

INTERNATIONAL MOUNTAIN CONFERENCE

#IMC22

SEPTEMBER 11 - 15 2022

## >> SYNTHESIZE MOUNTAINS OF KNOWLEDGE <<

## Submitted Abstract

ID IMC22-FSAbstr- 686

First Author First Name Last Name	Francesco (1) Carrer
Submitting Author First Name Last Name	Francesco Carrer
Correspondence	francesco.carrer@newcastle.ac.uk
Co-Authors >> E-Mails will be not listed	Cavulli, Fabio (2); Armigliato, Alessandro (1)
Organisations	1: Newcastle University, United Kingdom 2: University of Naples Federico II, Italy
Country	United Kingdom
Region	Western Europe
Title	Intra-Site Spatial Analysis In Mountain Archaeology: A Case-Study From The Dolomites (Italian Alps).
Keywords	Spatial Analysis, Excavation, Intra-Site, Upland, Dolomites
Туре	List Of Focus Session
Focus Session ID	20



INTERNATIONAL MOUNTAIN CONFERENCE

SEPTEMBER 11 - 15 2022

>> SYNTHESIZE MOUNTAINS OF KNOWLEDGE <<

Abstract

Upland archaeological contexts are often characterised by ephemeral structures and complex biographies, which largely prevent the interpretation of their function and abandonment. This is primarily associated with the seasonal use of some of these sites, which affects the representativity and quantity of the material culture recorded during archaeological investigations. Besides, specific taphonomic conditions of the uplands can be detrimental for the preservation of these contexts and their spatial organisation. Intra-site spatial analysis represents a useful tool to overcome these limitations. Applications to ethnoarchaeological contexts have shown that these methods can identify meaningful spatial patterns of artefacts and ecofacts within seasonal settlements. Spatial interpolation has been used to map geochemical markers of human activity, and to compare them with the known intra-site activity areas. Less work has been done on spatial variability and local association within excavation grids, to explore clustering or dispersion of specific markers. All these ethnoarchaeological case studies have enabled different methods and approaches to be tested. However, they have been rarely applied to real archaeological case studies. In this paper, some of these methods will be combined and applied to an early-medieval archaeological site excavated in the upland sector of the Belluno Dolomites (Italian Alps).

The site is located in Busa delle Vette, within the Dolomiti National Park, at 1850 m above the sea level. Archaeological investigations carried out between 2016 and 2018 as part of the UPLanD project, uncovered a dry-stone hut which underwent several phases of reconfiguration and abandonment. A large number of artefacts (potsherds, metal objects) and ecofacts (charred seeds, charred wood, animal bones) were recovered during the excavation. The interior of the hut was characterised by a dark-earth-looking deposit, that were sampled for botanical and geochemical analysis. Debris counting and soil sampling were based on an excavation grid of 0.5x0.5 m resolution, which produced a remarkable spatial dataset.

Spatial analysis has been applied to identify patterns in the archaeological record, which might provide some useful information on the history and function of this structure. The results of this case study will influence other intra-site analysis in upland contexts. The technical and interpretative solutions implemented in this case study will contribute to advance intra-site spatial analysis in mountain archaeology.

Research Area Mountain Regions Innrain 52f 6020 Innsbruck Austria WWW.IMC2022.INFO

imc2022@uibk.ac.at +43 512 507 54442