

CURRICULUM SCIENTIFICO

PROFESSIONALE

ASSUNTA MERCOGLIANO

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AREA E INTERESSI DI RICERCA

CIVILTÀ EGEE E PROTOSTORIA EUROPEA, STUDIO DEI MATERIALI CERAMICI

Formazione specifica: CLASSIFICAZIONE E STUDIO DELLA CERAMICA DEL MEDIO BRONZO DELLA GRECIA CONTINENTALE (2200-1700 BCE)

FORMAZIONE

- 2022 **Dottorato di ricerca in Scienze dell'antichità**
(SSD: L-FIL-LET/01) Università Ca' Foscari di Venezia, Università di Udine, Università di Trieste. XXXIV CICLO.
Data ottenimento titolo: 08/09/2022
Titolo tesi: "The settlement of the Trapeza (Aigion, Achaea): study of materials and contexts for a critical assessment of settlement dynamics and pottery production in Achaea during the Middle Helladic and early Late Helladic periods" ("L'abitato medioelladico e protomiceneo della Trapezà di Eghion, Acaia: studio di materiali e contesti per un'analisi critica della tipologia insediativa e delle produzioni ceramiche tra dinamiche locali e proiezioni mediterranee").

Supervisore: prof.ssa Elisabetta Borgna.
Abstract: si veda [Allegato 1](#).
Revisori: dott. Walter Gauss (Austrian Academy of Sciences, Austrian Archaeological Institute) e Peter Pavúk (Charles University di Praga).
- 2018 **Laurea magistrale in Scienze dell'antichità: archeologia, storia, letterature**
(LM-2) Università di Udine, Università di Trieste.
Voto: 110/110 e lode.
Data ottenimento titolo: 28/02/2018
Titolo tesi: "L'abitato medioelladico e protomiceneo della Trapezà di Eghion, Acaia: catalogo e analisi della ceramica dalle ricognizioni 2013-2015".
Relatore: prof.ssa Elisabetta Borgna. *Correlatore:* prof. Pierdaniele Morandi Bonaccossi.
- 2015 **Laurea triennale in Conservazione dei beni culturali**
(L-1) Università di Udine. *Voto:* 110/110 e lode.
Data ottenimento titolo: 06/03/2015
Titolo tesi: "Il Peloponneso nel Medio Bronzo: modelli insediativi e dinamiche di popolamento".
Relatore: prof.ssa Elisabetta Borgna.

2011 **Maturità classica**
Liceo classico “G. Leopardi – E. Majorana”, Pordenone (Italia). Voto: 100/100

TITOLI ACCADEMICI

- Da ottobre 2024 Assegno di ricerca “**La preistoria dell’Aquileiese: ricerca multidisciplinare e valorizzazione digitale**”
Università di Udine
Finanziato dal progetto PRIN 2022 PNRR, Prot. no. P2022AMS3A, "SHORES - Living on the Shore: Sustainability and Connectivity of the Adriatic Lagoon Environments: Research, Preservation, and Promotion of Pre-Protohistoric Cultural Landscapes."
Area scientifico-disciplinare: ARCH-01/A
Supervisore scientifico: prof. Elisabetta Borgna
- Ottobre 2022 – settembre 2024 Assegno di ricerca “**Il sito medioelladico della Trapezà di Eghion, Acaia: studio di contesti e materiali (campagne 2021-2022)**”
Università di Udine
Finanziato dal progetto PRIN 2020, Prot. No. 2020TL4SEJ, “Mobility social integration and cultural change in the Mediterranean Bronze Age”
Area scientifico-disciplinare: L-FIL-LET/01
Supervisore scientifico: prof. Elisabetta Borgna.

ATTIVITÀ DIDATTICA E DI TUTORATO

- a.a. 2024-2025 Titolare con contratto annuale dell’insegnamento di “**Preistoria e protostoria (Protostoria Europea)**” (4 cfu, 20 ore, L-ANT-01), presso la Scuola di Specializzazione in Beni Archeologici dell’Università della Basilicata (Matera).
- 2023 Lezione “**Il sito della Trapeza nel contesto della Grecia mesoelladica**” nell’ambito del corso di Preistoria e Protostoria del Mediterraneo orientale tenuto dalla prof.ssa Ilaria Caloi (Università Ca’ Foscari Venezia).
- 2022 Laboratorio di archeologia egea: “**Riconoscere, schedare e descrivere la ceramica decorata micenea**” (25 ore), presso il Laboratorio di preistoria e protostoria dell’Università di Udine.
- 2019-2020 **Didattica integrativa** (40 ore) prevista dal regolamento del Corso di dottorato in Scienze dell’Antichità dell’Università di Venezia (svolgimento di lezioni frontali, seminari laboratoriali, didattica sul campo e supporto alla correzione di tesi in archeologia egea).
- 2016-2017, 2017-2018, 2019-2020 **Tutor Universitario**, incarico bandito dall’Università di Udine

ESPERIENZA PROFESSIONALE

- 2021 **Servizio di schedatura e studio della ceramica protostorica dagli scavi di Palazzo Mantica** (progetto “Archeologia Urbana a Udine”).

SCAVI ARCHEOLOGICI E ATTIVITÀ SUL CAMPO

- 2013-2025 **Missione archeologica della Trapeza** (Acaia, Grecia), Ministero Greco della Cultura, Eforia di Patrasso, Museo Archeologico di Eghion, Università di Udine.
- 2013-2015,
2020, 2024-
2025 **Insedimento protostorico di Canale Anfora, Terzo di Aquileia** (Udine, Italia), Università di Udine.
- 2018 **Palace of Nestor Excavations PONEX** (Messenia, Grecia), Università di Cincinnati, American School of Classical Studies (settembre 2018).
- 2014 **Villaggio dell'età del Bronzo di San Vincenzo, Stromboli** (Messina, Italia), Università di Modena e Reggio Emilia, CNR-ICEVO, Soprintendenza ai Beni Culturali of Messina (giugno 2014).
- 2013 **Ricognizioni di superficie presso i siti protostorici di Pozzuolo del Friuli e Canale Anfora a Terzo di Aquileia** (Udine, Italia), Università di Udine (gennaio 2013).
- 2013 **Castelliere di Galleriano** (Udine, Italia), Università di Udine (luglio 2013).
- 2012 **“Grandi Terme” di Aquileia** (Udine, Italia), Università di Udine (settembre 2012).

BORSE E SOGGIORNI DI STUDIO

- 2021 **Institut für Ur- und Frühgeschichte und Vorderasiatische Archäologie** (Heidelberg, Germania), periodo di ricerca dottorale (ottobre–dicembre 2021). *Supervisore*: Prof. Joseph Maran.
- 2019 **Scuola Archeologica Italiana di Atene SAIA**, (Atene, Grecia), periodo di ricerca dottorale (marzo-giugno 2019).
- 2017 **Institut für Orientalische und Europäische Archäologie OREA** (Vienna, Austria), borsa di ricerca per redazione della tesi all'estero sovvenzionata dall'Università di Udine (settembre–novembre 2017). *Supervisore*: Dott. Birgitta Eder.

CONTRIBUTI A CONVEGNI

- 2025 **Assunta Mercogliano**, Elisabetta Borgna: “Fire installations and social dynamics in Middle and early Late Bronze Age Greece: The case of Trapeza (Eastern Achaea)”

31st EAA Annual Meeting (Belgrade[online], September 2-6, 2025).

Elisabetta Borgna, Giulia Recchia, Alberto Cazzella, Susi Corazza, **Assunta Mercogliano**: “Fire installations and communal activities in Bronze Age lagoon settlements: two cases from the Adriatic shores”

31st EAA Annual Meeting (Belgrade[online], September 2-6, 2025)

Assunta Mercogliano, Mihalis Gazis, Andreas Spiroulias, Konstantinos Filis, Peter M. Day: “Pottery Production in the western Peloponnese between the late 3rd and early 2nd millennia BCE: new Evidence and future Directions”

MOBILITY SOCIAL INTEGRATION AND CULTURE CHANGE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN BRONZE AGE. Final Workshop PRIN 2020 (Udine 12-13 Giugno)

Enrico Lucci, **Assunta Mercogliano**, Alberto Cazzella, Susi Corazza, Giulio Simeoni, Melissa Vilmercati, Giulia Recchia, Elisabetta Borgna: “Human-wetlands interaction in Adriatic Lagoon environments during the 2nd and 1st millennia BC”

Kiel Conference Scales of Social, Environmental and Cultural Change in Past Societies (24-29 March 2025).

2024

Assunta Mercogliano, Mihalis Gazis, Andreas Spiroulias, Konstantinos Filis, Anno Hein and Peter M. Day: “Incised pottery of the EH III – MH I NW Peloponnese: Regional insights into the Cetina phenomenon”

30th EAA Annual Meeting (Rome, August 28-31, 2024).

Elisabetta Borgna, **Assunta Mercogliano**: “Affluence, resources and social growth in a long-term rural community of Eastern Achaea: the Trapeza of Aigion, from MBA to the final LBA”

The Archaeology of Affluence. Comparative Perspectives on Surplus, Wealth, and Social Organization in the Aegean, the Central Mediterranean, and the Near East in the Bronze and Early Iron Age (Bologna, May 8-9, 2024).

Assunta Mercogliano, Elisabetta Borgna, Peter M. Day, Anno Hein, Vassilis Kilikoglou: “Pottery production and circulation at the MH settlement of the Trapeza”. [under review] *Interdisciplinary Ceramic Research in the Peloponnese. Technological Traditions Through the Ages (Athens, April 4-6, 2024).*

2023

Assunta Mercogliano: “Coarse ware from the Middle Helladic settlement of the Trapeza: overview of shapes, functions and historical development”.

Symposium Egejskie. 9th Conference in Aegean Archaeology (Warsaw, June 19-20, 2023).

2021

Assunta Mercogliano: “The Settlement of the Trapeza (Eastern Achaea, Greece): an Insight into the Beginning of the Middle Helladic Period in Achaea”.

Symposium Egejskie. 8th Conference in Aegean Archaeology (Warsaw/online, June 23-25, 2021).

Assunta Mercogliano, Elisabetta Borgna: “The prehistoric settlement near the Trapeza Hill (Eastern Achaea): research, context and materials”.

Archaeological Work in the Peloponnese AWOP3 (Kalamata/online, June 2-5, 2021).

- 2020 **Assunta Mercogliano**: “Breaking ceramic boundaries: formation and change in pottery assemblages during the Middle Helladic period with a special look at the Trapeza settlement (Eastern Achaea)”
No (E)Scape? Relational Archaeology in the Aegean Bronze Age. Breaking Boundaries: Negotiating Change in the Aegean Bronze Age (conferenza online, Groningen, September 22, 29 and October 6, 2020).
- 2019 **Assunta Mercogliano**: “Tra Oriente e Occidente: l’Acaia e le sue interazioni culturali negli ultimi secoli del III millennio a.C.”
Nuovi volti della ricerca archeologica filologica e storica sul mondo antico, seminario interdisciplinare organizzato dai dottorandi del Dottorato interateneo Trieste – Udine – Venezia in Scienze dell’Antichità (Trieste, 23-27 settembre).
- 2018 Elisabetta Borgna, Gaspare De Angeli, Agata Licciardello, **Assunta Mercogliano**, Andreas Vordos: “Natural and human components shaping a landscape of memory during the long-term occupation of the Trapeza, Aigion, Achaea”
MNHMH/MNEME. Past and Memory in the Aegean Bronze Age (XVII International Conference Aegaeum, Universities of Udine and Venice, Aprile 17-2, 2018).

PUBBLICAZIONI (v. [allegato 2](#) per gli abstracts)

Articoli in riviste peer-reviewed

Mercogliano A., *Il progetto “Archeologia Urbana a Udine”: La ceramica dell’età del Bronzo dagli scavi di Palazzo Mantica (2009-2010)*, Gortania. Geologia. Paleontologia. Paleontologia 44, 23-50. [To abstract of publication](#)

Mercogliano A., *A Newly Discovered Middle Helladic Settlement in the Trapeza Area near Aigion (Achaea, Greece). The Materials from the Survey*, Archaeologia Austriaca 106/2022, 11-34. [To abstract of publication](#)

Articoli in atti di convegno

Mercogliano A. –Borgna E., *The Middle Helladic settlement near the Trapeza Hill (Eastern Achaea): preliminary observations on the geoarchaeological sequence*, in: M. Ξανθοπούλου – E. Γιαννούλη – E. Ζυμή – A. Μπάνου – X. Παπαδοπούλου (eds.), *To Αρχαιολογικό Έργο στην Πελοπόννησο (ΑΕΠΕΛ3)*, Πρακτικά της Γ’ Διεθνούς Επιστημονικής Συνάντησης, Καλαμάτα, 2–5 Ιουνίου 2021 (Kalamata 2024) 129–138 [To abstract of publication](#)

Mercogliano A., *The settlement of Trapeza (Eastern Achaea, Greece): an insight into the beginning of the Middle Helladic period in Achaea* in Aulsebrook S. –Żebrowska K. –Ulanowska A. (eds.), *Symposium Egejskie, vol. 4: Papers in Aegean Archaeology*, Warsaw Studies in Archaeology 5 (Turnhout 2023) 59–71 [To abstract of publication](#)

Mercogliano A., *Breaking ceramic boundaries: formation and change in pottery assemblages during the Middle Helladic period with a special look at the Trapeza settlement (Eastern Achaea, Greece)*, in: Rom I. – Turner D. –Filioglou D. –Slim F. –van den Beld Y. (eds.), *Breaking Boundaries – Connecting the Aegean Bronze Age. Proceedings of the 3rd Scapecon conference, hosted online at the Groningen Institute for Archaeology*

on 22 and 29 September and 6 October 2020, Tijdschrift voor Mediterrane Archeologie Supplement 2 (Groningen 2020) 15–21. [To abstract of publication](#)

Mercogliano A., *Tra Oriente e Occidente: l’Acaia e le sue interazioni culturali negli ultimi secoli del III millennio a.C.*, in: Veronesi V. –Callegher B. (eds.), *Nuovi volti della ricerca archeologica, filologica e storica sul mondo antico - II. Atti del II Seminario interdisciplinare organizzato dai dottorandi del Dottorato interateneo Trieste – Udine – Venezia in Scienze dell’Antichità (Trieste, Dipartimento di Studi Umanistici, 23-27 settembre 2019)*, Seminari interdisciplinari del Dottorato interateneo in Scienze dell’Antichità Trieste – Udine – Venezia I (Trieste 2021), 39-69. DOI: 10.13137/978-88-5511-256-7/32258. [To abstract of publication](#)

Borgna E. –De Angeli G. –Licciardello A. –**Mercogliano A.** –Vordos A. G., *Natural and Human Components Shaping a Landscape of Memory during the Long-Term Occupation of the Trapeza, Aigion, Achaea*, in: Borgna E. –Caloi I. –Carinci F.M. –Laffineur R. (eds.), *MNHMH / MNEME. Past and memory in the Aegean Bronze Age (Proceedings of the 17th International Aegean Conference, Udine – Venice, 17-21 April 2018)*, *Aegaeum* 43 (Leuven - Liège 2019), 329-338. [To abstract of publication](#)

COMPETENZE DIGITALI

- Qgis per database e grafica di scavo;
- Fotogrammetria 3D con Metashape;
- Illustrator per grafica di scavo;
- Filemaker pro;
- Stazione totale Topcon ed elaborazione dati con Meridiana;
- Autocad;
- Photometric.
- GIMP/Photoshop.
- Microsoft Office

COMPETENZE LINGUISTICHE

- **Italiano** (madrelingua);
- **Inglese** (certificato dal Centro Linguistico dell’Università Ca’ Foscari di Venezia, si veda [l’allegato 3](#));
- **Francese** (Intermedio alto);
- **Tedesco** (Intermedio basso);
- **Greco moderno** (Intermedio basso).

Autorizzo il trattamento dei miei dati personali ai sensi del Decreto Legislativo 30 giugno 2003, n. 196 "Codice in materia di protezione dei dati personali". Dichiarazione resa ai sensi degli artt. 46 e 47 DPR N. 445/2000.

Tesi di dottorato: The settlement of the Trapeza (Aigion, Achaea): study of materials and contexts for a critical assessment of settlement dynamics and pottery production in Achaea during the Middle Helladic and early Late Helladic periods

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Abstract

The thesis aims to offer a critical edition of the contexts and materials found between 2015 and 2019 in a settlement discovered and partially excavated by a mission of the University of Udine near the Trapeza Hill, in the hinterland of Aigion (Achaea, Greece). Most of the materials can be framed in a chronological horizon ranging from the Middle Bronze Age (Middle Helladic, 2100-1700/1675) to the beginning of the Late Bronze Age (Late Helladic I, 1700/1675-1635/1600).

The first section of the thesis presents the site, the excavation and the catalogue of the materials, which are commented from a typological and chronological perspective. The data are then discussed and interpreted in a reconstruction of the history of occupation based on the stratigraphic archaeological sequence

The second section investigates the evidence from the Trapeza in a broader context analysing, on the one hand, the cultural interrelations of the site and, on the other, functional and social aspects of the pottery through a comparative and diachronic perspective based on the evidence from the main edited sites of the Greek Mainland. The evidence of Middle Bronze Age and early Late Bronze Age occupation in Achaea is also reconstructed and then reassessed and integrated by considering the new data obtained from the Trapeza.

Mercogliano A. –Borgna E., The Middle Helladic settlement near the Trapeza Hill (Eastern Achaea): preliminary observations on the geoarchaeological sequence, in: Μ. Ξανθοπούλου – Ε. Γιαννούλη – Ε. Ζυμή – Α. Μπάνου – Χ. Παπαδοπούλου, Το Αρχαιολογικό Έργο στην Πελοπόννησο (ΑΕΠΕΛ3), Πρακτικά της Γ' Διεθνούς Επιστημονικής Συνάντησης, Καλαμάτα, 2–5 Ιουνίου 2021 (Kalamata 2024) 129–138

[Download](#)

Abstract:

The Trapeza Hill in Eastern Achaea, 7 km south-west of Aigion, is the well-known focal point of an extended archaeological landscape scattered with traces of occupation dating from the Neolithic period until Classical-Hellenistic times. A new prehistoric site was recently discovered in its vicinity, providing substantial evidence for habitation dating to the Middle Helladic period. The investigations revealed a rich archaeological palimpsest with a complex sequence of occupation, obliteration and reoccupation horizons and a significant amount of archaeological material consisting of numerous sherds and objects of domestic use, such as spindle-whorls, flint and obsidian tools. This paper offers a general overview of the geoarchaeological record of two excavation trenches, for which the stratigraphic correlation is still under investigation. A preliminary integrated study of the stratified pottery aims to outline a general chronological and cultural framework and offer a tentative reconstruction of the life cycle of the site in the broader context of Middle Bronze Age Achaea.

Mercogliano A., *The settlement of Trapeza (Eastern Achaea, Greece): an insight into the beginning of the Middle Helladic period in Achaea* in Aulsebrook S. –Żebrowska K. –Ulanowska A. (eds.), *Symposium Egejskie, vol. 4: Papers in Aegean Archaeology*, Warsaw Studies in Archaeology 5 (Turnhout 2023) 59–71

[Download](#)

Abstract:

A prehistoric settlement discovered near the Trapeza Hill, Eastern Achaea, provides substantial evidence for habitation during the Middle Helladic period (MH, 2100–1700 BC). This paper focuses on the pottery finds which can be ascribed to an early stage of occupation of the site, possibly at the transition between the Early and the Middle Bronze Age. The materials from the Trapeza offer new important data for the knowledge of this phase in Achaea, where primary contexts dating to the early MH period are lacking or not systematically published yet. The evidence is discussed in the context of the settlement dynamics and ceramic developments attested in the region during the late 3rd millennium BC.

Mercogliano A., Il progetto “Archeologia Urbana a Udine”: La ceramica dell’età del Bronzo dagli scavi di Palazzo Mantica (2009-2010), Gortania. Geologia. Paleontologia. Paleontologia 44, 23-50.

[Download](#)

Abstract:

This paper presents the edition of the ceramic material retrieved during several excavation campaigns conducted between 2009 and 2010 at Palazzo Mantica in via Manin, Udine. The study has been carried out in the framework of the project “Archeologia Urbana a Udine” (Urban Archaeology in Udine), which aims at the systematic publication of the archaeological complexes located within the central urban area of the city. A brief overview of the topography and the evidence from the Bronze Age settlement will be followed by the presentation of the excavation context and the ceramic finds. On the basis of the stratigraphic sequence and the interpretation of the materials, the author comments on the insight offered by this archaeological complex for the comprehension of the cultural dynamics involving the hillfort during the Bronze Age period.

Mercogliano A., A Newly Discovered Middle Helladic Settlement in the Trapeza Area near Aigion (Achaea, Greece). The Materials from the Survey, *Archaeologia Austriaca* 106/2022, I-XXIII.

[Download](#)

Abstract:

A new Bronze Age site has been discovered near the Trapeza Hill, 7 km inland from Aigion (eastern Achaea, Greece). Ongoing research has thus far revealed a multi-phase settlement covering the Middle Helladic (MH) period and the transitional phase up until the Late Helladic (LH). Investigations since 2013 have included the collection of surface material, as well as the excavation of two trenches. This contribution presents the study conducted on the pottery and small finds recovered from the surface survey in order to outline an initial cultural and chronological framework of the settlement.

Mercogliano A., Breaking ceramic boundaries: formation and change in pottery assemblages during the Middle Helladic period with a special look at the Trapeza settlement (Eastern Achaea, Greece), in: Rom I. –Turner D. –Filioglou D. –Slim F. –van den Beld Y. (eds.), *Breaking Boundaries – Connecting the Aegean Bronze Age. Proceedings of the 3rd Scapecon conference, hosted online at the Groningen Institute for Archaeology on 22 and 29 September and 6 October 2020, Tijdschrift voor Mediterrane Archeologie Supplement 2 (Groningen 2020) 15–21.*

[Download](#)

Abstract:

This paper discusses the theme of tradition and change in pottery assemblages across the Greek mainland during the Middle Bronze Age, namely the Middle Helladic period (2100-1700 BC). It aims to examine recurring shapes within the morphological repertoire of the Middle Helladic painted and unpainted ceramic wares in order to outline their functional purposes throughout the period under discussion. The ceramic data are set in the cultural context of several representative sites, including a newly discovered Middle Helladic settlement near the Trapeza Hill (Eastern Achaea, Greece).

Mercogliano A., Tra Oriente e Occidente: l’Acaia e le sue interazioni culturali negli ultimi secoli del III millennio a.C., in: Veronesi V. –Callegher B. (eds.), *Nuovi volti della ricerca archeologica, filologica e storica sul mondo antico - II. Atti del II Seminario interdisciplinare organizzato dai dottorandi del Dottorato interateneo Trieste – Udine – Venezia in Scienze dell’Antichità (Trieste, Dipartimento di Studi Umanistici, 23-27 settembre 2019), Seminari interdisciplinari del Dottorato interateneo in Scienze dell’Antichità Trieste – Udine – Venezia I (Trieste 2021), 39-69. DOI: 10.13137/978-88-5511-256-7/32258.*

[Download](#)

Abstract:

This paper approaches the theme of intercultural contacts by examining the archaeological framework of the late Early Bronze Age in Achaea (second half of the 3rd millennium BC). This period in Greece was characterized by major changes in the socio-economic sphere concurrent with a series of traumatic events but also with remarkable interaction phenomena. The paper aims to analyse the cultural interconnections of Achaea by applying and testing various interpretative frameworks including complex processes of cultural entanglement as well as actual movements of peoples across different geographical regions.

Borgna E. –De Angeli G. –Licciardello A. –Mercogliano A. –Vordos A. G., Natural and Human Components Shaping a Landscape of Memory during the Long-Term Occupation of the Trapeza, Aigion, Achaea, in:

Borgna E. –Caloi I. –Carinci F.M. –Laffineur R. (eds.), MNHMH / MNEME. Past and memory in the Aegean Bronze Age (Proceedings of the 17th International Aegean Conference, Udine – Venice, 17-21 April 2018), *Aegaeum* 43 (Leuven - Liège 2019), 329-338.

Abstract

The archaeological landscape of the Trapeza hill, most probably the seat of the ancient polis of Rhypes, located inland, several kilometers south of Aigion, Eastern Achaea, has been the object of systematic fieldwork since 2007, including – since 2010 - the investigation of the evidence of prehistoric occupation. By using a multi-dimensional approach, taking into account different but deeply related aspects, including topographical, geomorphological, chrono-stratigraphic and cultural issues, the research aims at understanding the long-term human occupation of the area in prehistoric times, starting in the Final Neolithic period and continuing well into the Early Iron Age (ca. late 4th millennium- 10th cent. BC). The study of the geomorphological, stratigraphic and cultural aspects has permitted the archaeologists to analyze a pattern of interaction between the natural and the human components of landscape evolution, on one hand considering how environmental features could have been landmarks that influenced the perception of the landscape, and on the other hand explaining how natural agents considerably affected the modes and dynamics of the human approach to their past, including retrieval, oblivion and abandonment. Following the very same pattern, cultural components could have enhanced the symbolic role of selected places; more intriguingly, a few hybrid components, deriving from the transformation of the human landscape by the pressure of natural constraints, could have played a role as strong mnemonic devices. One of the focuses of our research is the Mycenaean cemetery filled with chamber tombs at the Southwestern foot of the Trapeza plateau, which was used from LH IIIA1 till late in the Postpalatial period or Submycenaean, while the area was still occupied in the EIA. The cemetery may had a small knoll visible from afar and featuring the morphology of the area as its main focal point; at the same time, conditions of inter-visibility with a Middle Helladic settlement located in front of the funerary site and still occupied during the early Mycenaean period, seems to have played a role in the locational choice. By constituting a direct link to a recent past, the village represented a major ideological resource, prompting the perception of an ancestral landscape and the beginning of memorializing practices. Evidence for such practices has been explored in the archaeological record related to the funerary rites and ritual gestures in the tombs, where some ambiguous and controversial evidence has been collected. The complex diachronic pattern of use of the tombs, from LH IIIA 1 up to the very end of the Bronze Age or LBA/EIA transition (15th-11th cent.), indeed offers evidence of an ideological confrontation with the past including both practices of legitimization through ritual celebration of the ancestors and gestures of rupture and discontinuity through the spoiling and the destroying old *semata* which signaled single tombs. Meanwhile, geoarchaeological investigation opened up a new perspective on the organization of the cemetery as a landscape of memory, founded not only on the use of *semata*, but also on the manipulation of the natural environment. Notwithstanding the usual closure of the *dromoi* with fill layers after main burial cycles, the location of every single tomb seems to have been intentionally enhanced by only partially filling the *dromos*. Post-depositional natural phenomena consisting of slope colluvium were later responsible for the oblivion and removal of the tomb from the cultural landscape of remembrance. Natural processes, however, were also responsible for the progressive formation of a “landscape of ruins”, which played a main role in the activation of selective relationships with the past in the long term: specifically, collapsed funerary chambers, well-perceivable in the morphological profile of the slope, could become long-lasting objectives of offering and ritual action throughout historical times and up until the Late Classical/Hellenistic period, when access to the residential quarters as well as to the monumental temple on the Trapeza plateau was still negotiated with the ancestors.

.B



Assunta Mercogliano

ha acquisito il Badge

English C1

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