

# LANDSCAPE<sup>4</sup>

## UNA SINTESI DI ELEMENTI DIACRONICI

### PLANNING AND THE ANCIENT WORLD: BETWEEN PAST DOGMAS AND RECENT INTERPRETATIONS

LECCE, MUSEO CASTROMEDIANO 25-26 MAY 2023

*Call for paper and poster*

CONSULTA DI  
TOPOGRAFIA  
A N T I C A



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEL SALENTO



MUSEO  
CASTROMEDIANO

*We are pleased to announce the call for papers and posters for the fourth edition of Landscape: una sintesi di elementi diacronici that will take place in Lecce May 25-26, 2023. The initiative is a collaboration between the Ancient Topography Council, the University of Salento and the support of the Polo Biblio-Museale of Lecce.*

**LANDSCAPE 4: UNA SINTESI DI ELEMENTI DIACRONICI.  
*Planning and the ancient world:  
between past dogmas and recent interpretations.***

**Lecce, Museo Castromediano 25-26 May 2023**

**Deadline: 30 November 2022 | Contact: [landscape4@archeolandscape.it](mailto:landscape4@archeolandscape.it)**

The ancient landscape has often been analysed through the lens of modernity with the attempt to actualize the subject, on the one hand by identifying parallels between the modern concept of 'planning' and the ancient one, and on the other hand with the aim of simplifying the phenomena. This process has sometimes produced a lacunose reconstruction of the ancient landscape and the elements that made it up: roads, countryside, and towns. However, in recent years, especially with the adoption of new methodologies, some issues pertinent to the concept of 'ancient planning' have been called into question by introducing new investigative directions or revising interpretations of the past. Tools such as drones, geophysics, and geomatics have made it possible to conduct large-scale investigations at lower costs, sometimes facilitating the management of large amounts of data and enabling targeted stratigraphic excavations. This virtuous circle has allowed a better understanding of the complexity of the ancient landscape, made up not only of cities but also of smaller settlements (*vici, pagi*), not only of consular roads, but also of secondary routes and an agrarian subdivision that was not as tight as reconstructions on past centuriation had led to assume.

The fourth edition of *Landscape: una sintesi di elementi diacronici* aims to explore these issues in depth, with the hope of offering a general overview of the current state of research. The initiative aims to involve postgraduates, doctoral students, and young researchers, providing an opportunity to present the results of their research to an audience of more experienced colleagues and scholars.

## SESSIONS

### **I | Morphologies and functions of minor settlements.**

The session aims to emphasize the strict definition of 'city' as a modern construct to compare it with its complex ancient articulation. The goal is to reconstruct the complexity of the settlement types that populated the ancient landscape, often determined in a peculiar way by the historical and geomorphological context, which was not only limited to the presence of towns, but also to a series of smaller settlements. In addition, all the settlements that we indiscriminately call 'towns' often manifest morphological peculiarities that call for reflection on their administrative significance and the role they assumed in the population dynamics of a specific area. The session will therefore be devoted to an in-depth study of this issue, developed in any geographical and chronological context. Both methodological contributions and presentations of unpublished field investigations will be accepted.

### **II | Meeting places along communication routes.**

The session will deal mainly with the interpretative problems related to minor sites located along communication routes in different chronological and geomorphological contexts, thus addressing not only land routes, but also river routes and lastly minor harbour landings. Within the theme, emphasis will be placed on Roman and Late Antique *stationes*, a topic often misled by the scarcity and occasionality of available archaeological data. It is well known that the transportation system, and related infrastructure, remained in operation for many centuries, under very different operating conditions; consequently, the re-functionalization of buildings created for other purposes or, conversely, the defunctionalisation of certain roadside stations for their adaptation to other uses will make for a particularly rich discussion and interesting reading of many sites.

### **III | Land management and organisation.**

The session aims to address the issue of land management in the ancient world. Land use from the agrarian point of view has undergone transformations over time: sometimes man has modified the landscape according to his needs, sometimes he has respected it and adapted to pre-existing natural and anthropogenic forms. Recent research has stimulated the study of these transformations, adopting new technologies that allow non-invasive, large-scale land investigation. Understanding these dynamics permits the determination of what administrative systems were adopted in each era to organise and structure the territory. During this session an attempt will be made to explore the strong interconnection between these two subjects.

### **IV | Non-invasive, remote, and proximal sensing surveys: the future of archaeological research?**

The session aims to emphasize one of the most popular issues in recent decades: that of a "green" archaeology that can develop a survey methodology based on non-invasive tools and media to flank and support archaeological excavation and research activities. Non-invasive methods of spatial investigation in archaeology, because of their versatility, allow for a wide range of data that needs to be interpreted and systematized. However, the dialogue between different disciplines and specializations, which is not always smooth, runs the risk of not exploiting the full potential of such approaches. The desirable goal of this session is to provide an opportunity for scholars in the field to compare notes to foster interdisciplinary collaboration.

## HOW TO APPLY

To participate, please submit a 500-word abstract **by November 30th, 2022**, specifying whether it is an oral or poster paper. Residents, Ph.D. students or young researchers who do not hold tenure-track positions from both Italian and international universities are eligible to participate.

The paper can be submitted in English or Italian.

The abstract should be sent to [landscape4@archeolandscape.it](mailto:landscape4@archeolandscape.it) and it will be necessary to specify the authors' first and last names, affiliation (if any), email contact, type of talk (oral or poster), and session of reference. The abstract should be submitted in PDF format, including at least four keywords. In addition, please include the authors' last names and the session of reference in the subject line of the email.

**Comitato scientifico:** GIOVANNA CERA (Università del Salento), GIUSEPPE CERAUDO (Università del Salento), VERONICA FERRARI (Università del Salento), PAOLO LIVERANI (Università degli Studi di Firenze), MARIA LUISA MARCHI (Università di Foggia), MARCELLO SPANU (Università Roma Tre), ADRIANA VALCHERA (Università del Salento).

**Comitato organizzatore:** GIULIA D'ALESSIO, STEFANO DE NISI, CESARE FELICI, STEFANIA PESCE, DAVIDE GANGALE RISOLEO, IPPOLITA RAIMONDO.

[landscape4@archeolandscape.it](mailto:landscape4@archeolandscape.it)

[www.archeolandscape.it](http://www.archeolandscape.it)

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