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# Interpreting Long life dwelling spaces: integrate spatial analysis of a Late Bronze Age open area at Coppa Nevigata (South-eastern Italy)

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## Abstract

In recent years our knowledge about Bronze Age settlements in Italy has sharply increased and more pieces of evidence are now available to explore the patterns of activities and socio-economic organization of these communities. On that subject, the characterization of the spatial configuration and functional variability of the spaces in settlement areas represents a key step.

The fortified coastal settlement of Coppa Nevigata is one of the most extensively excavated Bronze Age sites in Italy. It was continuously occupied from the beginning of the 2nd to the beginning of the 1st millennia BC, and played a significant role in the local and transmarine exchange networks. Over the late Bronze Age (13th-12th centuries BC) the settlement's organisation underwent significant transformations particularly as regards both domestic architecture and management and storing of goods. At the same time the level of craft activities increased considerably, probably owing to the rise of elite groups.

In this presentation we will propose an integrated spatial analysis of an open space of the Late Bronze Age settlement area of Coppa Nevigata that is closely related with two sub-rectangular structures, possibly domestic and connected with an elite group. This space has yielded thousands of ecofacts and artefacts (including pottery, metal objects and scrap metals, lithic and bone artefacts), which have been all analysed from a functional perspective. Moreover, a substantial amount of fine wheel-made Mycenaean-type shards was scattered outside the structures, which may well indicate a distinctive status of the residents and/or activities with specific symbolic and social meaning.

By mean of GIS elaborations the various sets of data have been processed and combined

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with one another in order to figure out the patterns of use of this area and the activities that were carried out there. Resulting data will be compared and contrasted with those obtained from other coeval areas of Coppa Nevigata. Finally, we will discuss methodological issues related with the spatial and functional analysis of deposits resulting from the repeated use of an area over a long span of time.

**Keywords:** Bronze Age, Spatial Analysis, Late Bronze Age, GIS, Settlement, Italy