

Roberto Ragno

RESEARCH FELLOW IN ARCHAEOLOGY

McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research · University of Cambridge

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Education

University of Bari 'Aldo Moro'

PHD QUANTITATIVE ARCHAEOLOGY

Bari, Italy

2020 - 2024

- Graduated with *excellente cum laude*
- Funded PhD Project: Peasants, Agriculture, and Environment in the 1st Millennium CE Italian Countryside: A Bayesian approach
- Supervisors: prof. Giuliano Volpe, prof. Paul Arthur

University College London

MA ARCHAEOLOGY

London, UK

2018 - 2019

- Graduated with a distinction.
- Supervisors: prof. Corisande Fenwick, prof. Louise Martin

University of Bologna

BA ANCIENT HISTORY

Bologna, Italy

2014 - 2018

- Graduated with 107 out of 110.
- Supervisor: prof. Alessandro Cristofori

Employment

University of Cambridge

MARIE SKŁODOWSKA-CURIE ACTIONS POSTDOCTORAL FELLOW

Cambridge, UK

Jan. 2026 - Current

- Project: **BTChron**: Advancing Bayesian Methods for Typo-Chronologically Dated Archaeological Datasets

University of Bari 'Aldo Moro'

RESEARCH FELLOW

Bari, Italy

Dec. - Dec. 2024-2025

- Post-doc in 'Historical landscapes, population dynamics and agrarian strategies in northern coastal Apulia between the Roman Age and the Middle Ages'. Funded by the 'CHANGES' PNRR partnership (Code: PE0000020 - CUP: B83D22001210006).

Field Experience

ArchaeoSipontum

UNIVERSITY OF BARI, UNIVERSITY OF FOGGIA

Manfredonia, Italy

Sep. - Oct. 2021, 2022, 2024, 2025

- In addition to my responsibilities related to excavation tasks, I was involved in the supervision of students, the documentation of stratigraphic activities, the classification of pottery, the provision of tutoring, and the organisation of post-excavation activities. In 2024-2025, I co-directed the *Northern Apulia Coastal Survey* in the vicinity of the site and curated the post-survey statistical analyses.

Biomolecular Archaeology Lab

VOLUNTEER

UCL, London

Oct 2019 - Nov. 2019

- I supported the preparation of bone samples for ZooMS analysis (labelling, photographing, weighing and drilling).

Salapia Exploration Project

UNIVERSITY OF FOGGIA, MCGILL UNIVERSITY

Trinitapoli, Italy

Jun. - Jul. 2015, 2017, 2018

- Excavation tasks, stratigraphic documentation and Roman/Medieval pottery classification.

Programma Vesuviana

UNIVERSITY OF BOLOGNA

Bologna/Pompeii, Italy

2017

- Research and documentation cooperating in particular to the activities of building analysis (identification, cataloguing, computerization of the stratigraphy of buildings occupying insulae IX 5, IX 8 and IX 9 of the archaeological site of Pompeii).
- Helped the scientific organisation of academic conferences.
- Personally developed a web app, connected to the project's database, that allows students to fill the excavation forms on-site through their phones or computers.

Other Professional Experience

CoNISMa

CONTRACT ARCHAEOLOGIST

Bari, Italy

Apr. - Jun. 2024

- Archaeological risk assessment for Hope Group floating wind farm project ('Nemetum Island') in the Gulf of Manfredonia.

Mount Gallery

ART GALLERY COORDINATOR · PART-TIME

London, UK

Dec. 2019 - Jul. 2020

- Researching and curating contemporary art exhibitions.
- Design and management of the gallery's website.

Research Visits

University of Cambridge

VISITING RESEARCHER

Cambridge, UK

Jan. - Apr. 2023

- Research stay at the McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research.
- Supervisors: dr. Enrico Crema (Archaeology), dr. Chris Stevens (Archaeology), dr. Caroline Goodson (History)
- Collaboration with the Encounter project.

Publications

in press

Ragno, R. 2026. Understanding Variation in Zooarchaeological NISP Data: Bayesian Beta-Binomial Models for Italian contexts in the 1st millennium CE. In: Big Historical Data: Theories, Methods, and Applications. Springer, Berlin.

2025

Ragno, R., Goffredo, R., Piepoli, L., 2025. Classifying Functional Areas at the Roman Villa of Mascherone (Manfredonia, Italy): Modeling Sparse Surface Survey Count Data using a Bayesian Zero-Inflated Negative Binomial Model. *Journal of Field Archaeology* 1–15. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00934690.2025.2578563>

2025

Goffredo, R., Lucci, E., Piepoli, L., Ragno, R., 2025. Northern Apulia Coastal Survey: la piana di Siponto tra Neolitico e Medioevo. *FOLD&R Survey* (23), pp. 1–39. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.17469416>

2025

Ragno, R., 2025. The transition from Late Antiquity to the Early Middle Ages in Northern Italy: an Environmental Archaeology Approach, in: Abatino, C. et al. (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 10th National Archaeozoological Conference* (Siena, 3rd-6th of November 2021). *ArchaeoFauna*, Madrid, pp. 47–55. <http://www.doi.org/10.15366/archaeofauna2025.34.1.004>

2025

Ragno, R. 2025. Peasants, Agriculture, and Environment in the 1st Millennium CE Italian Countryside: A Bayesian approach, *Adrias*, 19. Edipuglia, Bari. ISBN: 979-12-5995-113-7

2025

Ragno, R., 2025. Archaeobotanical Data from the Italian Peninsula in the 1st Millennium CE. *Journal of Open Archaeology Data* 13, 1-6. <https://doi.org/10.5334/joad.147>

2024

Ragno, R., 2024. Sheep and goats taxonomic abundance trends in 1st millennium CE southern Italy: Multilevel bayesian modelling of NISP datasets. *Journal of Archaeological Science* 171, 106068. [10.1016/j.jas.2024.106068](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jas.2024.106068)

2023

Ragno, R. 2023. Cereal farming practices in Italy during the 1st millennium CE: An integrated approach to regionality. *Journal of Archaeological Science: Reports*, 52, 104287. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jasrep.2023.104287>

2023

Ragno, R. 2023. The Spoil Project. Assessing the Rate of Excavators' Accidental Ceramic Discard at the Archaeological Site of Siponto. *Archeologia e Calcolatori*, 34.2, 69-86. <https://doi.org/10.19282/ac.34.2.2023.04>

2023

Ragno, R. 2023. Towards a Philosophy of Archaeology. *Quaestio*, 23, 472–474. <http://doi.org/10.1484/J.QUAESTIO.5.134735>

Conferences

Dialoghi sul patrimonio culturale

INVITED SPEAKER

University of Bari, Italy

21-24 Jan 2026

- Presentation: Fiorentino, G., Grasso, A.M., Goffredo, R., Turchiano, M., Favia, P., Carletti, E., **Ragno, R.**, Delprato, U., Garro, L., Marchese, S.A. *ArcheoClima*. Cambiamenti climatici e sistemi socio-ecologici della Puglia settentrionale nella lunga durata

Mappe e scenari per il futuro del patrimonio culturale. Tre anni di ricerche del Partenariato PNRR CHANGES

SPEAKER

Sapienza University of Rome, Italy

14–16 Jan 2026

- Presentation: Goffredo, R., Lucci, E., Piepoli, L., **Ragno, R.** Northern Apulia Coastal Landscapes Project: paesaggi storici della piana di Siponto (Manfredonia)

EAA 2025 - 31st European Association of Archaeologists Annual Meeting

SESSION ORGANISER

University of Belgrade, Serbia

2-6 Sep 2025

- Session: Beyond Conquest: Environmental and Cultural Impacts of Roman Expansionism

CAA 2025 - 52nd Computational Archaeology Association International Conference

University of West Attica, Greece

SPEAKER

5-9 May 2025

- Presentation: **Ragno, R.**, Goffredo, R., Piepoli, L. Visibility and Spatial Autocorrelation in Field Survey: A Case Study from the Northern Apulia Coastal Survey using Bayesian Conditional Autoregressive (CAR) Models

Approaches to the Roman Environment - Workshop

American Academy in Rome, Italy

INVITED SPEAKER

4 Mar. 2025

- Presentation: **Ragno, R.** Tackling uncertainty in Italian agricultural practices during the 1st millennium CE

Patrimonio culturale al futuro: sostenibilità sociale, innovazione tecnologica, trasformazione digitale. Le ricerche in corso nel Progetto CHANGES

University of Roma Tre, Italy

SPEAKER

23-24 Jan. 2025

- Poster: Piepoli, L., Goffredo, R., **Ragno, R.** Northern Apulia Coastal Survey. Archeologia dei paesaggi costieri della Puglia settentrionale: problemi, metodi e risultati preliminari

BHDC 2023 – Big Historical Data Conference

Max Planck Institute of
Geoanthropology, Jena, Germany

SPEAKER

22-25 Nov. 2023

- Presentation: **Ragno, R.** Understanding variation in zooarchaeological NISP data: Bayesian betabinomial models for Italian contexts in the 1st millennium CE

LAC 2022 – International Landscape Archaeology Conference

University of Iași, Romania

SPEAKER

13 Sep. 2022

- Presentation: **Ragno, R.** Seeds of Change: An Integrated Approach to Regionality and Peasant Autonomy in 1st millennium CE Italy

AIAZ - 10th National Zooarchaeology Conference

University of Siena, Italy

SPEAKER

3-6 Nov. 2021

- Presentation: **Ragno, R.** The transition from Late Antiquity to the Early Middle Ages in Northern Italy: an Environmental Archaeology Approach

Teaching

Sampling in Archaeological Field Surveys

University of Foggia

GUEST LECTURER

Mar. 2025

- Lecture on archaeological sampling strategies for the course in Landscape Archaeology taught by Dr. Goffredo.

Introduction to Statistics in Archaeology

University of Matera

GUEST LECTURER

Feb. 2024

- Lecture on the role of statistics in archaeology for the course in Archaeological Methods taught by Dr. Goffredo at the *Scuola di specializzazione in beni archeologici*.

Python vs R: an archaeological challenge

University of Bari

ORGANISER AND INSTRUCTOR

Mar. 2022

- Course open to MA and PhD students, providing an introduction to statistical programming languages and their use in archaeology and heritage studies.

Courses

Agent-Based Modeling for Archaeology

Aarhus University

ATTENDEE

Jan. 2024

- Introduction to ABM theory, archaeological simulation, and Netlogo programming.

Multidisciplinary Approaches to Identity and Social Structure in the Postclassical World

University of Padova

ATTENDEE

Apr. 2021

- Spring school: Lessons/Workshop discussing multidisciplinary research (paleopathologies, enthesal changes, dental enamel, stable isotopes, aDNA) on burial contexts.

GIS Courses (Basic-Intermediate-Advanced)

Udemy

ATTENDEE

Jan. - Apr. 2021

- Spatial data analysis, raster algebra, reclassification and georeferencing.

Cultural Heritage Computer Graphics School

Cineca, Bologna

ATTENDEE

Nov. 2017

- 3D Modelling of historical/cultural scenarios using Blender and Blend4Web.
- Photogrammetry using Agisoft Photoscan.

- Data acquisition using topographical tools (total station, laser scanner, photogrammetry).
- Data processing with GPR Slice, Autocad Map 3D, Autocad, Recap.

Honors & Awards

2025	Culture della materia , In: Landscape Archaeology	University of Foggia
2025	Winner , Edipuglia <i>Renzo Ceglie</i> Early Career Researcher Prize	Italy
2022	Culture della materia , In: Methodology of the Archaeological Research	University of Bari
2022	Culture della materia , In: Public Archaeology	University of Bari
2020	PhD scholarship , gross 16,243€/year (duration: 42 months)	University of Bari
2019	Winner , Bryan Clauson Prize for Roman Archaeology (80£)	London, UK
2016	Winner , Ecomap Scholarship (500€)	Italy
2012	Winner , Certamen 'Giustino Fortunato' (400€)	Rionero in Vulture, Italy

Skills

Digital tools	QGIS, Office, Photoshop, Indesign, Premiere
Front-end	HTML, CSS, R Markdown
Programming	R, Python, LaTeX, SQL
Languages	Italian (Native), English (Fluent), French (Basic), Latin (Intermediate)

Licenses

Driving	A (EU), B (EU)
Drones	A1, A3 (EU, UK)
Archaeology	First-Tier Professional Qualification (Italy, Art. 9-bis)