

CALL FOR PAPERS

INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP

Along the River Paglia: Archaeology, Mobility and Mediation of Cultural Heritage

Università per Stranieri di Siena (University for Foreigners of Siena)

22 March 2024

To apply please send a short abstract (200 words max, English or Italian) by January 15th to cadmo@unistrasi.it

From an ecological point of view, the Paglia River Valley constitutes a coherent and well-defined territory with distinctive characteristics of an extraordinary micro-environmental variety. The River Paglia flows from west to east and its valley is located between the volcanic Mount Amiata to the west, Mounts Cetona, Rufeno and Peglia to the north, the Tiber valley to the east and the Vulsini volcanic complex to the south. Starting from the Bronze Age, the Paglia Valley has always represented a privileged space for mobility and a liminal interface between different cultural, economic, and political spaces. With the rise of the proto-state entities of Etruria, the control of this territory located between Southern Etruria and Internal Northern Etruria became of strategic importance. The marginal nature of the Paglia Valley, both economically, geographically, and politically, has not prevented the development of complex and enduring forms of human occupation, especially along axes of mobility of extraordinary structuring capacity, and very different from each other, such as the Via Cassia and the Via Francigena. The importance of the Paglia corridor as an ecological and historical interface has only partially appeared in archaeological literature over the past decades. Moreover, the Paglia Valley is divided among different administrative entities - Tuscany, Umbria, and Lazio - and research conducted so far on this area has been often characterized by different methodological traditions. Therefore, we are missing a comprehensive understanding of the archaeological record and landscape transformations of the area between the spring of the River Paglia and the merge with the Tiber.

The goal of this conference is to move beyond the fragmentation of previous research, allowing for new questions while rereading old data, focusing on different and more complete historical interpretations. We expect paper proposals that will address historical, archaeological, methodological and landscape studies focused on both banks of the River Paglia. Papers presenting previously unpublished contexts and contributions dealing with cultural mediation issues of the archaeological heritage along the Paglia Valley are particularly welcomed. The conference will be published into a peer-reviewed thematic volume.

Scientific Committee:

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