far more damaging than force alone, and that protective layer is not always best preservation strategy.

With the presented results, our research has been a step towards a better understanding of the effects of heavy equipment compaction to archaeological remains and thus to the preservation of archaeological sites in situ.
Geostatistical modelling of the Neolithic settlement systems in western Carpathian basin

Paper tackles spatio-temporal patterns of Neolithic and Copper Age settlement dynamics in the Western Carpathian Basin and Eastern Alps using spatial explicit use of radiocarbon dates. It focuses on the spatial process of spread, movement, aggregation and segregation in the time frame between 8500 and 5000 cal BP. A database of 136 sites with 812 radiocarbon dates from the Neolithic and Copper Age was compiled.

Data were aggregated over spatial grids, and different spatio-temporal variables were estimated over the study area. This data was used to compute the first appearance of Neolithic settlement systems, direction and speed of the spread of the Neolithic. Then, spatially explicit demographic estimations were computed for the study area, displaying interesting spatiotemporal dynamics and different regional trajectories. Distribution of Neolithic and Copper Age sites in the study area is clustered and patchy. The first Neolithic thus appears as isolated islands or enclaves of the Neolithic settlements which then slowly expand to fill neighbouring regions. There are also some backwater areas with much later Neolithic settlement. We identified the existence of stationary borders where the Neolithic expansion toward west halted for almost 500 years. After 6300 cal BP study area experience a significant reduction in the extent of settlement systems, associated with the Late Neolithic to Copper Age transition. This significant decrease in the extent of settlements system, but not all areas were affected to the same extent.

Gábor Mesterházy
Castle Headquarters Integrated Regional Development Centre, Budapest, Hungary

Effects of land cover changes on non-destructive archaeological research

Archaeological field survey is widely used across the world as a reliable survey method in scientific and development-led researches to locate and identify archaeological surface scatter. Methodological developments aimed to understand the capabilities and limitations of field survey in many aspects. Geomorphological and pedological processes, artefact visibility, survey strategy, surface conditions and human factor are just a few examples in this regard. Nonetheless, regional surveys or bigger infrastructural projects almost always must face with non-surveyable areas due to temporal or permanent coverage.

The five CORINE (Coordination of Information on the Environment) databases are providing a reliable starting point to track land cover changes between 1990 and 2018. This presentation aims to analyse the effect of land cover changes and trends in the aforementioned period in Hungary and their effect on fieldwork.

During the automatic workflow in ArcGIS, firstly, the CORINE databases were reclassified into archaeologically relevant survey categories. Secondly, the five databases were overlapped based on the geometric union. Lastly, statistics were calculated in 197 districts about the size and changes of the archaeological land cover categories.

Firstly, the analysis resulted in a theoretical map of researchable areas for field survey. Secondly, the spatial and statistical analysis of long-term changes showed, that 2540 km² arable land were transformed into forests and grasslands mostly after Hungarian accession to the European Union. According to the principles of European Union’s Common Agricultural Policy and the aims of the Hungarian Government, we can expect a further decrease of the field surveys primary areas, arable lands.

Lastly, a detailed analysis was carried out in a 350 km² area around Polgár (NE Hungary) to analyse regional-scale effects of land cover on site identification. Geographical variables were selected (curvature, wetness, aspect, pedology, geomorphology, topographical index) to measure the land cover caused site identification bias in researchable and non-researchable areas.

Cornelius Meyer1 & Saša Kovačević2
1 cm prospection, Berlin, Germany
2 Institute of Archaeology, Zagreb, Croatia

Patterns everywhere: Geophysical prospection strategies at archaeological sites in Northern and Eastern Croatia

Between 2014 and 2019 several geophysical prospection campaigns on archaeological sites in Northern and Eastern Croatia were realised. Survey layout, data and interpretation from the Hallstatt site of Bistričak (Varaždin), from the Late Bronze Age and Iron Age site of Dolina (Nova Gradiška), and several prehistoric and Roman sites in Slavonia are presented and discussed.

All data sets can be considered as incomplete since the investigations faced a number of serious constraints. Firstly, those undertakings are often characterised by relatively low budgets. Secondly, intensive agricultural use, small property sizes result in limited accessibility of the areas to be investigated. On no account a complete coverage of the site's cores was possible. Moreover, the limited budgets also imply a methodological narrowness.

Do these resulting incomplete data sets contribute to increase our archaeological knowledge? From a purely scientific point of view, a total coverage not only of the “site”, but also of the surrounding “landscape” is self-evident. But in the reality of archaeological fieldwork and research in today’s “austerity societies,” this remains mere wishful thinking. Yet, couldn’t we consider this kind of low-budget prospection campaigns as a full-value tool in archaeological research?

Due to the wide availability of multi-channel equipment, data collection has become a standard procedure during the last 15 years. By contrast, the archaeological interpretation of the data is a matter of permanent epistemological development. The combination of the mentioned incomplete data sets and poor documentation of archaeological information on historical excavations and surveys present a challenge for both archaeologists and geophysicists.

The presented examples prove that substantial archaeological information can be gathered even from limited data sets. Taking into account geological, geomorphological and archaeological information, prevents us from both, merely describing geophysical data as well as from over-interpreting. It is self-evident that all information is assembled and presented in GIS so that continuous reworking of the data is possible for all involved parties.

The geophysical prospection campaigns were initiated, funded and strongly supported by the Institute of Archaeology Zagreb, the OREA – Institut für Orientalsche und Europäische Archäologie, Vienna, the University of Zagreb, and the Vinkovci Municipal Museum.

1 Department of Archaeology, Faculty of Arts, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia
2 Institute for the protection of cultural heritage of Slovenia, Slovenia
Dubravko Gajsči, Lucija Mača & Katarzyna Dziegielewsk-Gajsk
1 Faculty of Geodesy University of Zagreb, Croatia
2 Independent researcher, Strmec Samoborski, Croatia

Evaluation of archaeological potential using multicriteria analysis in GIS

Discovering the new potential archaeological deposit is a very demanding and challenging task for an archaeologist, where one should take into account many historical facts and investigate their interaction and impact on ancient life. The most significant impact on the life of the population has the surrounding. Beside rational conclusions, there is a lot of space for intuitive ones (“sixth sense”). To help the archaeologist organize their knowledge and criteria to make the right decision, a multicriteria analysis in GIS supported by the Analytical Hierarchical Process (AHP) can apply and contribute to more realistic and rational decisions. This paper aims to show how to evaluate the space according to the predefined criteria.

The result of the evaluation shows the archaeological potential of every pixel on the map representing the evaluated area. The locations with high archaeological potential draw our attention to places where is to expect an archaeological deposit. As a study area, the Požega valley was chosen. It represents a large number of localities dating from the Iron Age. Five criteria were selected and ranked according to personal preference: proximity to water, altitude, terrain slope, proximity to mineral resources, and land use. Five potential sites for archaeological research were identified using multicriteria analysis in GIS and AHP. Finally, the possibilities of multicriteria analysis in GIS in archaeological research are presented and discussed.

Dinko Tresić Pavičić & Andreja Kudelić
1 Kaducej d.o.o., Split, Croatia
2 Institute of Archaeology, Zagreb, Croatia

Archaeological excavation at Donja Čerovačka cave: methods, challenges and preliminary results

During April and May of 2019, archaeological firm Kaducej d.o.o. conducted a rescue excavation at Donja Čerovačka cave, near Gračac. The archaeological excavation covered an area of 210 square meters along the route of the future pathway. Despite the assumption that the archaeological features in the cave were mostly destroyed by recent interventions and past archaeological and geological excavations, many intact archaeological features were discovered throughout the entire excavated area. At least two occupation phases dated to the Late Bronze Age were recognized, although the depth of archaeological layers generally does not exceed 15 centimetres.

The authors will present the excavation methods and documentation techniques as well as the results of the preliminary analysis of archaeological stratification in Donja Čerovačka cave, with emphasis on the difficulties that accompany large-scale archaeological excavations in caves.

Domagoj Tončinić, Vinka Matjić & Miroslav Vuković
Department of Archaeology, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb, Croatia

Image-based modelling approach to the documentation of an intact late antiquity tomb at Velić, Croatia

Systematic archaeological excavations at the site Velić near Trilj began in 2013. At this point, the remains of the rectangular ground plan building were documented. Its central structure has a semicircular apse. The whole object can be roughly dated to the period of late antiquity and interpreted as an early Christian memoria which consists of three rooms and an east-west oriented vaulted tomb. The tomb was found open. Nevertheless, the remains of an older adult male were found inside. The excavation was characterized by the extreme poverty of small finds, which means that the precise dating of the site is not possible so far.

In the last days of the 2019 excavation campaign another tomb situated beneath the central structure with an apse was documented. This time it was closed and intact. Anyone who ever worked in archaeology knows how rare these types of situations are and that in practice we usually deal with remains of structures, while in this case, the entire tomb seemed undisturbed since the antiquity. After the stone slab was carefully removed, a tomb with a vaulted ceiling and two benches was revealed. The skeletal remains of four individuals were identified: a younger male adult and three children.

Although the tomb and its state of preservation were astonishing, the excavation was faced with a daunting task of documenting the buried structure and its content. Since image-based modeling has been used as a practical and detailed documentational tool in the research so far, it was only natural to approach this part of our excavations in the same manner. This paper will present the difficulties and the solutions that came across during the documentational process in this tomb, as well as some of the conclusions and interpretations of the tomb and the larger complex around it.

Katarina Šprem
Juraj Dobrila University of Pula, Faculty of Humanities, Pula, Croatia

All aboard! Quarries and transport in Roman Istria

Istria is rich in a more or less high-quality limestone which was used during antiquity for various purposes. Several quarries on the coast, as well as in the hinterland are thought to be of Roman age, or at least in use since the Roman age. There are more than 300 sites of Roman villae rusticae across the peninsula, so stone material was certainly needed very much. Limestone of high quality could have been distributed to far away locations using the sea as a means of transport, whereas if needed close-by, the roads could have served for this purpose. Travelling by sea was also less expensive and therefore more frequently used than travelling by land. The Istrian peninsula is rich in little bays and coves which could have provided sailors with a safe haven, and some of these bays show remains of Roman port facilities today. Regarding Roman roads in Istria, we do not know their exact routes, but several authors have suggested their main directions and stations.
The first step in researching Roman usage of limestone in Istria is localizing all the supposed Roman age quarries, which we will present here, as well as suggested Roman roads and ports, all of which could have been used for further transportation of stone blocks exploited from quarries. The spatial relationship between Roman quarries, roads and ports, crucial to understanding the distribution of stone blocks, will be presented.

Darja Grosman  
Department of Archaeology, Faculty of Arts, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia

Tracing the ancient coastline

The coast and islands are in their form a very specific environment. Though they closely connect to the hinterland, their formation and use, differ from the usual patterns we know and explore in archaeological mainland studies. This presentation is an attempt to look at the development of the coastal landscape through time regarding specific characteristics that influence our possibilities to detect, relate and explain archaeological remains to it.

In general, the coastlines are continually shifting and changing due to the activity of the sea like waves, tide, currents, transgression and abrasion, silting etc. Together with climate conditions, they enable or restrict exploiting these areas for different purposes from prehistoric periods until today.

The Eastern Adriatic coast (Dalmatian type) has two major properties. It runs parallel to the geological formations of the mainland with elongated islands divided from it by narrow sea channels, numerous deep protected bays and clear passages (gates) between groups of the islands. The sinking coast is by far the most significant feature of it.

There are numerous historical and modern sources describing and explaining everything from building ships to sea travel and trade, to military strategies and sea battels for the Mediterranean specially its Eastern part. The archaeological studies are no different in this sense. Remains of everyday life in a coast area beyond the notorious ports referred to in famous battels or luxurious villas and palaces are often unknown or overlooked. Trade, movements of goods are in this context the most intensively studied part of the archaeological record. Marked by endless numbers of shipwrecks that represent a moment event sealed in time they relate to the topics mentioned above with their locations, ship-building technology and variety of cargos.

At a closer look, it becomes obvious there is a lack of more detailed observation on a variety of settlement structures, harbour installations, anchorage places, production areas like shipyards, salt works, live fish tanks etc. All operation at sea did and still do closely depend on this places. To get a comprehensive picture of life along the coast, a systematic correlation study between the topics mentioned above with their locations, ship-building technology and variety of cargos.

Two of archaeologically long used specialist disciplines - underwater/marine archaeology and air photo interpretation - have focused on the target zone separately without considering where the integration of both results might enhance the interpretation possibilities. It would also improve planning fieldwork, research levels and protection of these sites. By way of examining the coastline, particularly shallow waters relates both fields to the goal of identifying possible shift of ancient coastline through time.

Air photo interpretation has been in the last twenty years enhanced with a number of new remote sensing techniques. In addition, extended open access to spatial information like aerial photography and satellite imagery, should give a fresh impulse to use those results as a base map for planning and organize monitoring of areas where underwater/maritime archaeology may have problems in contextualizing fragmented parts of former coastline activities.

A segment of East Adriatic coast (sampling mainland and islands) is a good example to expose the advantages and limitations of RS work on the shallow water. Considering the moving coastline as a constant, the focus is on problems of visibility, the transformation of structures in the wet environment, recording stage of preservation, and assessing the larger context of single sites. The chosen case studies reflect the attempt to identify and reconstruct parts of the former coastline to discuss the future goals in working on this type of data. Archaeologists might also start to explore the potential of feedback for each specialist group that study and try to protect these volatile habitats.

Predrag Novaković  
Department of Archaeology, Faculty of Arts, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia

Why history of methodology matters?

At first sight, development in archaeological methodology seems rather a linear process. Methods and techniques are constantly in the process of upgrading and evolving, with sporadic jumps to a new level. One good illustration of such jumps would be the implementation of digital photography which in a very short period almost completely replaced the non-digital photography. The change was mostly due to superior technology and a reduction of costs (per individual photography) that, today, almost no one includes photography in the budget of archaeological projects. But the case of digital photography also reveals another side - the change in attitude towards the visual recording of archaeological work. In order to fully comprehend the changes (e.g. development of methods), also from the epistemological perspective, it is not enough to observe methodological changes 'internally', but also to reflect pertinent aspects of archaeological practice. In this respect, the historical approach is not just 'chronology' of developmental steps or growth of technology, but can evolve into the proper history of our discipline exploring the ways how we know what we know.

Mateja Hulina¹, Hrvoje Kalafatić², Marija Mihaljević³ & Cynthianne Spiteri⁴
¹ Department of Archaeology, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb, Croatia  
² Institute of Archaeology, Zagreb, Croatia  
³ Municipal museum Nova Gadiška, Croatia  
⁴ Eberhard Karls Universität Tübingen, Institut für Ur- und Frühgeschichte und Archäologie des Mittelalters, Tübingen, Germany

A biomarker and isotopic approach to investigate pot content from the site of Mačkovac-Crišnjevi, Croatia

Organic residue analysis (ORA) is a well-established technique that has been used for over 30 years to characterise vessel content through the analysis of absorbed lipids. Here, we first describe the general principles behind the technique, from the selection of the vessels, handling of selected samples prior to analysis and the biomarker and isotopic
approaches used to characterise the residues. Special attention will be given to compound-specific isotope analysis, which allows further distinction between terrestrial ruminant adipose fats, dairy fats, non-ruminant fats and even wild animals fats as well as fats from marine and freshwater sources based on the c13c signatures of the palmitic and stearic acids commonly found in archaeological residues. Complexities and limitations of the technique will also be discussed.

The results obtained from ORA on vessels recovered from the Late Bronze Age cemetery and settlement of Mačkovac-Crišnjevi, in Northern Croatia will be presented. The site is located on the left bank of the Sava River, near the town of Nova Gadiška and is dated to the BrC2 to HaA1 period (Barice-Gredani group). Lipids were extracted and characterised using Gas Chromatography-Mass Spectrometry (GC-MS) and Gas Chromatography - combustion - Isotope Ratio Mass Spectrometry (GC-c-IRMS). The results obtained were found to complement faunal data, and further show the use of dairy products.

Federico Bernardini1,2, Elena Leghissa3, Zsolt Kasztovszky4, Veronika Szilágyi5, Ildikó Harsányi6

1 Centro Fermi, Museo Storico della Fisica e Centro di Studi e Ricerche “Enrico Fermi”, Roma, Italy
2 Multidisciplinary Laboratory, The “Abdus Salam” Int. Centre for Theoretical Physics, Trieste, Italy
3 Institute of Archaeology, ZRC SAZU, Ljubljana, Slovenia
4 Nuclear Analysis and Radiography Department, MTA Centre for Energy Research, Budapest Hungary
5 Department of Mathematics and Geosciences, University of Trieste, Trieste, Italy
6 Department of Humanities, University of Trieste, Trieste, Italy

Locally produced or imported? Late-Copper-Age decorated bowls from the Trieste Karst (north-eastern Italy) and Deschmann’s pile-dwellings (central Slovenia) studied using non-destructive X-ray computed microtomography and Prompt gamma activation analysis

A group of Late-Copper-Age decorated cross-footed bowls from the Trieste Karst (NE Italy) and Deschmann’s pile-dwellings (central Slovenia) studied through a non-destructive approach combining X-ray computed microtomography (microCT) and Prompt gamma activation analysis (PGAA) in order to study the vessels-forming technique, to characterise their pastes and to test the hypothesis that some vessels from the Karst could have been imported.

Cross-footed bowls represent one of the most characteristic vessels of the 3rd millennium BC. In the Deschmann’s pile dwellings most bowls are attributed to Ljubljansko barje variant of the Vučedol Culture, corresponding to the first phase of the site. In the Karst, only a few bowls were discovered and, despite the small number, they are heterogeneous in terms of shape and decoration. According to their typology, the Karst bowls are associated to the Vučedol Culture but often referred to as an individual type. The PGAA results, combined with the microCT data, have shown that only one bowl from the Karst might have been imported from Ljubljansko barje, while other 4 Karst vessels were most probably imported but not from central Slovenia. In more detail, K2O contents, higher than values reported from local Karst and Slovenian soils, have been recorded in two of these Italian bowls. The Karst bowls represent, according to their shape and ornamentation mainly consisting of cord impressions, a special variant of cross-footed bowls with relevant typological comparisons in Hungary, Slovakia and the Czech Republic. A possible central European origin of some Karst bowls would be in agreement with high K2O soil contents in some areas of the Czech Republic. Cross-footed bowls from the Trieste Karst might be considered as evidence of long-distance connections, movements of ideas, artefacts and/or even movements of people.

Ana Đuričić
Laboratory for Bioarchaeology, Department of Archaeology, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Belgrade, Serbia

Early Neolithic oven building techniques at the territory of the Starčevo culture

Ovens are enclosed thermal structures typical for sedentary agricultural communities in the Middle East and Europe since the Neolithic Period. At the territory of the Central Balkans and Croatia, ovens have been built and used since the beginning of the Neolithic. In the published literature regarding the Starčevo culture settlements, four different types of enclosed thermal structures have been mentioned, some of which were interpreted as ovens and others as pottery kilns. It was assumed that all of the ovens/kilns were built from the same material – mud plaster and that all of them were free-standing above-ground structures located inside the dwellings. Several building techniques were proposed for their construction. The revision of the published data and unpublished field documentation from the excavations of the site of Lepenski Vir, has shown that not all of the thermal structures were constructed from the same material, only one type was a free-standing above-ground structure and one type should not have been interpreted either as an oven or as a kiln, but as an open fire installation. Based on the building material, three different building techniques were defined, and some of the previously presumed techniques were refuted. Also, the existence of pottery kilns during the Early Neolithic Starčevo culture was questioned. In order to test these hypotheses, several oven building and usage experiments were conducted. The aim of this presentation is to show different oven building techniques applied during the Early Neolithic in this region and introduce a typology for the Starčevo culture ovens.

Manuela Jaklić1, Vesna Zmaić Kralj2 & Marta Mileusnić1
1 Faculty of Mining, Geology and Petroleum Engineering, University of Zagreb, Croatia
2 Croatian Conservation Institute, Zagreb, Croatia

Sand from the sealed Middle Byzantine amphorae of cape Stoba shipwreck

The remains of cape Stoba shipwreck lies on the seabed near Mljet island at the depth between 21 and 28 m. The wreck-site is evidenced by a cargo of amphorae and glass dated back to the 10th-11th century AD. Five amphoras, located in the cargo part of the ship, as well as the small ceramic vessel which had to be placed in the ship’s kitchen, were found filled with sand and closed with a wooden stopper and resin. The aim of this study is a characterization of the sand which could help in the determination of its purpose.
Sand samples from amphorae and vessel, as well as from the sea bottom, were investigated. Mineralogical content was determined using X-ray diffraction and grain size distribution by wet sieving. From fine sand magnetic fraction is separated. All granulometric and magnetic fractions were examined by binocular magnifier. All sand samples are marine sediment of carbonate composition. Sand grains are mainly skeletons of the Mollusca, Corals, Foraminifera, Sponges and Echinoderms.

This investigation has neglected the archaeological assumption that sand was used as a raw material for glass manufacture. One of the assumptions is that sand could serve as dishwash as it was found in a small ceramic vessel inside the kitchen as well. But, the composition of sand is not suitable for this purpose. It is not possible that sand from the sea bottom entered in amphorae through a small hole at the center of the cap as the coarser grain size were found. Additionally, the depth at which the amphorae were found is below the base of the waves, and the sea currents in this area are not strong enough to produce a significant suspension of seabed material. This sand could serve as a ballast, although archaeologists have not encountered such a case so far.

Provenance analysis of basaltic rock tools of Chalcolithic and Early Bronze Age I periods in Israel

The fact that vessels as well potter’s wheels and spindle whorls in Chalcolithic and Early Bronze Age I were made selectively from basaltic rocks shows that this raw material played a major role for tool production as well as for craft specialization during these periods. These items obviously had a great value for the communities in the southern Levant, facing increasing social and economic changes.

The petrological definition of the raw material of the archaeological finds, as well as the determination of the sources of basaltic rocks that were used for these tools, enables not only the mapping of the distribution of these items across the landscape and over time but also tracking possible trade routes and exchange mechanisms.

The value of basaltic rock tools as carriers for information is essential. In contrast to many other raw materials, the petrological characteristics of a basaltic tool correspond directly to the characteristics of its source.

To achieve more information about trade/exchange systems, a geochemical database of the basaltic raw material is currently created to enable a geochemical affiliation of the archaeological finds to their sources. For this reason, over 500 basaltic rock samples were collected in Israel and geochemically analyzed over the past years. The evaluation of the major and trace element analytical data supported by cluster analyses show that single basaltic rock deposits can be distinguished from each other as well as from other sources outside the borders of modern Israel. This permits an exact tracking of the origin of the archaeological finds.

This presentation will give an overview of the geological background data as well as present a case study of a Chalcolithic and Early Bronze Age I assemblage in order to demonstrate the approach of the provenance determinations.

Danica D. Mihailović1, Tristian Carter2, Kathryn Campeau4, Anda Petrović4 & Nikolaos Skarpelis5
1 Archaeological Institute, Belgrade, Serbia
2 Department of Anthropology, McMaster University, Hamilton, Canada
3 Department of Anthropology, University of Toronto Mississauga, T. Donnelly Health Sciences Complex, Ontario, Canada
4 Università La Sapienza, Roma, Dipartimento di Scienze dell’Antichità, Rome, Italy
5 Department of Economic Geology and Geochemistry, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece

The Earliest Evidence for the use of Emery in Toolmaking from Stelida, Naxos

The Cycladic island of Naxos, Greece is long renowned for its geology, and the range of lithic resources used in antiquity, not least marble, chert and emery. The latter raw material is particularly rare, with few sources in the larger region, and globally more generally. While its use as an abrasive from the later Neolithic to modern times is relatively well established, this paper focuses on its previously undocumented use as a resource for the production of flaked stone tools.

Emery consists mainly of blue corundum and is mixed with magnetic iron ore creating the rough granular abrasive stone. It is one of the hardest materials to knap being graded 6-9 on Mohs scale depending on the source. Here we detail the first evidence for an assemblage of flaked stone implements, knapping debris and hammerstones of emery stone from Stelida on the northwest coast of Naxos, a chert source and stone tool workshop (located at least 5km distant from the nearest emery outcrops) whose exploitation spanned ~9000 to ≥200,000 years ago. In the presentation we discuss the techno-typological characteristics of emery assemblage, discuss its distribution across the site and its potential chronological range of use, before then considering the exploitation of this material within the context of hominin and early human mobility on Naxos, and Palaeolithic behavioural studies more generally.

Ivan Jerković1, Željana Bašić1, Ivana Kružić2 & Šimun Andelinović2,3
1 University Department of Forensic Sciences, University of Split, Croatia
2 Clinical Dep. for Pathology, Forensic Medicine and Cytology, Clinical Hospital Center, Split, Croatia
3 School of Medicine, Split, Croatia

Data archaeology in archaeometry and osteometry: can we simulate raw data from descriptive statistics?

In all scientific fields, the external validity of the studies is an indispensable condition to generalize the results. So, validation and cross-population studies are always of paramount importance. Although researchers are encouraged to provide and publish their raw data, it is still more exception than a rule. Also, many earlier studies contain valuable data, but it is not possible to access them. Recent anthropological studies provided a novel approach that employs algorithms used to recreate data from descriptive statistics. Using the assumption that skeletal metric data from a homogenous sample follow the normal distribution, they provided raw data and constructed metapopulation data. Although that approach showed promising results, it was not tested in detail if the original sample and simulated sample differed.
This study aimed to examine differences between the original and simulated sample on seven femoral measurements. For the original sample, we used those of male and female skeletons from Ancient Salona for which we computed descriptive statistics. Using this data and package ‘truncnorm’ in R, we created a simulated sample. We statistically compared distributions of those samples and descriptive data. In both samples, we tested the accuracy of univariate discriminant functions for sex estimation on femoral measurements developed in previous research for various ancient and modern populations.

For all variables, both for males and females, there were no statistically significant differences. Also, in most of the cases, discriminant functions for sex estimation for the previous study showed minor variation in accuracy when they were applied to the original and simulated sample. Therefore, the employed approach could be of great importance in anthropological population studies but also studies from the forensic context for validation and development of methods for the estimation of biological profile. It could also be utilized for archaeometric studies of materials whose measurements follow normal distributions.

Marko Dizdar¹ & Julia Fileš Kramberger²
¹ Institute of Archaeology, Zagreb, Croatia
² Department of Archaeology, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb; Croatia

Textile through Metal — Analysis of Mineralized Textile Remains from the Middle La Tène Cemetery of Veliko Polje in Zvonimirovo

The La Tène cemetery at Veliko Polje is situated on an elongated ridge close to Zvonimirovo in northern Croatia. In the beginning, it was excavated as a medieval cemetery of the Bijelo Brdo group, but during the research, numerous incineration Middle La Tène graves were unearthed, leading to continuous and systematic research of this particular Late Iron Age necropolis. These graves can be dated to a range from the end of the 3rd century BC to the first half of the 2nd century BC (LT C2). Based on the typological characteristics of the grave finds, this cemetery at Veliko Polje in Zvonimirovo can be ascribed to the Taurisci community, or more accurately to the distribution of the Mokronog group.

The funerary ritual of this La Tène cemetery seems to have been quite well organized, because in most of the cases the graves were shaped as rectangular or oval pits, sometimes even containing wooden coffins or other funerary containers made of organic material, and the buried human remains were always incinerated. An important feature for this cemetery are the grave goods, ranging from ceramic vessels with food and drink as funerary gifts to weapons and toiletry accessories in warrior graves or knives and ceramic spindle-whorls in female graves, all accompanied regularly by typical male or female costume attire, such as fibulae, belts, jewelry, etc.

Thanks to the fact that many of these finds were made of iron, several textile and other organic fragments were preserved in its corrosion and were eligible for further investigation after the conservation of the objects. The analysis consisted of determining the weave type of the fragments, noticing the thread spin direction and measuring the thread diameter. The remains were analyzed primarily by viewing with the naked eye, but some finer details such as thread diameter and patterning were determined with the help of digital microscopy. In this paper, preliminary results of the analysis of textile remains from four graves will be presented, along with their explanation and possible interpretation.

Tena Karavidović¹, Tajana Sekelj Ivančan² & Tomislav Brenko²
¹ Institute of Archaeology, Zagreb, Croatia
² Faculty of Mining, Geology and Petroleum Engineering, University of Zagreb, Croatia

The last smelt with the single recipe: geochemical characterization of the bloomery iron production process at Virje – Volarski breg site

Remains of an early medieval iron production workshop were excavated at the Virje – Volarski breg site, located in the Podravina region (NW), a lowland area dominated by the alluvial plain of the Drava river. Current archaeological research has confirmed that iron ore processing has been present in this region in the 5th century (Virje-Sušine site), 7th century (Hlebine-Velike Hlebine site) and 8/9th century (Virje – Volarski breg and Sušine site). At the Virje-Volarski breg site several samples of iron ore were collected, analyzed and compared to ore samples from other iron production sites in the region as well as local bog iron ores collected as surface finds during an archaeological survey.

Remains of four bloomery furnaces at the site had an in situ residue of iron production slag formed during the smelting process. Samples of different types of smelting slag (furnace slag, furnace bottom slag, tapped slag) were analyzed in order to define consistency or change in the smelting procedure during individual smelts. The aim of the study is also to define in what way and to what extent does the mineralogical and chemical composition of ores and smelting waste reflect the choice of resources and steps in the iron production procedures at the Virje – Volarski breg site. X-ray powder diffraction (XRD) was used to determine mineralogical composition of slag and bog iron ore samples. Detailed geochemical characterization of samples was performed using inductively coupled plasma mass spectroscopy (ICP-MS).

Andreja Sironić, Damir Borković & Jadranka Barešić
Ruder Bošković Institute, Zagreb, Croatia

Current achievement in absolute dating techniques of mortar

Mortar can be absolutely dated by physical methods of radioactive carbon decay (radiocarbon), optically stimulated luminescence (OSL) or by electronic paramagnetic resonance spectroscopy (EPR). However, to this day, there is no consensus on the method or on the unique way of sample preparation that would always provide the true date.

The most used method is radiocarbon dating of pyrogenic carbonate created simultaneously with the mortar sample. However, the problem of extracting the pure pyrogenic fraction without carbonates originating from unburned limestone used for mortar production can often give too old dates.

In order to find the most reliable method of mortar dating, the Mortar Dating Inter-comparison Study was conducted (MODIS, Hajdas et al. 2017; Hayen et al. 2017). Four mortar samples were distributed to seven radiocarbon and one OSL laboratory. The dates provided by mortar dating were compared by 14th dates obtained from charcoal associated with the production of mortars. For two samples laboratories provided dates similar to the consensus value, and one sample was found to be too heterogeneous for dating. For one sample all the laboratories provided too young dates, implying that the mortar was re-burned, so the analyzed pyrogenic carbonates actually pointed to the last time the construction was on fire, not to the actual building of the construction.
The new mortar dating inter-comparison is in progress (MODIS 2). Three mortar samples have been distributed among 12 radiocarbon laboratories. The Zagreb Radiocarbon Laboratory is also included in MODIS 2, after being recognized for the mortar dating of the Skopje Aqueduct (Sironić et al. 2019).

The most promising methods for extraction of pyrogenic carbonate form mortars applied in the MODIS will be presented.

Ante Lozina¹, Željana Bašić¹, Ivana Kružić¹, Josip Kasum² & Šimun Anđelinović²,³

¹ University of Split, University Department of Forensic Sciences, Split, Croatia
² Clinical Dep. for Pathology, Court Medicine and Cytology, Clinical Hospital center, Split, Croatia
³ University of Split, Croatia

Protection and hydrographic representation of underwater archaeological sites along Croatian eastern Adriatic coast – current state and recommendations for improvement

Eastern Adriatic coast, especially its Croatian part, abounds with archaeological sites that testify about the uninterrupted presence of life, different social, ethnic, religious groups and cultures on this particular area. During the period of rule of ancient Greek communities and ancient Rome, with the inevitable influence of Hellenic and Roman culture, a large number of settlements have been established along the eastern Adriatic coast. Many of those settlements positioned on the very shore of Adriatic sea were forerunners of urban areas that are still present in the modern period. With such abundance of ancient settlements, we were left with many material traces of their existence, but also of the culture, customs and the ways of life of the people that inhabited them. Some of the archaeological sites from ancient periods became underwater sites, over the long period, due to the effects of geological changes, forces of nature and the constant changes of the sea level. The legislative framework in the Republic of Croatia regulates the protection and preservation of archaeological sites with no special mention of underwater archaeological sites. That fact alone gives us a great opportunity for recommending the best practice for protection, preservation and research of underwater archaeological sites. That fact alone gives us a great opportunity for recommending the best practice for protection, preservation and research of underwater archaeological sites, regardless of the fact that all archaeological sites of cultural and historic significance enjoy a certain level of protection. Underwater archaeological sites require the provision of individual measures of protection and conservation, especially regarding their attractiveness and the cultural value they possess.

By examining the actual condition of underwater archaeological locations along Croatian eastern Adriatic coast, and legal framework that deals with measures of their protection, conservation and hydrographic representation we will be able to get a full insight of the current state regarding levels of archaeological sites’ physical and legal protection and to propose the best practices to improve the previously mentioned measures.
Domagoj Tončinić & Miroslav Vuković
Department of Archaeology, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb, Croatia

Choosing the right spot – ALS data targets and acquisition in the AdriaRom project

The Roman conquest of eastern Adriatic coast lasted from the First Illyrian War in 229 BCE until 9 CE, when the final battle took place. To secure the conquered coastal region, the territory between the colonies of lader and Salona, where the first Roman immigrants had already arrived, Romans built – from the east to the west – two fortresses and several forts connected by the roads. In the scientific literature, this defense construction was laconically called the Delmataean limes, and it has been the subject of persistent scientific discussion. The aim of the AdriaRom project is to investigate the line of fortresses and forts of so-called Delmataean limes in order to show whether that line was a border or not. This area has seen numerous conflicts between the Romans and the indigenous populace which left their mark on the landscape. Using airborne laser scanning (ALS) we hope we can identify features which could further testify to the actions of the Roman military besides those already known from research done at the two legionary fortresses of Burnum on the river Krka and Tillium on the river Cetina. This landscape approach will also give us an insight into the infrastructure of the indigenous populace, and having that in mind, we’ve set out to define our target areas. Our area of research is also specific because of the rough karst geology and dense Mediterranean vegetation which affects the visibility of sites and features. This poster will present the problems we encountered, our solutions and the results of the ALS scanning. Following the project methodology field survey will be conducted on target areas, in order to determine the archaeological potential and basic information on the distribution of archaeological findings and sites in areas that are selected by the ALS scanning.

Valentina Lončarić & Janja Mavrović Mokos
Department of Archaeology, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb, Croatia

Old data, new perspectives – Retrieving spatial data of Bronze Age hoards in NW Croatia using GIS software

Bronze hoards have had a key role in the construction of LBE chronologies on both local and wider regional levels, and more recently, in studies of distribution networks and communication routes. However, due to hoards being predominantly accidental finds during construction or agricultural works, information on their provenance and archaeologica context is usually sparse or non-existent. Building on the known data for bronze hoards in north-western Croatia, this poster presents the possibilities and limitations of inferring missing spatial data using GIS software.

Combining the known information about each find with different publicly available vector and raster datasets allows for spatial analysis to be conducted and its results input into a uniform database which can ultimately be expanded to encompass all bronze hoards in Croatia. While the potential of GIS for spatial data retrieval may seem encouraging, its limitations should be nonetheless considered. In addition to the extent of archival data available, the use of GIS software is also limited by the completeness and resolution of spatial data hosted on WMS and WFS servers.

Ivan Huljev
Independent researcher, Primošten, Croatia

Does the size of hillfort and enclosure sites in Šibenik area correspond to the size of available arable land?

The problem discussed in this presentation is whether a correlation exists between the size of hillfort and enclosure sites (local term gradina) and corresponding arable land. The size of hillfort and enclosure sites was measured using measuring tools and aerial photographs available through the Arkod public service. The research which included mapping of hillfort and enclosure sites (either sites already known from archaeological literature or surveys conducted by the author) and basic measurements suggest that the position of the majority of larger hillfort and enclosure sites (more than 1 ha) closely correspond to large tracts of arable land.

These plots are situated in karstic poljes such as Donje polje, Grebaštica, Vedro polje, Velimsko polje, Bribirske mostine etc. Furthermore, the research suggests that in areas where arable tracts of land are smaller in sizes such as Perković, Boraja, Primošten and Rogoznica areas, hillfort and enclosure sites are also smaller, measuring on average less than 1 ha. At this point, due to the lack of research, it is impossible to claim whether the hillfort and enclosure sites found in the area existed simultaneously. However, it is plausible to claim that larger hillfort and enclosure sites (more than 1 ha) were built in periods in which socio-political-economic changes were rapidly taking place, leading to greater growth and development of communities whose economy is directly linked to large tracts of arable land.

Igor Kulenović1, Šime Vrkić2 & Neda Kulenović Ocelić2
1 Department of Tourism and Communication Studies, University of Zadar, Croatia
2 Independent researcher, Zadar, Croatia

Historic and cadastral maps as a vital source in landscape history research

The project Cultural Landscape - A Model for Valorisation, Protection, Management and Use of Cultural Heritage (ProHeritage) continues its research activities. The research activities are being conducted in the areas covered by administrative units Jasenice and Obrovac. Total research area covers 630 km2 of extremely karstified terrain. Research methods include common landscape archaeology tools such as remote sensing, aerial archaeology, archival research and field survey. In this presentation, we would like to emphasize the archi- aspect of our research. Historical and cadastral maps are a corner stone of any landscape research project. In respect with our research area, the primary historic source are Venetian surveys (Mape Grimani from 1709) curated by the state archive in Zadar. The survey in question records a period of relative stability following the cessation of hostilities with the Ottoman empire.

The maps are truly well of various information for the history of a landscape. In this sense, maps containing old place names, archaeological sites, abandoned settlements and a host of other information necessary for landscape studies are a vital source for landscape studies. Key words: cultural heritage, cultural landscape, historic and cadastral maps
Presentation of Neolithic archaeological site Gorjani Kremenjača

Gorjani Kremenjača is a Neolithic site in Slavonia, Croatia. It covers an area of several hectares covered with the modern agricultural fields. Magnetometry survey showed several enclosures and high concentration of objects and features. Such archaeological site that contains only soil features is especially challenging for public presentation, yet the goal was to find a solution for efficient and effective presentation to the public. The chosen solution was to enlighten the area of one enclosure and layout of several prehistoric houses. In this poster, we are presenting the illumination of site Gorjani Kremenjača using 500 LED solar lights in September 2019.

Milica Tapavički-Ilić and Timka Alilodžić

Pars pro toto, sed pars toto non est

This paper tends to show a critical approach to archaeological research applied in studying grave goods and their contexts, in which single finds were distracted from their context and displayed or published as single finds. Show cases from Viminacium and Zadar shall be discussed, and solutions offered.

The grave number G1-15 from the Viminacium – Brest cemetery is quite outstanding. Its most famous find is a water-clock. It was molded as a reverse Drag. 37 type bowl and glazed in its upper part, obviously representing a special order by the family of the deceased. In several publications, it was published as if it was a single find. However, the whole set of grave goods from grave G1-15 includes more than fifty finds, all of them clearly indicating the cult of Venus Funeraria.

The example of the lead casket discovered in 2006 in Zadar - grave 36 (Hypo banka) was also extracted from its original context and published within an exhibition catalogue about magic and superstition. During Antiquity, the lead did possess “magic features”, but in this case, it was just a protective casket for a glass urn in which cremated remains were deposited, same as many similar caskets made of stone. Needless to say, there was no “magic” to be recognized from any of the grave-goods from the same grave.

Although it surely is useful to make typologies of e.g. pottery, metal or glass finds discovered as grave-goods, it is even more important to look at each of the graves as a capsule that was created in a specific moment in time – designed for a person who died by those who mourned. These contexts are often left aside and neglected, but it is actually them that give a clear and broad image of a society who once created this cemetery.

Zuzanna Kabaciriska, Danuta Michalska and Bernadeta Dobosz

Electron Paramagnetic Resonance (EPR) spectroscopy is a well-established method of dating based on trapped charges, applied to various crystalline materials, including carbonates, bones and teeth. It provides a detailed insight into the structure of radiation defects – paramagnetic centers generated by irradiation, without the need for painstaking sample preparation, often challenging in other methods. Using EPR we studied the effect of γ- and UV-induced radiation defects in lime mortars and plasters studied by EPR spectroscopy

Selena Vitezović

Manufacturing antler in the Late Vučedol culture: The case study of Zók

The Vučedol culture is famous for its rich and diverse material culture, in particular, extraordinary ceramic artefacts (vessels, figurines) and metal working. Bone industry is one of its less explored aspects, although relatively rich assemblages were discovered at sites such as the eponymous Vučedol or Sarvaš. The site of Zók, in present-day Hungary (Baranya County), excavated in 1920, also yielded a rich assemblage of osseous artefacts, thus offering some data on the technology of antler manufacture in the Late Eneolithic and Early Bronze Age Vučedol culture. The collection of antler artefacts from Zók, currently stored in the National museum in Belgrade, includes axes, hammers, as well as manufacture debris, that helped in the reconstruction of chaîne opératoire. Mainly shed, collected antlers were used, and only occasionally we have antlers from killed animals. Red deer antlers prevail, with rare occurrences of roe deer antlers. Particularly interesting are traces of working in metal tools. Metal tools were occasionally used for working bone in the Eneolithic period in the South-East Europe, for examples at sites such as Sovjan in Albania, Armenochori in Greece, etc., but for the southern Carpathian basin, we have very little information regarding bone production in the earlier phases of the Eneolithic. Evidence from Zók shows that the antler production in the Late Vučedol culture was well developed and rather important activity. Unfortunately, the scarce data on the context do not allow reconstruction of a possible workshop or working area at the site.
Archaeology and aerial photography share a common history that goes back to the beginning of the 20th century when the first aerial photographs of Stonehenge and the forum in Rome were taken from a balloon. In time, a separate branch of our scientific field developed – aerial archaeology that focuses on studying the traces of past human activities in the landscape. Photographs taken from the air were also used to document and present archaeological sites. Until recently, these were taken from balloons, ladders, service vehicles and other platforms. However, with the development of new technologies and the commercialization of unmanned aerial vehicles, the process of documenting sites has been significantly accelerated, and the quality of presentational photographs obtained a new dimension.

Unmanned aerial vehicles or, colloquially, drones, have a long history and a wide spectrum of use, but they have only been developing quickly and commercially in the last ten years or so. Rotorcrafts hold a special place in the wide spectrum of different aerial vehicles because they are able to hover in place. The most popular variant is certainly the quadcopter. At first, the vehicles required additional equipment, meaning that the camera was separate from the drone, while today drones come with integrated cameras in RTF (ready to fly) versions.

Drones have allowed us to record sites from previously unobtainable angles and positions, and the mere fact that they are a relatively cheap product has helped them become an integral part of the toolset used by larger institutions that do archaeological research, thereby significantly increasing the number of aerial photographs of archaeological sites.

The goal of the Archaeology from the air exhibition is to present some of the most interesting and attractive aerial photographs of archaeological sites from the territory of the Republic of Croatia. This exhibition of photographs stands apart from classic archaeological exhibitions. The main focus is on the photographs themselves, and information about the archaeological context has been reduced to a minimum.
NAVIGATION

INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE  METHODOLOGY & ARCHAEOLOGY 07

ODSJEK ZA ARHEOLOGIJU FF SVEUČILIŠTA U ZAGREBU
DEPARTMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGY
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES,
UNIVERSITY OF ZAGREB
Ivana Lučića 3
www.ffzg.unizg.hr/arheo/

ARHEOLOŠKI MUZEJ U ZAGREBU
ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM IN ZAGREB
Trg Nikole Šubića Zrinskog 19
www.amz.hr
The lectures will be held at the Conference hall on the 2nd floor of the Faculty Library (on the right of the main entrance of the Faculty building)
ZAGREB MUNICIPAL TRANSIT SYSTEM (ZET)
http://www.zet.hr/

TRAM SCHEDULE

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