

THE BIFERNO VALLEY SURVEY - 50 YEARS LATER

PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE OF ARCHAEOLOGY
ACROSS APENNINE LANDSCAPES

Fifty years ago, British students began exploring the ploughed fields of the Biferno Valley, in search of archaeological surface material. Under the leadership of Graeme Barker, the Biferno Valley Survey grew into a landmark project in understanding the long-term relationship between humans and their environment. A then scarcely explored Apennine-Adriatic area, in the modern region of Molise, thus became the famously generic 'Mediterranean valley'.

This conference will explore the impact of the Biferno Valley Survey on landscape archaeology and historical interpretation, and trace new paths for future research. The BVS set a new standard in interdisciplinary collaboration and in presenting its results across a wide geographic and temporal range. Since then, two new waves of survey projects have pursued new research questions. The more recent projects have engaged with the BVS in different ways: using it as a conceptual or historical baseline, or as a source of legacy data to build upon. Researchers from Molise-based projects, as well as those from comparable regional landscape projects along the Apennine spine, will reflect on the BVS and the current and future challenges.

Changing research agendas along with technological and methodological innovation form the core of the conference. An equally important aspect concerns the social dimension, particularly intergenerational discussion. Besides Graeme Barker himself, various other original team members will reflect on their experiences and the impact on their thinking. Together with a new generation of students and researchers, we will explore possible directions for future research in a rapidly changing landscape.

Day 1 - 6 November

Location: Royal Netherlands Institute in Rome, Via Omero, 10/12

Online: [knir.it](https://www.knir.it), at:

<https://www.knir.it/it/eventamenti/conference-biferno-valley-survey-50-years-later/>

Session 1, chair: Wieke de Neef

10:00 - 10:15	Stephen Kay, Mariachiara Santone, Tesse Stek & Marlene Suano	Introduction
10:20 - 10:45	Richard Hodges	How the Biferno Valley Survey led to a new historical paradigm: tracing the impact of a temple society on Early Medieval Italy
10:50 - 11:15	Luigi Pinchetti	The complex relationship between Christian and Landscape Archaeology: A review 50 years after the Biferno Valley Survey
11:20 - 11:35		<i>Coffee break</i>
11:40 - 12:05	Chris Wickham	Archaeology and history in the Biferno Valley Survey
12:10 - 12:35	Chris Hunt	The formation of sedimentary landscapes: reflections on landscape history from the Biferno Valley Survey
12:40 - 13:05		<i>Discussion</i>

Session 2, chair: Anita Casarotto

14:30 - 14:55	Alberto Cazzella et al.	Sapienza University's palaeoethnological research in Molise: weighing up twenty years of activities
15:00 - 15:25	Gianluca Tagliamonte & Norma Lonoce	Il Sannio preromano: 50 anni di ricerche bio-antropologiche
15:30 - 15:55	Alfredo Coppa et al.	Alfedena (AQ, Abruzzo, Italy), a 6th-5th century BCE Samnite community: analysis of kinship and social structure through archaeogenetic data
16:00 - 16:15		<i>Coffee break</i>
16:20 - 16:45	Antonella Natali	La ceramica d'impasto dalle necropoli preromane del Sannio
16:50 - 17:15	Girolamo Fiorentino & Arianna Sellitto	Nuove ricerche archeobotaniche e paleoambientali nel Sannio antico: il caso studio di Sepino
17:20 - 17:45	Giacomo Fontana	Empty hillforts and Samnite Highland Landscapes
17:50 - 18:15		<i>Discussion</i>

Day 2 - 7 November**Location: British School at Rome, Via Antonio Gramsci, 61****Online: bsr.ac.uk, NB register beforehand to watch online at:****<https://bsr.ac.uk/conference-biferno-valley-survey-50-years-later/>***Session 3, chair: Gianluca Tagliamonte*

09:50 - 09:55	Abigail Brundin	<i>Director, British School at Rome</i>
09:55 - 10:00	Stephen Kay	<i>Introduction</i>
10:00 - 10:25	Stefania Quilici Gigli, Giovanna Cera & Giuseppina Renda	Venti anni di ricerche topografiche nella valle del Volturno: riflessioni sui dati e sulla loro lettura
10:30 - 10:55	Alessandro Naso & Claudio De Simone	New field survey in Molise: the Fortore valley project
11:00 - 11:15		<i>Coffee Break</i>
11:20 - 11:45	Tesse Stek	Understanding non-urban society in the first millennium BCE: twenty years of fieldwork projects in Molise
11:50 - 12:15	Frank Vermeulen	The Potenza Valley Survey project in Marche: long-term examination of proto- and early historic settlement dynamics
12:20 - 12:45	Peter Attema, Wieke de Neef & Antonio Larocca	Taking Mediterranean survey to the summit. The Pollino Archaeological Landscape Project in Northern Calabria
12:50 - 13:15		<i>Discussion</i>
<i>Session 4, chair: Jeremia Pelgrom</i>		
14:30 - 14:55	Amalia Faustoferrì	Oltre le sponde del Biferno
15:00 - 15:25	Marlene Suano	Where are they? Chiefs, princes, traders?
15:30 - 15:55	Wieke de Neef	Surface and subsurface: geophysical prospection of Metal Age landscapes in the Apennines
16:00 - 16:15		<i>Coffee Break</i>
16:20 - 16:45	Stephen Kay & Paul Roberts	A legacy of the Biferno Valley Survey. New excavations at Matrice, Campobasso
16:50 - 17:15	Anita Casarotto, Rogier Kalkers & Tesse Stek	Italic urbanism? Settlement trends in the territory of Larinum
17:20 - 18:05	Graeme Barker	Reflections on the Landscape Archaeology of the Biferno valley: where we were, where we are, where should we be?
18:05 - 18:30		<i>Discussion</i>

Day 3 - 8 November**Location: Palazzo Tiberio, Via Palerio Volpe, 45 - Sepino**

08:30 - 12:30		<i>Travel Rome-Molise</i>
<i>Session 5, chair: Jesús García-Sánchez</i>		
13:30 - 13:35	Nella Rescigno	<i>Welcome by JustMO'</i>
13:35 - 13:40	Dora Catalano	<i>SABAP Molise</i>
13:40 - 13:45	Paolo D'Anello	<i>Sindaco di Sepino</i>
13:45 - 13:50	Tesse Stek	<i>Synthesis of the first two days</i>
13:50 - 14:15	Gerardo Fratianni	<i>Viabilità e sacralità nel Molise costiero: il sacello di Montecilfone (CB)</i>
14:20 - 14:45	Mariachiara Santone & Flavia Micucci	Il prezioso contributo del progetto "Valle del Biferno" nelle attività di tutela della Sabap Molise
14:50 - 15:15	Antonella Minelli	La preistoria nella valle del Biferno alla luce delle recenti acquisizioni
15:20 - 15:45	Isabella Muccilli	L'impianto termale extraurbano della villa Romana di Larino (CB) in località Le Piane
15:50 - 16:05		<i>Coffee Break</i>
<i>Session 6, chair: Mariachiara Santone</i>		
16:10 - 16:35	Bruno Sardella	Archeologia nella valle del Biferno: le ricerche nel territorio di Castropigna no (CB) e nei comuni contermini
16:40 - 17:05	Fulvia Ciliberto & Maria Notardonato	La valle del Tammaro: percorsi antichi e cambiamenti paesaggistici. Una proposta di viabilità Sepino - villa c.d. dei Nerazi tra dati di archivio e sistemi GIS
17:10 - 17:35	Jesús García-Sánchez, Jitte Waagen & Tesse Stek	New methods to study hilltop sites: point sampling on the Montagna di Gildone hillfort
17:40 - 18:05	Berend Beekhuis, Giordano De Coste, Marcello de Vos, Flavia Palazzini, Tesse Stek & Iris Verbiesen	A Mediterranean micro-valley: survey results from the Carapelle valley
18:10 - 18:35		<i>Discussion</i>

Day 4 - 9 November**Location: Parco Archeologico di Sepino (CB)**

09:00 - 12:00	<i>Parco archeologico di Sepino</i>
13:30 - 17:00	<i>Travel Molise-Rome</i>

Organising committee: Berend Beekhuis, Michele Fratino, Stephen Kay, Mariachiara Santone, Tesse Stek, Marlene Suano

Special thanks to Gianluca Tagliamonte, Jeremia Pelgrom, JustMó, and the municipalities of Sepino and Jelsi

*Contacts: b.beekhuis@knir.it
info@knir.it*