



Dipartimento
di Studi Umanistici



SAPIENZA
UNIVERSITÀ DI ROMA

Symposium

Forager Use of “Persistent Places” During the Epigravettian in the Circum-Adriatic Regions

University of Ferrara, May 27th, 2025

Dipartimento di Studi Umanistici, Corso Ercole I d'Este, 32 - Room 1°

Organised by Federica Fontana & Dušan Borić



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The Epigravettian represents one of the final Upper Palaeolithic cultural phases in Europe, emerging across a wide area around 26,000 to 24,000 years ago and persisting until the Pleistocene-Holocene transition. While its onset appears relatively synchronous across regions, its end varies in timing and form. In the circum-Adriatic zone, this period coincided with dramatic environmental transformations—including the expansion and later retreat of glaciers, sea-level changes that opened and then submerged the Great Adriatic Plain, and widespread reforestation during the Bølling-Allerød warming. These climatic shifts significantly impacted human lifeways, influencing territorial strategies, seasonal movements, and patterns of social interaction.

This Symposium focuses on the emergence of “persistent places” during the Epigravettian—landscape locales repeatedly occupied over long durations, likely serving as aggregation hubs for mobile groups. These sites signal a shift from earlier, highly mobile subsistence strategies toward more stable residential mobility. Despite changing ecologies, Epigravettian hunter-gatherers maintained extensive social networks across the circum-Adriatic and neighboring regions, sharing tool types, symbolic behaviors, and cultural traditions.

PROGRAMME

May 27th 2025

The Symposium will take place at the Dipartimento di Studi Umanistici Sezione di Scienze Preistoriche e Antropologiche, Corso Ercole I d'Este 32, 44100 Ferrara, Room 1A.

9:00-9:20

Federica Fontana & Dušan Borić

Introduction to the Symposium

9:20-9:45

Dario Sigari, Fabio Bona, Filomena Ranaldo & Raffaele Sardella

Between Spaces and Times: The Epigravettian Persistence at Grotta Romanelli (Southern Italy)

9:45-10:10

Nena Galanidou & Geoff Bailey

The Epigravettian Record of Western Greece

10:10-10:35

Fabio Martini

About the Regionalization of the Italian Epigravettian: Grotta del Cavallo and the Cultural Province of Salento (South Apulia)

10:35-10:50 **Discussion**

10:50-11:15 *Coffee-break*



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11:15-11:40

Francesco Boschin, Adriana Moroni, Matteo Rossini & Annamaria Ronchitelli

Grotta Paglicci (Rignano Garganico, FG): A Key Site for Reconstructing the Environmental, Demographic, and Behavioural Dynamics During the Epigravettian

11:40-11:55

Marco Serradimigni

The Late Epigravettian in Central-Italy: The Fucino Basin and Continenza Cave (Trasacco-AQ) During the Late Glacial Period

11:55-12:10

Margherita Mussi, Luca Di Bianco, Flavio Altamura, Elisa Brunelli, Emanuele Cancellieri, Eliana Catelli, Emanuela D'Angelo, Giuseppe De Angelis, Ivana Fiore, Flavia Piarulli, Giancarlo Ruta & Rita T. Melis

The Sequence of Grotta di Pozzo (Central Apennines, Italy). Recording the Seasonal Returns of Hunter-Gatherers Between 23 ka and 9 ka cal BP

12:10-12:35

Giovanni Boschian, Silas Dean, Stašo Forenbaher, Katarina Gerometta, Preston Miracle, Marta Pappalardo, Dinko Radić, Dario Vujević & Nikola Vukosavljević

Humans Adaptations to Landscape and Climate Change. What We Learn from Cave Sediments Along the Eastern Adriatic Coast

12:35-13:00 **Discussion**

13:00-14:15 *Lunch break*

14:15-14:40

Dušan Mihailović, Mirela Djurović & Sofija Dragosavac

Intensified Settlement in the Adriatic Hinterland During the Late Epigravettian: Subsistence Shift or Recolonization of the Inner Balkans?

14:40-15:05

Nikola Vukosavljević & Aitor Ruiz-Redondo

Testing the Reliability of Old Data in Archaeology: New Field Research of the Eastern Adriatic Epigravettian at Badanj Rockshelter (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

15:05-15:30

Rossella Duches, Elena Armaroli, Michele Bassetti, Stefano Benazzi, Eugenio Bortolini, Lucio Calcagnile, Anna Cipriani, Ivana Fiore, Alex Fontana, Francesco Fontani, Federico Lugli, Giovanni Manzella, Nicola Nannini, Stefano Neri, Gianluca Quarta, Giulia Pessina, Matteo Romandini, Dario Sigari, Antonio Tagliacozzo & Giampaolo Dalmeri

Riparo Dalmeri, a Late Epigravettian Persistent Place in the Alps as a Centre of Entangled Economic, Social, and Symbolic Activities



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15:30-15:55

Davide Visentin, Alessandro Potì, Matteo De Lorenzi, Michele Bassetti, Corrado Esposito, Tiziano Fantuzzi, Nicolò Fasser, Nicola Nannini & Marco Peresani

A Focus on the Lateglacial Settlers of the Venetian Pre-Alps: Excavations at Landro Cave, a Late Epigravettian Site in the Cansiglio Plateau

15:55-16:15 **Discussion**

16:15-16:35 *Coffee-break*

16:35-17:00

Ivor Karavanić, Nikola Vukosavljević & Zlatko Perhoč

Long-Distance Connections in the Late Epigravettian: Evidence from Zala Cave, Croatia

17:00-17:25

Dario Vujević & Mario Bodružić

Vlakno Cave (Croatia). A Persistent Place Indeed

17:25-17:50

Dušan Borić, Nikola Borovinić, Emanuela Cristiani, Andrea Zupancich, Mateja Hajdinjak, Alma Kotevski, Tom Higham, Beniamino Mecozzi, Ana Marić, Amina Karaica, Adisa Lepić & Robert Whallon

Uncertainty Specialists: A Diversity of Late Upper Palaeolithic Adaptations in the Dinaric Alps

17:50-18:15

Federica Fontana, Davide Visentin, Nicolò Fasser, Mahym Amanova, Stefano Bertola, Camille Bourdier, Marialetizia Carra, Marzio Cecchetti, Letizia Ceregatti, Emanuela Cristiani, Dorothee Drucker, Davide Forte, Ambre Graffand, Leïla Haoreau, Giorgia Sardelli, Ursula Thun Hohenstein, Gloria Valtancoli, Alice Vinet, Chiara Zen & Andrea Zupancich

Tracing 3,000 Years of Persistent Epigravettian Occupation at Riparo Tagliente (Verona, Italy)

18:15-18:45 **Final discussion**

The Symposium will be also available online at the following link: <https://sea-el.unife.it/el-dip/mod/bigbluebuttonbn/guest.php?uid=2c5a5338689ba624f0ef58ae7121906fd7ec26b5>

Password: AFSwLDiC

The Symposium is organized in the scope of the PRIN 2022 research initiative **AFTER THE ICE - Forager Uses of "Persistent Places" in the Late Upper Palaeolithic of the Circum-Adriatic Region: Perspectives from the Riparo Tagliente (Verona, Italy) and Badanj (Bosnia and Herzegovina)**

<https://www.aftertheice.com/home>



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