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>> SYNTHESIZE MOUNTAINS OF KNOWLEDGE <<

Submitted Abstract

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First Author First Name	Federica (1) Fontana
Submitting Author First Name Last Name	Federica Fontana
Correspondence	federica.fontana@unife.it
Co-Authors >> E-Mails will be not listed	Visentin, Davide (1,2)
Organisations	1: Department of Humanities, University of Ferrara, Ferrara, Italy 2: Institución Milá y Fontanals, IMF-CSIC, Barcelona, Spain
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imc2022@uibk.ac.at +43 512 507 54442



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Abstract

The South-Eastern Alps have yielded one of the richest Mesolithic records (11,500-7,300 cal. BP) in Europe, amounting to several hundred stray finds and several tens excavated sites. From a geographic viewpoint, such evidence spans from the pre-Alpine belt and valley bottoms to the highlands of the inner Alps, reaching altitudes above 2000 m. At most sites, only lithic assemblages have been preserved, while a lower number of sites is characterized by a broader and more varied archaological evidence, including faunal and vegetal remains, some dwelling structures and few burial grounds. Since the 70s and 80s of last century several hypotheses have been advanced on the settlement strategies of Mesolithic hunter-gatherer groups in this area, but none of them can be considered definitive, while evidence emerging from most recent research suggests more complex patterns than previously thought. In this paper we aim is to revisit and discuss such theories and make a point on where we currently stand as well as on the future perspectives, based on on-going projects and studies.