

PROPOSITIONS

Accompanying the PhD thesis “Live in villages, plough fields ... before cities. Aspects of the primary economy of the communities of Southern Etruria between the Bronze Age and the Early Iron Age”

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1. Through the reconstruction of the economic structures of a community it is also possible to understand its social and political aspects. This is because - quoting Paolo Virno (2014) - «the ‘modes of production’ are not only a particular economic configuration but also a composite set of life forms, a social, anthropological, and ethical constellation».
2. The "agro-economistic" approach, including archaeological and anthropological reflections articulated in a new way, can be considered an interesting contribution to the contemporary archaeological theoretical debate.
3. Land Evaluation is a useful technique for reconstructing the agro-pastoral exploitation of a territory as long as it is modified for archaeological use (as illustrated in Chapter II) and not along the lines as were proposed by the FAO in a 1976 text.
4. Models in archaeology, whether predictive or postdictive, even if simplifications of far more complex reality, are a sound starting point for historical reconstruction and interpretation – and should be received with less skepticism.
5. The Binford (2000) perspective of "frames of reference" is still valid (I would even define it as essential) to overcome the study of individual contexts as it helps to create larger scale historical reconstructions that highlight general phenomena that one intends to study.
6. Tarquinia can be considered the epicenter of the phenomenon of the proto-urban turn, also in respect of its organization of the primary economy, which is different from other sites where the development of the proto-urban centers took place (Chapters III-IV).
7. Quoting March Bloch (1949): «behind the concrete features of the landscape [...] are the men that history wants to capture. He who does not go this far will never be anything else, at best, than a worker of erudition. The good historian, on the other hand, resembles the Ork of the fairy tale. He knows that where he smells human flesh, there is his prey».
8. According to Professor Jones (1989) «Archaeology is the search of fact... not truth. If it's truth you're looking for, Dr. Tyree's philosophy class is right down the hall»