

WINTER SCHOOL MALAMOCCO

From Metamauco to Malamocco Venice origins through geoarchaeology

Venice is an artificial environment created by men in the middle of a lagoon. When and how the city has formed? These questions still remain unanswered.

Despite the plethora of "traditional" excavations in the city, archaeologists still debate about where the first urban nucleus was settled between the 6th and the 8th centuries AD.

At what was a time of strong internal and external conflicts, as well as of climatic change, the very configuration of the lagoon and its outlets onto the sea had a role to play in the decision to colonize the archipelago itself.

Geoarchaeology methodologies can help in gain deep and extensive info about the underground heritage of early medieval Venice quickly and on a budget. This winter school will lead us a new model of early medieval colonization of the lagoon and gain a deep insight to Venice origins. Moreover, our mission is to explore climate change to overtake land use as major threat to global biodiversity, and to make SSH expertise more intertwined with other sciences to jointly address global challenges.

Objectives

This school seeks to combine a paleo-environmental reconstruction of the actual south archipelago with the known historical and archaeological sources. This will let to understand the reasons behind some key choices for Venice, such as the preference given to some islands instead of others.

Why in the 5th - 7th century people started to colonize some parts of the venetian lagoon? Why they chosen exactly those inlands?

These are the main questions we intend to answer.

We intend to analyze human impact in the sediments and variations in intensity through time. Moreover, we intend to understand the relationship between paleo-hydrography and the evolution of the lagoon, and to detect ancient marshy areas between rivers (during the Roman age this area was flanked by a secondary branch of the Medoacus-Brenta river).

Target participants

The course is directed to advanced students in History and Archaeology, aiming to specializing in Middle Ages as well as in paleo-environmental studies, as well as professionals seeking to add geoarchaeological expertise to own cv.

Moreover, professionals working on the archaeological evaluation document in the preliminary project of public works, required by the Italian legislation (<http://www.archeologiapreventiva.beniculturali.it/rifelegi.php>), will learn how to operate geoarchaeological investigation profitably in the future.

Contents

Stratigraphical and detailed geomorphological analysis will be complemented by:

- ✓ sampling for 14 C dating;
- ✓ sampling for micromorphology, sand petrography analysis;
- ✓ sampling for phosphate analysis, magnetic susceptibility, organic matter, near infrared spectroscopy; macro/microfossils, malacology, entomology, diatoms; palynology, phytolith studies.

Finally, we will arrange the report to present to the contracting authorities.

Teaching methods

After few introductory frontal lectures, we will perform practical experiences of manual coring in the Malamocco area.

Moreover, we will integrate the state of the art with new advancements derived from corings through group work. Guided tours to the Lido, site of the course, and to Venice Piazza San Marco are expected.

DIRECTOR

Sauro Gelichi, Università Ca' Foscari Venezia – Dipartimento di Studi Umanistici: from 1997 he teaches Archeologia Medievale in Ca' Foscari. He studies early medieval emporia around the Adriatic, such as the lagoon site of Comacchio and Venice origins. In the last few years his research interest has been focused on the early medieval Venetian landscape.

FACULTY

Paolo Mozzi, Università di Padova – Dipartimento di Geoscienze. His research interests are Quaternary evolution, geomorphology, archaeology, landscape archaeology considering fluvial systems, climatic and sea levels variations, with application of GIS and Remote sensing. He is author of numerous studies about anthropic impact and relationship with geomorphological evolution.

Margherita Ferri, Università Ca' Foscari Venezia – Dipartimento di Studi Umanistici. In the last years she studied Venice landscape archaeology with attention to old excavations data. A second research interests is material culture characterization and ways in which it could be a mirror of different communities that have inhabited Venice.

Alessandra Forti, Università Ca' Foscari Venezia – Dipartimento di Studi Umanistici. Paleobotanist with an interdisciplinary approach to the vegetation history of northern Italy, integrating archaeobotanical (anthracology, carpology), ethnographic, anthropological and historical evidence.

Silvia Garavello, Università Ca' Foscari Venezia – Dipartimento di Studi Umanistici. Her research deals with faunal remains of historical periods, principally from the Roman Period to the end of Middle Ages in the North-East of Italy (Venetian sites and Emilia Romagna). Her studies are mainly focused on animal exploitation, eating habits and landscape transformations in the lagoon sites.

Duration and period

The course will last 1 week, from Monday 5th until Friday 9th of November 2018.

Attendance

At the end of the course you are going to receive a certificate.

Course location

Lido of Venice, Venice - Italy

Enrolment fees:

Euro 470 + IVA (22%)

25 places are available, the Winter School will open with at least 15 people.

Fee included:

frontal lectures, practical experiences of manual coring, tutorship, weekly ticket for bus and boat for the all the city of Venice, lunches from Monday to Friday, one roundtrip with traditional Venetian Boat to one of the coring areas.

Fee not included:

dinners, accommodation and all not mentioned in “fee included”.

It is possible to have a 15% discount with Lido partner hotels, more detail will be available after submission. We suggest students to stay until the Sunday to enjoy a nice week-end in Venice.

How to register

To register for the course, simply complete the registration form “form di iscrizione online” (registration form) on the website <http://www.unive.it/pag/6560/> **until the 14th October 2018**.

It is request an email of confirm with the proof of payment.

Ca' Foscari Challenge School

The Ca' Foscari Challenge School is the school for **continuing Education** at Venice University Ca' Foscari. A center of expertise that brings together research and experience that gives life to a wide range of courses that are able to interpret updating needs of **organizations and people** at different stages of their careers. University Masters, executive programs, intensive workshops and tailor-made projects, develop innovative themes which guarantee links between **companies, territory and the academic world**. A solid program that has found its main strengths in a faculty, characterized by international professors and consultants, within a **network of important partners**:

Innovazione Digitale



along **multidisciplinary paths** that allow you to acquire a complete preparation from the use of “active” methodologies.

Information

For further information regarding the following initiatives (contents, teachers, location, facilities), contact the faculty and administration office at Ca' Foscari Challenge School: corsi.challengeschool@unive.it



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