

# Understanding and Accessibility of Pre-and Proto-Historical Research Issues: Sites, Museums and Communication Strategies

edited by

Daide Delfino and Valentino Nizzo





# Understanding and Accessibility of Pre-and Proto-Historical Research Issues: Sites, Museums and Communication Strategies

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Cover image: Frame of the video- fast motion 'Tik & Tuk' as part of a path of universal accessibility in the Samnite Museum of Campobasso (Italy) 'Smart Cultural Heritage 4all' in the context of the project Molise M.A.C.R.O. Coordination: Regional Direction of the State Museums of Molise (S. Ialenti; V. Carbonara; D. Delfino), Development University of Molise (F. Ferrucci; G. Maddalena), Execution Heritage s.r.l. (E. Bruno; P. Tosco) and artist Gabriele Rocchietta' Courtesy of Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Activities and Tourism- Regional Direction of Museums of Molise.

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## Foreword to the XVIII UISPP Congress Proceedings

UISPP has a long history, originating in 1865 in the International Congress of Prehistoric Anthropology and Archaeology (CIAAP). This organisation ran until 1931 when UISPP was founded in Bern. In 1955, UISPP became a member of the International Council of Philosophy and Human Sciences, a non-governmental organisation within UNESCO.

UISPP has a structure of more than thirty scientific commissions which form a very representative network of worldwide specialists in prehistory and protohistory. The commissions cover all archaeological specialisms: historiography; archaeological methods and theory; material culture by period (Palaeolithic, Neolithic, Bronze Age, Iron Age) and by continents (Europe, Asia, Africa, Pacific, America); palaeoenvironment and palaeoclimatology; archaeology in specific environments (mountain, desert, steppe, tropical); archaeometry; art and culture; technology and economy; biological anthropology; funerary archaeology; archaeology and society.

The UISPP XVIII World Congress of 2018 was hosted in Paris by the University Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne with the strong support of all French institutions related to archaeology. It featured 122 sessions, and over 1800 papers were delivered by scientists from almost 60 countries and from all continents.

The proceedings published in this series, but also in issues of specialised scientific journals, will remain as the most important legacy of the congress.

L'UISPP a une longue histoire, à partir de 1865, avec le Congrès International d'Anthropologie et d'Archéologie Préhistorique (C.I.A.A.P.), jusqu'en 1931, date de la Fondation à Berne de l'UISPP. En 1955, l'UISPP est devenu membre du Conseil International de philosophie et de Sciences humaines, associée à l'UNESCO. L'UISPP repose sur plus de trente commissions scientifiques qui représentent un réseau représentatif des spécialistes mondiaux de la préhistoire et de la protohistoire, couvrant toutes les spécialités de l'archéologie : historiographie, théorie et méthodes de l'archéologie ; Culture matérielle par période (Paléolithique, néolithique, âge du bronze, âge du fer) et par continents (Europe, Asie, Afrique, Pacifique, Amérique), paléoenvironnement et paléoclimatologie ; Archéologie dans des environnements spécifiques (montagne, désert, steppes, zone tropicale), archéométrie ; Art et culture ; Technologie et économie ; anthropologie biologique ; archéologie funéraire ; archéologie et sociétés.

Le XVIII<sup>e</sup> Congrès mondial de l'UISPP en 2018, accueilli à Paris en France par l'université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne et avec le soutien de toutes les institutions françaises liées à l'archéologie, comportait 122 sessions, plus de 1800 communications de scientifiques venus de près de 60 pays et de tous les continents.

Les actes du congrès, édités par l'UISPP comme dans des numéros spéciaux de revues scientifiques spécialisées, constitueront un des résultats les plus importants du Congrès.

Marta Azarello  
Secretary-General /  
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# Understanding and accessibility of pre-and proto-historical research issues: sites, museums and communication strategies

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According to various definition of 'prehistoric' archaeology, it can be defined as 'Times before history' (Tournal 1833), 'Past cultures that did not leave a written record of their activities' (Society of American Archaeology list) (Egloff 2019: 3). In the same sense, the definition of the protohistory has been formulated in different ways: first, 'Because of the existence in some but not all societies of historical writing during the first millennium BC, the period has often been termed protohistoric instead of prehistoric' (Taylor 1994), or to the Europe 'the period or stage of human development or of a particular culture immediately prior to the emergence of writing' (Collins dictionary) or to the America 'archaeological history in the period immediately preceding recorded history' (Collins dictionary). In the classical European view, prehistory and protohistory are not true history, since they lack in historical sources (writing). In the American vision these two periods are true history, but without writing. It is a history made of material, technological, artistic, behavioral testimonials, and other data sources. Precisely these characteristics of the two periods, are an advantage and a disadvantage in its disclosure in the museums: for one hand the charm of such remote periods that do not have the written sources to tell them, can be a stimulus to the public. For other hand the lack of the writing hinders the possibility of knowledge by the general public, because it takes away from the everyday reality of today's people the reality of the men and women of Prehistory and Protohistory. A possible and useful connection between the actual day-to-day and the reality of the prehistory and protohistory are the link between technology and society, within the human behavior (Oosterbeek 2012).

Based on these considerations, we want examine the problems of attractiveness and easy conceptual accessibility to prehistoric and protohistoric Heritage, except those sites or those discoveries that are in themselves attractive because they are famous or monumental (the group of caves of Atapuerca, the painted Upper Paleolithic painted Franco-Cantabric caves, the cromlech of Stonhenge, the Mycenaean citadels, the Etruscan necropolis, or the Celtic and Celtiberian hillforts). Or we want take in account the problems in the disclosure of the pre and protohistoric materials in the museums collections. To one hand several sites are not monumental, often they are difficult in maintenance and visibility in extra-urban places. To other hand several materials in museums, above all the 'non artistic' are for the most part difficult to understand by their very nature: putting themselves in the shoes of the average visitor, these are 'incomprehensible but fascinating fragments of stone' (flint tools), 'beautiful ceramics but often monotonous' (vascular forms), or 'weapons and tools of color captivating green color' (bronzes); if the scientific datum, which is the 'writing source' that is missing from the Prehistory and Protohistory, it is not transmitted incisively and within the reach of a non-specialist public, the sites and the materials they will always remain difficult to understand. In the parts of the world where the anthropological approach is put in the foreground with respect to the historical-cultural one, bringing concepts of prehistoric archeology closer to today, for public disclosure, is easier, since there are still traditional societies to refer (Silva Noelli 2004; Jubainski 2016). Also in most of the Countries where the need to make archaeological data more anthropological, at

the base of public archeology is the complete and comprehensible transmission of scientific data (Mariano, Conforti 2013; Oliveira Eneas 2018). Archaeology, since being a science that has several constraints such as the alienation from the non-scientific world, the ability to involve the current society, the valorization of the intangible, which compromises its accessibility to the public (Delfino, Oosterbeek, Almeida 2015). On the other hand, as David Clarke well summarized since 1973: 'Archeology in essence then the discipline with the theory and practice for the recovery of unobservable hominid behavior patterns from indirect traces in bad samples' (Clarke 1979: 100).

The questions raised in this volume are therefore: how to make the results of scientific research in museum collections and in prehistoric sites closer to the day-to-day reality of the average public? What kind of problems do we meet to disseminate our research? How do we interface with the local community? Which solutions to improve the communication of scientific data? These questions were attempted to answer with the following colleagues:

Thun, Pasini, Tarter, Messana, Scalco, Scali, Camisani Scalzi, Chiarell, Prencipe and Poletti, in the paper 'Education, dissemination and new technological approaches for a museum opened behind closed doors: the University Museum of Paleontology and Prehistory "P. Leonardi"', present a new project to the paleontological museum 'P. Leonardi', after its damage during the earthquake of 2012, using new technologies and involving directly students of Master Degree.

Bringmans, in the paper 'Beyond Museum Walls: The Potential of Untraveled Prehistoric Heritage Sites as Archaeotourism Destinations', show a perspective of a form of cultural tourism, which aims to promote public interest in archaeological sites, creating Archaeotourism, specifically to the prehistoric sites.

Chowne and Carter, in the paper 'Unlocking La Cotte de St. Brélade: making Jersey's Pleistocene heritage accessible' show study, protection and enhancement of the Middle Pleistocene site of La Cotte de St. Brélade, only possible because the site is considered as an integral part of Jersey's historic environment communication, education and tourism development strategies.

Modolo, Stefani, Sartori, Ingegno, Magagnin, Bressan, Marton, Conte, Mason, Rizzotto, Riva, Carpené, Maniglia, Nardellotto, Meneghini and Follador in the paper 'The Livelet Park: education, didactic and experimental archaeology (Revine Lago, Treviso, Italy)', show the Livelet Archaeological Park project to promote lakes history and environment around the prehistoric remains found in Colmaggiore di Tarzo.

Arróniz Pamplona, Sirvent Cañada, Fonseca de la Torre, Bayer Rodríguez, Meana Medio, Pérez Legido and Calvo Hernández in the paper 'Abandonment, rehabilitation and accessibility of open air sites: the case of El Castillar', show a new project to restore and protect the protohistorical settlement of El Castillar (Mendavia, Navarre, Spain) after the lack of maintenance and visitors resulted on the abandonment of the settlement in 1990s.

Carbonara, Delfino, Di Nucci and Ventura, in the paper 'Reality, strategies and projects to prehistory and protohistory in the state museums and archaeological sites in the Molise region (southern Italy)' show a museographical strategies to enhance proto-historic collections in museums with a prevalence of collections from other chronologies, and the Paleolithic site, and its materials, of Isernia la Pineta which is an integral part of the National Paleolithic Museum of Isernia, involving the local communities, youth and the disabled public.

Nizzo, in the paper 'The Temple Machine. A New Communication Model for the Villa Giulia National Etruscan Museum' show a projet developed in the main permanent exhibition of Etruscan collection in Italy, according to the educational role of the museums and the new perspective of disclosure of the scientific data in the museum since the system of management

and communication of national cultural heritage introduced by the Italian Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Activities.

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