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Position: PhD candidate

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Research

My research at the TU Delft is part of the project: “Ancient Adhesives. A Window on Prehistoric Technological Complexity”. The project aims to create the first reliable method to compare technological and cognitive complexity in the deep past. In this project, I will use traceology to study the life-histories of Palaeolithic glues and their stone tools. The purpose of the analyses will be to identify how past human groups manufactured, used, and discarded glues, how they dealt with the nature of the different materials, with their mechanical properties, and with the level of technical ability required for their transformation. The analyses will provide elements for further discussion on cultural innovations among past hunter-gatherers.

My previous research at the University of Ferrara concerned the technological and functional examination of the end-scrapers recovered from the Early and Late Protoaurignacian layers at Fumane Cave, located in northeastern Italy. The detailed technological, morpho-metrical and functional examination of these tools provided evidence about their morphology and use-life such as use, use duration, resharpening intensity, and reasons for discard.

Keywords: Aurignacian, Upper Palaeolithic, traceology, use-wear, residues

Educational background

September 2019-now: **Phd candidate at TU Delft**, Faculteit 3mE, Department Materials Science and Engineering

Project: “Ancient Adhesives. A window on prehistoric technological complexity”

Supervisor(s): J. Dik, A.L. van Gjin, G. Langejans

March 2014- July 2016: **M.A. in “Quaternary, prehistory and archaeology”**, University of Ferrara

Thesis: “Techno-morphological examination of the protoaurignacian end-scrapers from Fumane Cave”

Supervisor(s): M. Peresani

September 2010- December 2013: **Bachelor of Arts in “Archaeology and History of Art”**, University of Torino

Thesis: “La Civitucola: study of an Early Iron Age burial-ground in Tarquinia”

Supervisor(s): A. Mandolesi

Posters and publications

Aleo A., Duches R., Falcucci A., Rots V., Peresani M. (*under revision*). Scraping and shaving tools: a technological and functional examination of the Protoaurignacian endscrapers at Fumane cave

Mandolesi A., **Aleo A.**, 2018. Il sepolcreto protostorico della Civitucola di Tarquinia, in Preistoria e Protostoria in Etruria, Atti del XIII Incontro di Studi “Armarsi per comunicare con gli uomini e con gli Dei. Le armi come strumenti di attacco e di difesa, status symbol e dono agli Dei” (Valentano (VT) – Pitigliano (GR) – Manciano (GR) 9-10-11 settembre 2016), Ricerche e Scavi, vol II, pp. 871-882.

Peresani M., Delpiano D., Duches R., Gennai J., Marcazzan D., Nannini N., Romandini M., Tassoni L., **Aleo A.**, Cocilova A., 2017. Il Musteriano delle unità A10 e A11 a Grotta di Fumane (VR). Risultati delle campagne di scavo 2014 e 2016. The Journal of Fasti Online, pp. 1-13.

A technological and functional examination of the Aurignacian end-scrapers from Grotta di Fumane, poster presentation at 7th Annual ESHE Meeting, Leiden, September 2017

La transizione Neandertal-Sapiens in Italia Nord-occidentale: ricerche dell'Università di Ferrara, poster presentato presso TourismA Salone Internazionale dell'Archeologia, Firenze 17-19 febbraio 2017.