

PRESENTATION

Name: Sara

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RESEARCH

Since her graduation in 2000 in Prehistoric Archaeology (University of Padova, Italy) Sara Ziggiotti has been collaborating on research projects focusing on human behaviour and settlement dynamics in different prehistorical contexts from Middle to Upper Palaeolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic in North-eastern Italy. Her contribution is based on functional approach to lithic assemblages, a targeted discipline complementary to technological approach. Experience achieved covers a very wide field of interests applying the functional analysis to different cultural and chronological contexts and giving contribution to scientific debate about some of the major topics in prehistorical research such as settlement systems, economic organisation and cultural changes in a diachronic perspective.

Her archaeological background includes a specific training carried out during her PhD in Anthropological Sciences that has led her to acquire an analytical method in investigating use-wear traces on lithic tools, and meanwhile allowed to improve her anthropological knowledge of prehistoric societies. Through this methodology she provides archaeological data concerning site's function, economy and role in the settlement systems.

She also took part to several field campaigns on open-air and sheltered sites on Italian Prealps from Middle Paleolithic (Fumane Cave), Upper Paleolithic (Riparo Broion, Bus de la Lum Grotta del Clusantin) and Mesolithic (Davià II, Lissandri 17).

As concerns Upper Palaeolithic, her research interested several sites in the region of Venetian Prealps covering some Gravettian (Grotta del Broion) and Epigravettian sites (Val Lastari, Riparo Cogola, Riparo di Biarzo, Grotta del Clusantin), where a large set of tools were analysed from a functional point of view. The research conducted during her PhD led to put under light the

articulated economic profile of an Upper Paleolithic site in the Northern Italy (Val Lastari) and to discuss the inferences with the settlement system.

After attending the PhD, she has implemented her interests enlarging her focus on more recent assemblages, from Ancient Mesolithic (Lissandri 17) and Neolithic sites from the regions of Friuli-Venezia Giulia and Trentino (Sammardenchia, La Vela VIII, Ala le Corone, Riva del Garda, Covelo di Terlago); this research, still ongoing, allowed to detect some remarkable discontinuities in production and management of tools, and a distinct functional organisations of the sites, although they belong to the same cultural scene.

Concerning Fumane Cave, since 2007 she is involved in a collaboration with the Department of Biology and Evolution (Section of Paleobiology, Prehistory and Anthropology) at the Ferrara University, accomplishing the functional analysis of lithic tools of units A3-A4 at Fumane Cave, where some transitional industries (Uluzzian) were recovered. Research carried on Fumane Cave industries achieved some important results putting on evidence a shallow difference between the two stratigraphic units concerned, suggesting a change in the concept of tool-manufacturing and utilisation and in the nature of occupation itself, that seems less organized in the upper layer.

KEYWORDS

PERIOD: Middle and Late Paleolithic

GEOGRAPHY: Italy, North-Adriatic region

SPECIALITY: Lithic industries, use-wear analysis

CULTURE/TECHNO-COMPLEXES: Uluzzian, Epigravettian, Middle Neolithic (SMP)