

The new Journal of Bioarchaeology, a fundamental tool for the dissemination of research

We have reached a point where it resulted necessary to disseminate Bioarchaeological Research also with a Journal that reflects today's success in this academic and professional field. In the last few decades, we have seen an important development of research in Bioarchaeology in all competence areas: anthropological, paleopathological, zooarchaeological, archaeobotanical, etc.

Today we have seen how bioarchaeology manages to obtain appreciation and credibility even outside the academic sphere. In recent years, external investments, in particular received by banking foundations, have financed a large part of our initiatives, among which the creation of a new journal in the field of bioarchaeology.

It is evident for all of us that our investigative models have the ability to give back a lot to the territory, as our research is closely linked to the contexts of discovery. Bioarchaeology has the power - and the duty- to return the results to the community precisely through the valorization of finds -the bioarchaeological ones -, which by their nature are destined for museum display.

Bioarchaeology transforms the territory, enhances our natural historical heritage, and implements knowledge in the field of landscape archaeology. This is the reason why bioarchaeological initiatives have strong repercussions in the *Third Sector*, since they are not perceived only as research products shared exclusively in the academic field, but are conceived as strategic projects capable of enhancing the landscape through recovery activities and the study of bioarchaeological contexts. Bioarchaeological research, as demonstrated by the funding obtained from the Fondazione Comunitaria del Varesotto and Fondazione Cariplo, which allowed the creation of this new editorial product, manages to be appreciated by the community thanks to its interventions that insist on the territory through the exploration of archaeological sites.

In fact, our Journal was born from the newborn project concerning the *Bioarchaeology of Valcuvia* through the study of three cemetery areas -San Biagio in Cittiglio, Sant'Agostino in Caravate, and the Crypt of the church of the Convent of Azzio- for the creation of a bioarchaeological itinerary. Therefore, in this issue, most of the contributions concern the bioarchaeological studies conducted at the sites of Valcuvia. The bioarchaeological path that is already developing on the sites of Cittiglio, Azzio, and Caravate is fully focused on making the Varese area known through the exhibition of bioarchaeological contexts. The aforementioned sites are being transformed into museums, which by the very near future will have enhanced their bioarchaeological peculiarity and, once completed, will be attracting local communities and national and international tourism.

This first number of the Journal of Bioarchaeological Research also includes other contributions of particular interest for anthropological and paleopathological research. In the paper regarding the 18th-century anatomical collections of the University of Pavia Museums System, the authors highlight the importance of studying and transferring knowledge of this type of collections also in the university context. The contribution on the mummy of Beato Antonio da Fano deals with a peculiarity of great interest for the study of human remains, which is not widely covered in the anthropological literature, namely how the nesting of rodents affects the state of conservation of mummified remains. Finally, the review on archaeoentomology shows how entomological investigations could obtain specific information about rituals, bodies' transfer and sanitary conditions.

This first issue welcomes above all articles concerning the anthropological study of human remains; nonetheless, our journal intends, as shown by the structure of the Editorial Board, to open up to other fundamental fields in bioarchaeological research, i.e., zooarchaeology, palynology, taphonomy, etc...

This is just the starting point. We trust in the success of the initiative, ready to welcome all the suggestions of our readers who will certainly be able to increase the editorial scientific value of this young product.

Marta Licata

Editorial in Chief

Journal of Bioarchaeological Research