

Universität Innsbruck  
Institut für Archäologien  
Fachbereich Ur- und Frühgeschichte  
sowie Mittelalter- und Neuzeitarchäologie

Einladung zum  
**Gastvortrag**

von

**Elena Silvestri**

(Soprintendenza per i Beni culturali –  
Provincia Autonoma di Trento)

**Donnerstag, 06.11.2014, 18.00 Uhr**

Atrium, Langer Weg 11, SR 1



## **Bronze Age copper production in the Trentino - excavation and preservation of smelting sites**

The archaeometallurgical investigations carried out up to now in the Trentino show that an intensive exploitation of local copper ore took place in Prehistory. A first phase of activity, which can be dated back to the late Copper Age – Early Bronze Age, is attested by around 10 smelting sites, mostly located in rock shelters in the Adige valley. The most considerable exploitation of copper ores (more than 200 sites) is dated back to the Late/Final Bronze Age. In the area, an intense medieval and modern exploitation of copper ore took place on a large scale, but no prehistoric mines have been identified yet. Recently, new excavations have been carried out on several smelting sites, where smelting furnaces, tools and slags are usually found, comparable to the archaeological records in the Eastern Alpine area.

In order to better understand the operational chain, a research project on slag analyses is carried on in collaboration with the *Deutsches Bergbau-Museum Bochum*. The field research is combined with experimental studies on copper smelting, in collaboration with different research institutes.

The complexity of smelting sites, their considerable number and their location in mountainous areas, exposed to erosion, make their investigation and preservation quite difficult. In one case, Acqua Fredda (Passo del Redebus), the discovery of nine smelting furnaces perfectly preserved led to the creation of an open air museum, where public smelting and casting experiments take place, using archaeometallurgy as a spectacular way of communicating the archaeological results to the public.

Über Ihr/Euer Kommen freut sich: Gert Goldenberg, FZ HiMAT

