



UNIVERSITÀ
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LINKS - LiviNg by the Sea: human-environment interactions in the North Mediterranean coastlands during Late Prehistory

Coasts had a key role in the cultural history of Mediterranean region and environmental factors were critical to the success and demise of several maritime societies. The degree of the impact on the natural coastal environment of these societies, the older they are the lesser understood. Especially for late prehistoric periods (i.e. Bronze and Iron Ages; ca. 2200-150 BC), studies integrating paleo-environmental and archaeological aspects are rare. Yet, in this span of time, important human-driven modifications on the environment related to the occupation of first long-lasting settlements may have deeply influenced long-term environmental processes. Within the North Mediterranean region, the exceptional conservation of several deposits make the area between the lagoons east of Venice and the high coasts of Istria particularly suitable to investigate the coastal landscape of that time. With a multi-proxy approach, LINKS will explore the interplay between community and environment in this region to understand how anthropogenic processes can influence long-term landscape change and how late prehistoric local communities faced issues related to sea-level rise. I will investigate settlement forms, geomorphological setting, vegetation cover and human impact through the analysis of different samples extracted from cores samples at selected sites combined with other non-invasive techniques. Results obtained will fill a major gap in the knowledge of these periods and will enhance the awareness of present-day local communities to climate change and the importance of actively respond to the ongoing marine rise. The action will offer me the opportunity to access a world-class research institution leading in paleoenvironmental studies as UniPD and to receive the excellent training crucial for development of the proposal. Ultimately, LINKS will provide me with a rare inter-disciplinary combination of expertise promoting a successful career in EU research and heritage institutions.