

CONFERENCE IN BLENDED MODE

Call for Papers

40
YEARS
OF CASAL
DE' PAZZI

**THE SITE WITHIN THE PLEISTOCENE
ARCHAEO-PALAEONTOLOGICAL
FRAMEWORK**

BETWEEN 400.000 AND 40.000 BP

Current knowledge and new research perspectives

ROME
30TH OF MARCH
1ST OF APRIL 2022

The Pleistocene deposit of Casal de' Pazzi was discovered in 1981 and systematically investigated until 1985, and again in 2013. Among the earliest Pleistocene sites to be scientifically excavated in the Roman countryside, along with Castel di Guido and Polledrara di Cecanibbio, Casal de' Pazzi adds to the already copious similar sites identified since the mid-1800s. As has been known for almost two centuries, the Latium area is confirmed to be rich in evidence relating to a crucial phase of human prehistory, and still continues to hold surprises in store today. At a time full of new archaeological discoveries and scientific innovations in the field of research methodologies on the Eurasian Pleistocene, we are celebrating the fortieth anniversary of the discovery of Casal de' Pazzi. The conference, inspired by this recurrence, therefore aims to provide an opportunity to take stock of the current situation with Italian and international scholars. It also seeks to reflect on future objectives and projects, as well as on the possible applications of cutting-edge scientific methods to the site of Casal de' Pazzi and beyond.

THEMATIC SESSIONS

Session 1 – Casal de' Pazzi 40 years after its discovery: research history and perspectives

This session by invitation gathers the numerous specialists who have contributed to the study and conservation of the Pleistocene deposit of Casal de' Pazzi over the decades. A key objective of the session is to take stock of the research projects started in the 1980s/90s. In addition, we intend to stimulate a discussion on the still unexploited scientific potential of the site in order to design new multidisciplinary research projects based on the latest cutting-edge methods, also in the light of the data from the 2013 excavation campaign.

Session 2 – The world at the time of Neanderthals: an overview of the Eurasian Pleistocene sites

Recent studies have shown that the variability, distribution, and cultural characteristics of the human species that evolved and lived in Eurasia between around 400.000 and 40.000 years ago were much more complex than previously thought. This makes each archaeological site an invaluable resource for new research and considerations. This session seeks to compare the wealth of information that can be obtained from Eurasian archaeological sites dated between MIS11 and MIS3, with a special focus on the Italian contexts.

Session 3 – New research frontiers in Pleistocene studies: theories, methods and disciplines

Reconstructing the lifeways of prehistoric communities is a multidisciplinary task. The most up-to-date interpretive approaches combine "traditional" archaeology with natural, biological, chemical and physical sciences, as well as social and cognitive sciences. New research perspectives also include archaeometry, taphonomy and deposits formation, as well as the application of digital technologies, spatial and geostatistical analyses. The latest molecular (protein, aDNA) and isotopic studies represent additional frontiers for archaeological science. This session aims to gather concrete experiences of the application of innovative research methods on Pleistocene sites and/or materials, which can also be applied to the study of other contexts - either already studied or recently discovered.

Session 4 – Communicating the Pleistocene: experiments and innovation in Italy and around the world

Prehistory is an extremely complex topic to present to non-specialist audiences. This is partly due to the big differences existing between the present reality and such a diverse and remote time. Another reason is the limited amount of well-preserved prehistoric remains. In this context, it is therefore often necessary to identify and use effective communication tools. This session aims to present case-studies of innovative museum setups and communication strategies related to prehistoric sites and prehistory, with a special focus on the Pleistocene.

At the end of each session a discussion on the presented topics will be encouraged.

PARTICIPATION GUIDELINES

The conference will be held in blended mode (both in person and online).

Contribution proposals must be submitted in word format by the 15th of February 2022 to the email address

40casaldepazzi@gmail.com and must include:

- name, surname and email address of the author(s);

- affiliation (if any) and/or job position;
- title of the selected session;
- type of contribution (oral contribution/poster);
- title of the contribution;
- abstract (maximum 2000 characters, including spaces).

All proposals will be reviewed by the Organising Committee. Contributions in both Italian and English will be considered. Priority will be given to those presenting new data or methods. Acceptance of the proposals will be notified by the 21st of February 2022.

CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

Publication of the conference proceedings is programmed; all contributions will be peer-reviewed by at least two anonymous referees.

ORGANISING COMMITTEE

Irene Baroni – Soprintendenza Speciale Archeologia, Belle Arti e Paesaggio di Roma
Anna De Santis – Soprintendenza Speciale Archeologia, Belle Arti e Paesaggio di Roma
Patrizia Gioia - Ex Sovrintendenza Capitolina ai Beni Culturali
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Sovrintendenza Capitolina ai Beni Culturali
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Accordia Research Institute
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AIQUA (Italian Association for Quaternary studies)
CNR-ISPC (Institute of Heritage Science of the National Research Council of Italy)
ICOM Italy (International Council of Museums - Italy)
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