LANDSCAPE⁷

A SYNTHESIS OF DIACHRONIC ELEMENTS

MAPPING ARCHAEOLOGICAL LANDSCAPES:
ANCIENT TOPOGRAPHY AND DIGITAL ARCHAEOLOGY
TO UNDERSTAND THE PAST AND SHAPE THE FUTURE

Call for papers

UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI NAPOLI FEDERICO II — dipartimento studi umanistici — SU

V: Università degli Studi della Campania *Luigi Vanvitelli* — *Dipartimento di Lettere e Beni Culturali* ★ Dipartimento di Eccellenza 2018/2022 ★

CONSULTA DI TOPOGRAFIA ANTICA

Archaeological Mapping Digital Laboratory — AMD LAB

We are pleased to announce the call for papers for the seventh edition of *Landscape: A Synthesis of Diachronic Elements*, to be held in Naples and Santa Maria Capua Vetere from 7 to 8 May 2026. The initiative is organised in collaboration with the *Consulta di Topografia Antica*, the University of Napoli Federico II, and the University of Campania Luigi Vanvitelli.

LANDSCAPE 7: A Synthesis of Diachronic Elements.

Mapping Archaeological Landscapes: Ancient Topography and Digital Archaeology to Understand the Past and Shape the Future

Napoli and Santa Maria Capua Vetere, 7-8 may 2026

Deadline: 30. 11. 2025 | Contact: landscape7@archeolandscape.it

The integration of ancient topography and digital archaeology has opened new horizons in the reading of the territory and in the stratigraphic understanding of historical landscapes, enabling the monitoring and safeguarding of cultural heritage and thus preserving the identity, memory, and traditions of communities, peoples, and civilizations. Traces of the ancient emerge within the contemporary landscape, where past and future intertwine. Ancient topography, by reconstructing the development of stratified landscapes and road networks, analyses the relationships among their components and lays the foundations for preserving the cultural roots of territories.

A key tool in this process is the archaeological map, an essential resource for reconstructing the historical dynamics of a territory and an indispensable instrument for planning activities aimed at the protection and enhancement of cultural heritage. In this context, preventive archaeology seeks to mitigate the negative impact of urban development projects and new infrastructure on archaeological landscapes, ensuring their protection during the design and construction phases, within a framework of conscious and sustainable planning. Archaeological mapping today constitutes an effective and affordable tool that supports urban and rural planning, aiding the protection of historic landscapes from the relentless effects of environmental and anthropogenic taphonomic processes. In particular, the archaeological potential map represents a key resource for urban and territorial planning, as it enables a preventive and scientifically grounded assessment of archaeological risk. The use of digital technologies to map archaeological landscapes offers innovative and inclusive methods for the conservation and enhancement of cultural heritage.

Keywords: Digital Humanities; Conscious Planning; Preventive Archaeology; Archaeological Mapping; Cultural Heritage.

SESSIONS:

I | From the Study of the Past to the Design of the Contemporary Landscape

Reconstructing settlement dynamics, understanding the relationships between cities and their territories, and developing sustainable models for cultural heritage management require an integrated approach that connects digital technologies with traditional methodologies. This session explores the relationship between urban archaeology and historical landscapes, with a particular focus on ancient centres marked by discontinuous occupation and their territorial connections. Special attention will be given to the various applications of conscious planning as a deliberate practice for managing historical landscapes, particularly in contexts characterized by complex stratifications and environmental vulnerability. Contributions—both theoretical and applied—are welcome on models, techniques, and strategies for integrating archaeological heritage into decision-making processes and promoting conscious and sustainable territorial design practices.

II | Human–Environment Interactions in Urban and Rural Contexts

The landscape is a dynamic, stratified product of the interaction between environmental processes and human activity. The study of urban and rural landscapes is fundamental to understanding how communities have occupied, transformed, and represented their territories through time. Settlement systems, resource management, infrastructure, and environmental adaptation strategies are central to defining the character of historical landscapes. Strategies developed in the past to cope with environmental constraints can provide significant insights into interpreting the contemporary landscape and addressing today's challenges of sustainability. This session invites contributions offering critical reflections on the human–environment relationship in urban and rural contexts, analysing transformations over time and highlighting research experiences that combine traditional and innovative approaches. The aim is to foster an interdisciplinary dialogue that contributes not only to the reconstruction of the past but also to the conscious design of the future, promoting sustainability and the enhancement of cultural heritage.

III | Reconstructing Ancient Road Networks: An Integrated Approach

The analysis and reconstruction of ancient road networks can be achieved through an integrated approach, combining traditional historical-topographical investigation methods with innovative and more recent digital technologies. Such approaches reveal new potential for studying and reconstructing road systems, as well as the dynamics of social, economic, and commercial mobility in the ancient world. This session will examine ancient roadways and their infrastructures from a diachronic perspective, highlighting their role in the transformation and evolution of historical landscapes. The relationship between road infrastructure and territorial development will also be explored, particularly in terms of settlement contexts, trade networks, and cultural interactions.

IV | Archaeology and Digital Humanities: Tools, Data, and Interpretations for the Dissemination and Enhancement of Cultural Heritage

Over the past two decades, the Digital Humanities (DH) have redefined the ways in which cultural, historical, and linguistic content is conceived, analysed, and communicated. Within this field, digital archaeology stands out as one of the most dynamic sectors, integrating technological innovation and humanistic research to foster a deeper understanding and optimal enhancement of cultural heritage. This session will explore the current state of DH research, highlighting theoretical approaches, computational methodologies, and digital tools applied to the study of ancient landscapes: from data collection and management to 3D modelling, from spatial mapping to predictive analysis, and through to the dissemination and valorisation of results.

HOW TO APPLY

Eligible participants include postgraduate students, PhD candidates, research fellows, and early career researchers without a permanent position, from both Italian and international institutions.
Papers may be presented in either English or Italian.
Each presentation will be allocated 20 minutes. Abstracts must not exceed 500 words and should be submitted via the online form at the following link:

Submission Form

DEADLINE: 30.11.2025

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Email: Landscape7@archeolandscape.it

Website: www.archeolandscape.it

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