



Regione Sicilia
Assessorato Regionale BB.CC.AA..
Soprintendenza BB.CC.AA. di Enna



Comune di Villarosa



Arkeos - Servizi integrati
per i Beni Culturali s.c.



2019 CASE BASTIONE FIELD SCHOOL - CENTRAL SICILY

9TH CAMPAIGN OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION 01 JULY-21 JULY 2019

We are taking the applications for the **9th season** of archaeological excavation at the prehistoric village of **Case Bastione** (Villarosa, Sicily). Populated from the Neolithic to the Bronze Age (5th-2nd millenium BC), the site is placed along the Morello valley, in the very hearth of the island. Researches carried out here in the last decade have revealed important evidences for domestic architecture, every-day life, crafts and productive activities, together with a rich material culture dating to the Late Copper and Early Bronze Ages (mid-3rd to mid-2nd millennium BC).

The aim of **Case Bastione Field School** is to offer a better understanding of how archaeology is practiced in the field. This will be achieved with specific classroom-based introduction to field methods, as well as specific and practical working experience:

- Field activities: stratigraphic excavation, field-walking, surveying;
- Lab activities: finds and data processing, cataloguing and documentation;
- Lectures & seminars on methodology and the archaeology of Sicily;
- Visits to major Sicilian archaeological sites and museums on request.

No fees are required: technical equipment, lodging, local transport are offered; participants will pay for their own travel and meals. Accident insurance is required. Certificate of attendance will be provided on request.

Scientific direction of the *Superintendence of Cultural Heritage of Enna*, in collaboration with the *Villarosa Municipality* and *Arkeos s.c.* The **Field School** is directed by Dr. Enrico Giannitrapani and Dr. Filippo Ianni.



Download the 2019 syllabus (in Italian or English) and the application form at:
www.arkeos.eu/field-schools/

For further informations, contact us at:
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[cooperativa.arkeos](https://www.facebook.com/cooperativa.arkeos)





Assessorato regionale per i Beni Culturali
Soprintendenza BB.CC.AA di Enna



Arkeos – Servizi integrati per i
Beni Culturali – Enna



Comune di Villarosa

2019 Case Bastione Archaeological Field School

July 01 – July 20, 2019

SCIENTIFIC DIRECTION

Soprintendenza per i Beni Culturali e Ambientali di Enna

Arkeos – Servizi integrati per i Beni Culturali s.c. Enna

FIELD SCHOOL PRINCIPAL DIRECTORS:

Dr. Enrico Giannitrapani, Arkeos, Italy

Dr. Filippo Ianni, Arkeos, Italy



INTRODUCTION

The Case Bastione field school is part of a larger research project, co-directed by Dr. Enrico Giannitrapani and Dr. Filippo Ianni (Arkeos), studying the cultural and social dynamics of human occupation of the Erei uplands. The project investigates the time span from the 6th millennium to the 1st millennium BCE. This time period covers human presence in the Erei uplands, from the Neolithic to the contact between the local indigenous communities with Greek settlers, established along the Sicilian coasts in the 8th-7th century BCE.

The Erei uplands are located in the eastern part of inner Sicily, and are characterised by sloping clay hills, alternated with steep limestone cliffs and flat sandstone plateaus. Such a rugged landscape is interrupted and crossed by various rivers, running from the west, where the river Imera Meridionale and its tributaries open the way towards western Sicily, to the east, where the river Simeto divides the Erei from the fertile Catania plain. This wide riverine system played a crucial role in human interaction between the coast, providing hinterland transportation networks. Traditional narratives of

Sicilian prehistory suggest that this area was never permanently occupied but was left empty for a long period throughout large part of the Sicilian prehistory. Yet recent research identified over 100 sites dated from the Palaeolithic to the Iron Age. Such a large quantity of sites contradicts the traditional interpretations and indicate that archaeological research must focus in the area, to understand its temporal, spatial, economic, political and cultural relationships with the coastal areas and the central Mediterranean basin.

Case Bastione is located within the western Erei, in the valley of the Morello, a tributary of the Imera meridionale. It is a large settlement which dates from the Late Neolithic to the Bronze Age. So far, Late Copper Age and Early Bronze Age deposits (mid-3rd to mid-2nd millennium cal. BCE) have been investigated, yielding extensive evidence of domestic structures and a number of craft activities - including dairy and textiles production, pottery and lithic artefacts, and possibly metallurgical activity.

The 2019 campaign will focus on the continued excavation of Hut 5, a large Late Copper Age structure, with a rich material assemblage, together with complex facilities, such as lined pits, hearths, burnt areas, all possibly connected with the transformation of agricultural products. Students will engage in the excavation of the various collapse layers that cover the beaten clay floor; they will record all the archaeological features encountered, using cutting edge photogrammetric techniques, including digital and 3D systems. Students will also work in the laboratory, washing, cataloguing and recording all finds recovered from the excavation. Furthermore, the territory surrounding the site will be also investigated with targeted field-walking activities.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The primary objectives of the Case Bastione Field School are twofold: first to provide students with a better understanding of how archaeology is practiced in the field. This will be achieved by providing students with a classroom-based introduction to the fundamentals of field methods in archaeology, and by providing a practical working knowledge of excavation, laboratory and field recording methods. The second objective is to introduce students to the late prehistory of Sicily, a key period that is the basis of later historical developments of classical Sicily. This field school is then a great opportunity to spend three weeks in a unique location, in the heart of Sicily and of the Mediterranean.

TUITION FEES & ACADEMIC CREDIT

No fees are required for the 2019 campaign: technical equipment, educational materials, lodging and local transport are offered; participants will pay only for their own travel costs and meals. Further information for the meal costs will be provided after enrollment. Accident insurance is compulsory.

Academic credit: At the end of the Field School, participants will receive on request a *certificate of participation* to reclaim the appropriate credits.

PREREQUISITES

None. This is hands-on, experiential learning and students will study onsite how to conduct archaeological research. Archaeology involves physical work and exposure to the elements and thus, requires a measure of acceptance that this will not be the typical university learning environment. You will get sweaty, tired, and hot and have to work in the outdoors. Students are required to come equipped with sufficient excitement and adequate understanding that the archaeological endeavour requires hard, physical work.

DISCLAIMER – PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

Archaeological field work involves physical work in the outdoors. You should be aware that conditions in the field are different than those you experience in your home, dorms or college town. This program operates in a period (early summer) that can be very hot: average daytime temperature in June-July is 28-38°C (82-100°F). You are required to provide suitable clothing (including a hat) and footwear, as well as sun screen and insect repellent. These can be purchased locally.

If you have medical concerns, please discuss them with your doctor. All other concerns may be discussed with project directors – as appropriate.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

On completion of the field school, students will be able to:

- Understand the different elements of an archaeological field project and the relationships between these elements;
- Apply standard excavation methods to archaeological contexts, and/or field survey techniques;
- Use standard and digital recording techniques to document excavation results;
- Undertake preliminary processing and analysis of archaeological artefacts and ecofacts.

TRAVEL & MEETING POINT

Students are responsible for making their own travel arrangements. The rendezvous point is the Villarosa Town Hall, easily reachable by car, train or coach. If necessary, you can contact us for further information (Arkeos.field.school@gmail.com).

Arkeos staff will meet students there on **Sunday June 30 at 19.00**.

In case of need, it is possible to organize a meeting point at the Catania International Airport (CTA), at the Information Desk of the Arrival Terminal on **Sunday June 30 at 17:00**. It is essential that you are on time for these meetings.

The field school will conclude on **Friday July 19** in the afternoon. Students should plan onward travel or return home anytime since **Saturday July 20**.

You should communicate the details of your travel at least **two weeks before** your arrival. If someone misses their connection, or in case of flight delays, students should call, text or email the project's director immediately (mob. +39 333 364 3403, mail: arkeos.field.schools@gmail.com).

VISA REQUIREMENTS

US Citizens do not need a visa for tourist or study stays of up to three months in Italy. Your passport should be valid for at least three months beyond the period of your stay.

Citizens of other countries, please visit the Italian Embassy website at your home country for visa information.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Villarosa

Field School accommodation will be at Villarosa, a small rural town located in the western part of the Erei uplands (37°35'11"N – 14°10'25"E), about 8 miles east of Enna, the province capital. The archaeological site of Case Bastione is 5 miles east of Villarosa. This area has a long history, since

various archaeological sites have been recorded, dating from the prehistory to the medieval age. The modern town of Villarosa is relatively recent in origin: it was founded in the 17th century, by the Count Notarbartolo, a nobleman from Palermo. He obtained the *licentia populandi* from the Spanish Viceroy in order to exploit the fertile land around a medieval farm, together with the rich sulphur mines present in the area. Sulphur extraction became the main activity of Villarosa in the 18th and 19th centuries. Since then it grew as an agricultural and mining town. In the last century, however, the sulphur mines were closed, and the results is high emigration rates, especially towards northern Italy and central Europe. Today Villarosa has a population of about 5000, mainly dedicated to agriculture, handicraft and tourism. It is a small but lively town, with restaurants, bars, groceries and a few shops, as well as park and public swimming pool.

Living arrangements

The accommodation will be guaranteed to all participants in a structure made available by the Municipality of Villarosa. It is located in the same building together with the Public Library and the archaeological warehouse containing the finds from the previous Case Bastione excavation campaigns. There are comfortable and spacious bedrooms (each participant must bring their own sheets, or sleeping bag, and towels; see below *List of personal effects*), toilets and showers with hot water, a common room where to socialize and consume meals and an equipped kitchen.

As far as the meals, students will be able to take advantage of the equipment available in the structure (kitchen, fridge, crockery, cutlery, etc.) for breakfast and dinner, either individually or in groups. Alternatively, they can use the different restaurants and pizzerias in Villarosa, all of excellent quality and quite cheap. From Monday to Friday, a packed lunch (sandwich, fruit and water) will be consumed on the site.

A paid laundry service is available upon request. Daily shifts will be organized for cleaning the premises in use.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Program

Field work: Participants will work in guided excavation at the Late Copper Age village of Case Bastione, and/or carry out targeted field surveys. Participants will also fill out specific excavation forms, map finds, and record exposed stratigraphy.

Laboratory: Scheduled lab tasks will include washing, sorting and cataloguing of finds, digital data management.

Schedule

Week 1:	Monday	Morning	Lecture: Introduction to the Case Bastion project Lecture: Safety procedures on archaeological sites Lecture: Introduction to archaeological field methods
		Afternoon	Field trip: The archaeological sites of the Morello valley (Case Bastione, Canalotto, Realmese)
	Tuesday to Thursday	Morning	Field activities
		Afternoon	Field activities
	Friday	Morning	Field activities
		Afternoon	Lab activities
	Saturday	Morning	Lab activities
		Afternoon	free
	Sunday	All day	free

Week 2	Monday to Thursday	Morning Afternoon	Field activities Field activities
	Friday	Morning Afternoon	Field activities Lab activities
	Saturday	Morning Afternoon	Lab activities free
	Sunday	All day	free
Week 3	Monday to Wednesday	Morning Afternoon	Field activities Field activities
	Thursday	Morning Afternoon	Field activities Lab activities
	Friday	All day	Closing and backfill site

Onsite Daily Schedule

We work on site from Monday to Friday from 8:00am to 5:00pm with short breaks at 10.30/15.30 and a lunch-break at 1pm. On Friday afternoon and Saturday morning we work in the lab with the same timetable. Saturday afternoon and Sundays are free. If necessary, the excavation program could be replaced by field-walk surveys activities

Because in the Sicilian summer the temperature can rise dramatically, this schedule can vary accordingly, in order to avoid exposure to extreme heat on site. Above 38°C (100°F) field activities will be suspended to continue in the laboratory.

In addition to the introductory lecture on the first day, further lectures on the archaeology of Sicily and on field methods will be held in the afternoon. We are now working on the complete program that will be communicated upon arrival in Villarosa.

CURRENCY

Italy uses the Euro. Check with your bank to make sure that your ATM card works in Italy.

EXCAVATION EQUIPMENT

All excavation equipment will be provided by the project. Students will be driven to and from Villarosa daily. The excavation area is only a short walk from the parking area just outside the site. The average daily temperature in Sicily in July is about 25-28°C (77-82°F), but it can rise above 35°C (95°F). Students should always wear sun hut and use sun lotion.

Students must bring the following items with them:

1. sleeping bag and/or bed sheets;
2. towels;
3. work clothes (i.e., long trousers; shorts or other 'summer' cloths are not allowed);
4. work boots: participants will not be allowed to work in sneakers or sandals;
5. thermal bottle;
6. a pointed archaeology trowel. We recommend a WHS or Marshalltown trowel;
7. sun glasses with UV protection;
8. wide brim hat;
9. sun lotion and insect repellent;
10. adapters for plugs – please remember that the current in Italy is 220V;

READINGS

Students are strongly suggested to read all of the following sources. All readings will be provided on request (except R. Leighton book):

- Ayala G. 2012. Recovering the hidden landscape of Copper Age Sicily, *Journal of Mediterranean Archaeology*, 25 (2): 175-196.
- Bietti Sestieri A. M. 2014. Sicily in Mediterranean History in the Second Millennium BC, in Knapp B. A., Van Dommelen P. (eds), *The Cambridge Prehistory of the Bronze and Iron Age Mediterranean*, Cambridge, Cambridge University Press: 74-95.
- Doonan O. 2001. Domestic architecture and settlement planning in Early and Middle Bronze Age Sicily, *Journal of Mediterranean Archaeology*, 14: 159-188.
- Giannitrapani E. 2017. Paesaggi e dinamiche del popolamento di età preistorica nella Sicilia centrale, in Anichini F., Gualandi M. L. (eds), *MAPPA Data Book 2*. Roma, Ed. Nuova Cultura, 43-64. (in Italian)
- Giannitrapani E. 2018. The making of sacred and funerary landscapes in central Sicily between the 6th and the 1st mill. BC., in Herring E., O'Donoghue E. (eds), *The Archaeology of Death. Proceedings of the 7th Conference of Italian Archaeology*, Oxford, Archaeopress: 371-382
- Giannitrapani E., Ianni F. 2015. Case Bastione, Villarosa (prov. di Enna): la campagna di scavo 2014, *Notiziario di Preistoria e Protostoria 2-II*: 52-55. (in Italian)
- Giannitrapani E., Ianni F. 2016. Case Bastione, Villarosa (prov. di Enna), *Notiziario di Preistoria e Protostoria 3-II*: 72-76. (in Italian)
- Giannitrapani E., Ianni F., Chilardi S., Anguilano L. 2014. Case Bastione: a prehistoric settlement in the Erei uplands (central Sicily), *Origini*, 36: 181-212.
- Ianni F. 2009. La Muculufa Santuario: considerazioni tecnologiche, morfologiche e stilistiche sulle classi vascolari e lo Stile di Muculufa, *Rivista di Scienze Preistoriche* LIX, 243-264. (in Italian)
- Ianni F. 2016, L'età del Rame nella Sicilia centro-meridionale: nuovi dati dalla valle del Salso, *Rivista di Scienze Preistoriche* LXVI: 61-76. (in Italian)
- Leighton R. 1999. Sicily before history, London: Duckworth.
- Malone C., Stoddart S. 2000. A contribution to the understanding of Serrafelicchio, *Sicilia Archeologica*, 98: 98-103.
- Malone C., Ayala G., Fitzjohn M., Stoddart S. 2001-2003. Under the Volcano, *Accordia Research Papers*, 9: 7-21.
- McConnell B. E. 1992. The early Bronze age village of La Muculufa and prehistoric hut architecture in Sicily, *American Journal of Archaeology*, 96 (1): 23-44.
- Sadori L. et al. 2013. The last 7 millennia of vegetation and climate changes at Lago di Pergusa (central Sicily, Italy), *ClimPast*, 9: 1969-1984.