

Universität Innsbruck

## Institut für Archäologien

Fachbereich Ur- und Frühgeschichte  
sowie Mittelalter- und Neuzeitarchäologie

Einladung

zum Gastvortrag von:

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ATRIUM Langer Weg 11, SR 1

# Amber in Italian Prehistory

The research project on Italian prehistoric amber has been carried out since 2005 by the Archaeological Heritage Office of the Autonomous Province of Trento, the Department of Geoscience of the University of Padua and the Istituto Italiano di Preistoria e Protostoria (Firenze). The main goals are characterization of the raw material, research on evidence of working areas, improvement of the traditional typology.

More than 200 samples from several Italian regions, northern Italy and Sardinia in particular, have been analysed using Infrared spectroscopy. The results show that a not negligible quantity of “non-baltic” amber, extracted from unidentified deposits, was used during the Bronze Age, together with a large quantity of baltic amber imported from Northern Europe. In the site of Poggiomarino (Naples), baltic and non baltic ambers were used in comparable amounts, even during Early Iron Age.

Concerning the working sites, there is secondary evidence of possible local productions in different region of the Italian peninsula since Copper Age. Archaeological evidence of production of Tirinto type beads has been found in a recently discovered Late Bronze Age site at Campestrin di Grignano Polesine (Rovigo), 9 km east of Frattesina, close to the Po delta and the northern Adriatic coast. This site confirms the important role of northern Adriatic regions as connection between Europe and Eastern Mediterranean in the Late Bronze Age.

Paolo Bellintani is an archaeologist at the Archaeological Heritage Office of the Autonomous Province of Trento (Italy). His main interests and activities are based on Archaeometallurgy in the Trentino region; Experimental archaeology (research and communication); coordination of research projects on vitreous materials and amber during Protohistory in Italy; research about ceramic, amber and vitreous materials from the settlement of Frattesina di Fratta Polesine (Rovigo).