Roberto **Ragno**

PhD in Archaeology

Dipartimento di Ricerca e Innovazione Umanistica · Università di Bari 'Aldo Moro'

✉ roberto.ragno@uniba.it | ⓘ 0000-0002-7333-9035

Education

University of Bari 'Aldo Moro' — *Bari, Italy*
PhD Quantitative Archaeology — *2020 - 2024*
- 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 — *London, UK*
MA Archaeology — *2018 - 2019*
- Graduated with a distinction.
- Supervisors: prof. Corisande Fenwick, prof. Louise Martin

University of Bologna — *Bologna, Italy*
BA Ancient History — *2014 - 2018*
- 107 out of 110.
- Supervisor: prof. Alessandro Cristofori

Employment

University of Bari 'Aldo Moro' — *Bari, Italy*
Research Fellow — *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 — *Manfredonia, Italy*
University of Bari, University of Foggia — *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 — *UCL, London*
Volunteer — *Oct 2019 - Nov. 2019*
- I supported the preparation of bone samples for ZooMS analysis (labelling, photographing, weighing and drilling).

Salapia Exploration Project — *Trinitapoli, Italy*
University of Foggia, McGill University — *Jun. - Jul. 2015, 2017, 2018*
- Excavation tasks, stratigraphic documentation and Roman/Medieval pottery classification.

Programma Vesuviana — *Bologna/Pompeii, Italy*
University of Bologna — *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 — *Bari, Italy*
Archaeologist — *Apr. - Jun. 2024*
- Archaeological risk assessment for Hope Group floating wind farm project ('Nemetum Island') in the Gulf of Manfredonia.

Mount Gallery

London, UK

Art Gallery Coordinator · Part-time

Dec. 2019 - Jul. 2020

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

Research Visits

University of Cambridge

Cambridge, UK

Visiting Researcher

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.
in press	Ragno, R. 2025. Classifying Functional Areas at the Roman Villa of Mascherone (Manfredonia, Italy): Modelling sparse surface survey count data using a Bayesian Zero-Inflated Negative Binomial model. Journal of Field Archaeology. http://www.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). 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
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

EAA 2025 - 31st European Association of Archaeologists Annual Meeting

University of Belgrade, Serbia

Session organiser

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

Speaker

4 Mar. 2025

- Presentation: 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

Sᴘᴇᴀᴋᴇʀ *22-25 Nov. 2023*
- Presentation: 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 Iaşi, Romania*

Sᴘᴇᴀᴋᴇʀ *13 Sep. 2022*
- Presentation: 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*

Sᴘᴇᴀᴋᴇʀ *3–6 Nov. 2021*
- Presentation: 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*

Gᴜᴇsᴛ Lᴇᴄᴛᴜʀᴇʀ *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*

Gᴜᴇsᴛ Lᴇᴄᴛᴜʀᴇʀ *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*

Oʀɢᴀɴɪsᴇʀ ᴀɴᴅ ɪɴsᴛʀᴜᴄᴛᴏʀ *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*

Aᴛᴛᴇɴᴅᴇᴇ *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*

Aᴛᴛᴇɴᴅᴇᴇ *Apr. 2021*
- Spring school: Lessons/Workshop discussing multidisciplinary research (paleopathologies, entheseal changes, dental enamel, stable isotopes, aDNA) on burial contexts.

GIS Courses (Basic-Intermediate-Advanced) *Udemy*

Aᴛᴛᴇɴᴅᴇᴇ *Jan. - Apr. 2021*
- Spatial data analysis, raster algebra, reclassification and georeferencing.

Cultural Heritage Computer Graphics School *Cineca, Bologna*

Aᴛᴛᴇɴᴅᴇᴇ *Nov. 2017*
- 3D Modelling of historical/cultural scenarios using Blender and Blend4Web.
- Photogrammetry using Agisoft Photoscan.

Advanced Lab of Preventive Archaeology *Rimini, Italy*

Aᴛᴛᴇɴᴅᴇᴇ *Jun. 2017*
- Data acquisition using topographical tools (total station, laser scanner, photogrammetry).
- Data processing with GPR Slice, Autocad Map 3D, Autocad, Recap.

Honors & Awards

2025	**Cultore della materia**, In: Landscape Archaeology	*University of Foggia*
2025	**Winner**, Edipuglia *Renzo Ceglie* Early Career Researcher Prize	*Italy*
2022	**Cultore della materia**, In: Methodology of the Archaeological Research	*University of Bari*
2022	**Cultore 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)