Incontri di Archeologia Sapienza
4th edition
March 24-26, 2022

Sapienza – University of Rome
Department of Classics and Archaeology ("Dipartimento di Scienze dell'Antichità")

New perspectives in Public Archaeology: defining the present, projecting the future

Call for Papers and Posters

"IAS - Incontri di Archeologia Sapienza" is a multidisciplinary project created during the academic year 2017-2018 by a group of students and researchers of the Department of Classics and Archaeology at Sapienza - University of Rome. The initiative set up a public space dedicated to young researchers from the area of Antiquities, to share the results of bachelor, master and doctoral theses, with the purpose of creating opportunities of exchange, moderated by professors and experts. Over time, the project evolved by assuming the form of a conference, dedicated to themes, which have an important impact on the present archeological discourse. In order to render scientific debate more inclusive, we invite speakers of different grades and from all disciplines of Cultural heritage to participate and contribute.

The 4th edition of "IAS - Incontri di Archeologia Sapienza" with the title New perspectives in Public Archeology: defining the present, projecting the future will be held online on March 24 and 25, 2022 and in hybrid mode (if the epidemiological situation allows, otherwise online) on March 26, 2022.

Participation in the conference is **free of charge for speakers and visitors**. In order to create a debate with international profile, all contributions should be either in Italian or in English. We are happy to receive proposals for either paper or poster presentations, concerning the following five thematic sessions:

- **Session 1**   To the point. Theories and methods for a definition of Public Archaeology: history, principles, protagonists and tools.

- **Session 2**   Local communities and cultural identities: the contribution of Public Archaeology in the construction of a conscious society.

- **Session 3**   Hyper-disciplinarity for Public Archaeology: bridges between past and present.

- **Session 4**   Public Archaeology between disclosure and communication: how to hit the mark.

- **Session 5**   Beyond the digital mode: the post-Covid-19-challenge to reconnect the real and the virtual.

Preference will be given to applications that take an **interdisciplinary and methodologically reflective approach**.

In conclusion of the conference there will be a **round table** with the participation of the scientific committee, the session chairs and the speakers.

Thematic Sessions

1. To the point. Theories and methods for a definition of Public Archaeology: history, principles, protagonists and tools.

Public Archaeology is recently taking shape as an autonomous discipline with dedicated degree courses, specializations and master's degrees. The complexity of the subject, comprehending heterogeneous fields, professions and contexts, does not facilitate an overall reading and makes the discipline itself appear at times elusive and still lacking an univocally valid definition. It is therefore urgent to conduct a conclusive reflection in order to answer the following questions: how can Public Archaeology be defined? Which methodological approaches can be applied for a project in the field of Public Archaeology?
The lack of an unambiguous definition and of a methodological frame makes it difficult to delineate the discipline of Public Archaeology, which has hardly appeared on the scientific scene, but on the contrary, seems to assume a fundamental role in this delicate historical period, in which communication between promoters and users and interdisciplinary collaboration appear to be crucial issues in the wider context of Cultural Heritage.
This introductory panel will be dedicated to contributions focusing on theoretical aspects and problems of Public Archaeology, aiming on the one hand to define its historical features, its protagonists, principles and future perspectives, and on the other hand, to clearly outline the methodology of investigation and the tools used to set up a Public Archaeology project.

2. Local communities and cultural identities: the contribution of Public Archaeology in the construction of a conscious society.

The aim of this session is to investigate the key role played by Archaeology in the formation of collective identities, basing on case studies and multidisciplinary analysis. Which significance does the production of heritage, memories and cohesion appear to have in the actual context, through the interpretation of archaeological remains and the shared narration of their historical and cultural value? What role does citizenship play in this process of recognition of cultural values? Which external effects, e.g. on local development, result from the process of recognition of values?

3. Hyper-disciplinarity for Public Archaeology: bridges between past and present.

As a science studying the past, Archaeology benefits from the interaction with other disciplines to achieve an impact on the present and on the future. Especially in Public Archaeology the relationship between the past and the demands of the present is one of the principal issues. In this session, we wish to focus on the relationship between Public Archaeology and other disciplines: whether it be restoration and redevelopment projects, chemical or geophysical, sociological or psychological analyses, this panel accepts contributions that explore the cooperative and sustainable aspects of Archaeology and involve at least one "external" discipline.

4. Public Archaeology between disclosure and communication: how to hit the mark.

Social media and internet have radically changed the way of communicating in every field, projecting also Archaeology and Cultural Heritage in the digital world. The communication "for the few" is finally becoming "for the many" and open to different audiences – not only composed by "professionals" – including also a more active and aware citizenship. New and alternative contents, professionals interacting directly with the society, sharing moments of their research and work behind great events, excavations, researches. The novel form of communication open up new challenges and questions for the field of Archaeology and Cultural Heritage: How to best use social networks as a tool for cultural promotion? How to propose an effective digital strategy? How important is it to invest in the training of hybrid figures who can work in this sector? This session will explore strategies of creating the digital identity of Public Archaeology and its optical appearance as well as the potential of archaeological messages through different social media platforms. We welcome contributions based on experiences and documented case studies that encourage a critical reflection on the subject of communication.

5. Beyond the digital mode: the post-Covid-19-challenge to reconnect the real and the virtual.

One of the side effects of the pandemic has undoubtedly been an increased exploration of the possibilities offered by digital tools as a vehicle for alternative virtual proposals to the canonical visits in presence. This abrupt shift has further exposed the problems inherent in each of the two modalities, leaving many questions about the future Museum exhibitions once the restrictions will be removed. In this session, we welcome contributions that explore the delicate issue of the challenge that Museums will face in building a new balance between maintaining a relationship with their local area and its community – even more crucial in this context – and managing new and probably different touristic flows. How are big and small Museums preparing for this new scenario? Which policies and projects have been developed? How is the relationship between the Museum and the local community changing and how important can it be? These are some of the questions that will be discussed in this session through contributions exploring both single case studies of local relevance and broader reflections on a national and international scale.

PARTICIPATION

The proposals must be submitted in PDF format by **December 17, 2021** to incontri.archeologia@gmail.com and must include:

- name, surname and e-mail address of the author(s);
- institutional affiliation (if present) and/or profession;
- indication of the session for which the proponent(s) want to apply;
- type of proposal (paper/poster);
- title;
- abstract max. 2500 characters (spaces included)

All the proposals received will be evaluated by the Scientific Committee through peer review, according to the double blind system. Acceptance will be notified by **January 31, 2022**.

CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

The Conference proceedings will be published in the series inFieri - Editor Quasar. Participation in the Proceedings includes a participation fee to cover the printing costs, with a difference between Papers and Posters, which also will comprehend a different length of text and number of images.

All the articles received will be submit to the evaluation by two anonymous referees (blind review), in order to maximize the potentiality of the article, with the intention to guarantee an appropriate scientific standard to the volume.

The outcome of the review process can be positive, positive with the request of corrections or negative and will be communicated to the authors with an evaluation form comprehending the motivations behind the response. Only after positive response from both referees the authors will be asked to submit the participation fee and will receive a PDF-extract of the own article and a discount in the purchase of the volume from the Editor.

Scientific Committee

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