

The Mediterranean from within, Session #327

Human influence on coastal paleoenvironments: a geoarchaeological perspective of human-environmental interactions from the Quaternary to the Anthropocene



Humans have been populating coastal areas for thousands of years. By exploiting the available resources, they have been deeply modifying such settings, becoming protagonists of global environmental and climatic changes since the late Quaternary. The development of infrastructures related to salt production, fisheries and mollusk harvesting together with the landscape modification linked with the expansion of harbors

in bays, deltas and lagoons is visible both in the geological and archaeological record documenting the high level of human-environmental interaction. In parallel, inhabiting and manipulating dynamic coastal areas subject to floods, storms, changes in sediment supply, and variation in relative sea-level made infrastructures and environmental control indispensable. Consequently, it is crucial to get a better understanding of the changes of human-environmental interactions at different time scales. Such unique areas represent an exceptional chance to learn about landscape, ecosystem changes but also technological development of the past. To achieve these goals, multidisciplinary geoarchaeological studies offer a one-of-a-kind approach towards understanding the complex interaction between nature and humans. In this session, we welcome crossdisciplinary

geoarchaeological studies where the exploitation of coastal areas is studied from a palaeoenvironmental evolution and human activity perspective. Contributions showcasing specific case studies in which human-environment interactions in coastal areas are reconstructed including both the developing infrastructures and resilient adaptation to the natural pressure are welcomed.

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