The Processing of Food in Late Bronze Age Italian contexts (XIII–XII century BC)

CERAMIC CONTAINERS AND SOCIAL ORGANIZATION: AN INTEGRATED STUDY

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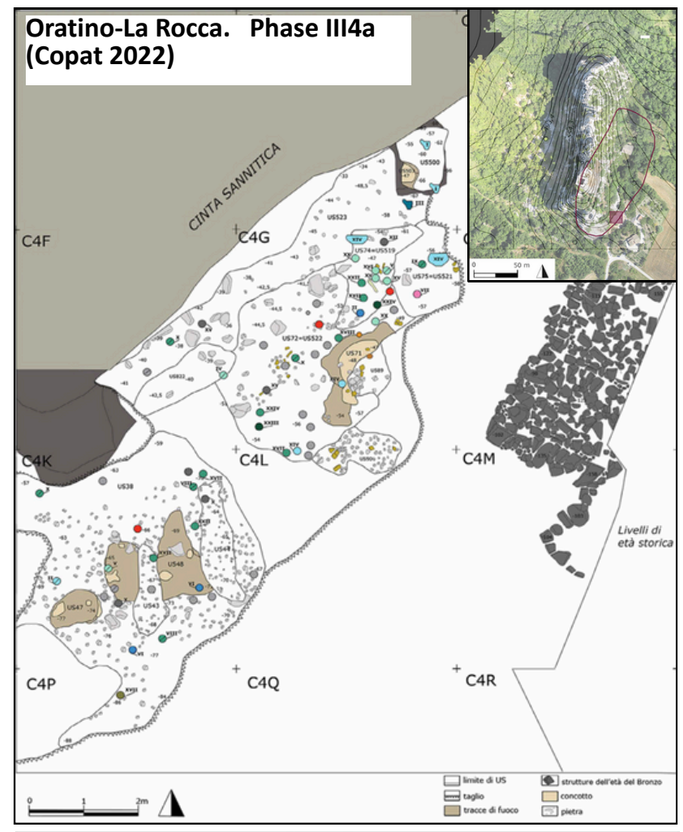
Research questions and contexts of analysis

Given the socioe-conomic importance of food, this project investigates its processing through the study of preserved residues in pottery artifacts, aiming to reconstruct their effective functions (Skibo 1992). The main goals are:

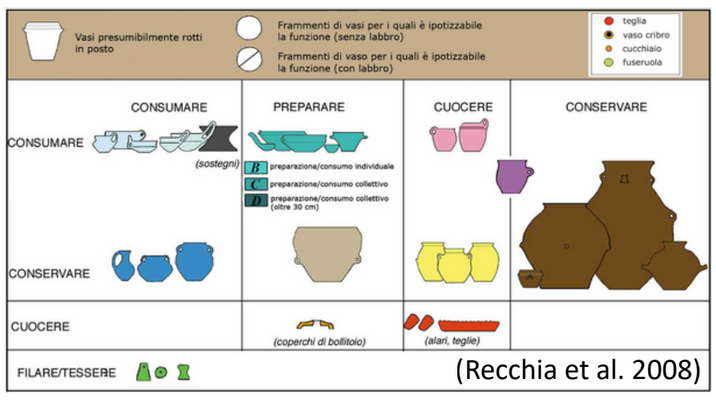
- Analyze associations between vessel form and contents
- Identify methods of food preparation, storage, and consumption
- Define the minimum and maximum number of people involved
- Understand the impact of pre- and post-depositional events on ceramic assemblages

To achieve these aims, three settlement contexts were selected, characterized by the coexistence of various types of combustion features and shared stylistic elements.



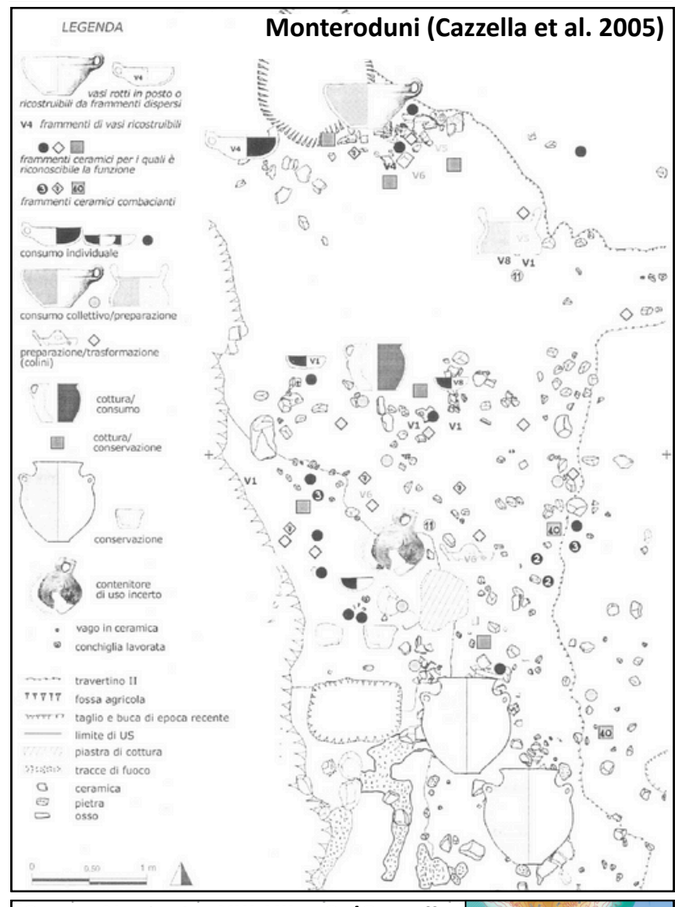
Materials and methods

As a multidisciplinary and integrated analysis, the following methodologies will be applied:

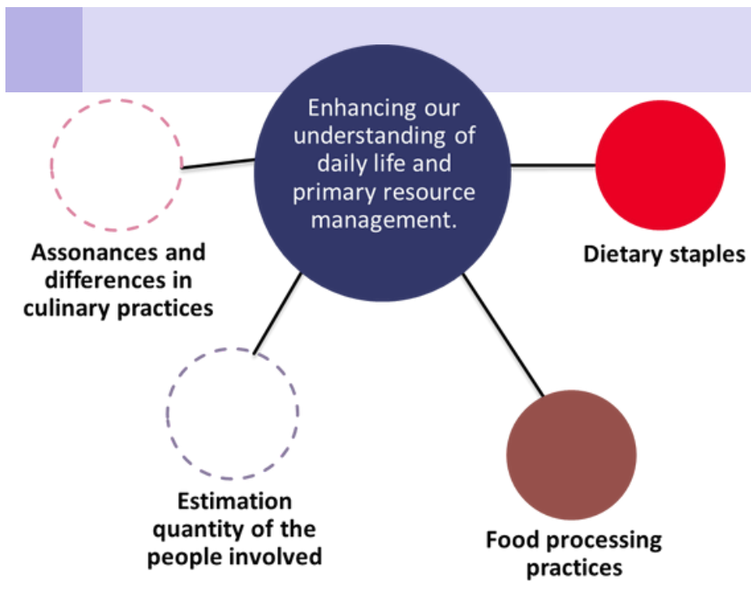


(Recchia et al. 2008)

- Morpho-functional analysis of pottery assemblages
- ORA (Organic Residue Analysis)
- Comparative analysis with studied contexts
- Ethnographic and ethnoarchaeological comparisons
- Cross-association analysis with other material classes, structures, and ecofacts
- Capacity evaluation to estimate the number of people involved

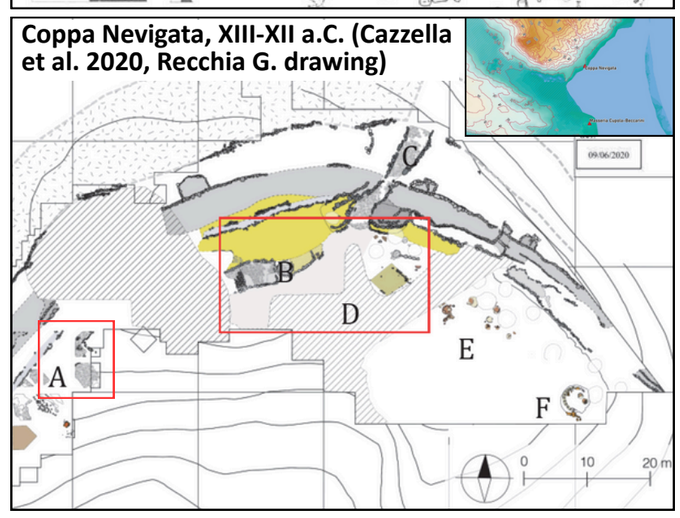


Expected results



As an integrated analysis it will be possible to reconstruct food processing, cooking, and consumption practices.

It will also allow comparison of data from different contexts, highlighting potential similarities and differences attributable to environmental conditions and/or shared cultural models.



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