

## **CLAUDIA SCIUTO - CV**

I am an environmental archaeologist whose research explores the intersections between human communities and geological substrates, with a sustained focus on artificial cavities—rock-cut sites, quarry landscapes, and carved architectures. My work investigates how people carve, extract, inhabit, and abandon rocky environments, and how these practices accumulate into long-term material histories. By combining archaeometry, field-based spectroscopy, architectural archaeology, and landscape analysis, I examine carved spaces as active participants in cultural and ecological processes.

### **Academic path and research focus**

I earned my PhD in Environmental Archaeology at Umeå University (2019), with a dissertation dedicated to the archaeometric and geological characterization of stone materials and their biographies. After research periods in France, Sweden, and Denmark, I joined the University of Pisa, where I am currently a Research Fellow in Methodologies of Archaeological Research. My academic trajectory includes extensive teaching experience in environmental archaeology, research methods, archaeology of production, both in Italy and Scandinavia.

Over the years, I have authored several peer-reviewed articles, book chapters, and monographs, and I have co-edited volumes and special issues that contribute to shaping the growing field of quarry and rock-cut archaeology.

My research has progressively centred on quarried landscapes, rock-hewn sites, and carved mountainsides, with case studies in France (Auvergne), Italy (Apuan Alps, Pisa region), and broader European contexts. I study rocky features as material testimonies of human–rock engagement, where extraction, shaping, reuse, and abandonment intersect with social practices and environmental dynamics.

This focus led me to co-found and promote the IRAAR network (International Research on Artificial Cavities and Rock-cut Archaeology), designed to consolidate an interdisciplinary community dedicated to the study and preservation of carved sites and quarries worldwide. Through IRAAR, we have fostered exchanges between archaeologists, geologists, speleologists, and heritage specialists, helping define shared research agendas and methodological standards.

### **International Conferences**

I have actively contributed to the international debate on carved landscapes by organising and moderating numerous thematic events. Notably, I contributed to curate the international conference *Rocky Landscapes, at the intersection of people and rocks*, held at the Orient-Institut in Istanbul in May 2024—a major event bringing together researchers working on stonecraft, landscape archaeology, and material ecologies.

My long-standing commitment to scholarly exchange is reflected in a rich history of EAA sessions, including recent ones dedicated to:

- *Current trends and future directions in quarries and rock-cut studies* (Rome, 2024)
- *Carved features and carved landscapes* (Belfast, 2023)
- *Archaeology of rock-cut and quarry sites: people, stones and landscapes* (Barcelona, 2018)

- *Stone is the storyteller: the materiality of stone through time (and mind)?* (Maastricht, 2017)

These sessions have become important reference points in the development of a more integrated and theoretically grounded approach to rock-cut archaeology.

## **SELECTED PUBLICATIONS ON ROCK-CUT SITES, QUARRIES, ARTIFICIAL CAVITIES, AND STONECRAFT**

### **Edited Volumes and Special Issues**

Sciuto, Claudia, Anaïs Lamesa, Katy Whitaker, and Ali Yamac (eds.). 2021. *Carved in Stone: The Archaeology of Rock-Cut Sites and Quarries*. BAR International Series. Oxford: BAR Publishing.

Lamesa, Anaïs, Gabriele Gattiglia, Marie-Elise Porqueddu, Katy Whitaker, and Claudia Sciuto (eds.). 2023. *From Quarries to Rock-Cut Sites: Echoes of Stonecrafting*. Leiden: Sidestone Press. Publication date: 23 May 2023.

Marie-Elise Porqueddu, Lamesa, Anaïs, Sciuto, Claudia (ed.).  
Special Issue: "Reconsidering the chaîne opératoire." *Open Archaeology*. De Gruyter.

### **Book Chapters**

Sciuto, Claudia. 2023. "The Hand, the Stone and the Mind: Exploring the Agency of Rocks in Quarrying Techniques." In *From Quarries to Rock-Cut Sites. Echoes of Stonecrafting*, edited by Anaïs Lamesa, Katy Whitaker, Claudia Sciuto, and Marie-Elise Porqueddu, pp. 101–112. Leiden: Sidestone Press.

Bessac, Jean-Claude, Anaïs Lamesa, and Claudia Sciuto. 2021. "The Archaeology of Quarries and Rock-Cut Sites." In *Carved in Stone: The Archaeology of Rock-Cut Sites and Quarries*, edited by Claudia Sciuto, Anaïs Lamesa, Katy Whitaker, and A. Yamac, pp. 1–7. BAR International Series. Oxford: BAR Publishing.

Porqueddu, Marie-Elise, Anaïs Lamesa, and Claudia Sciuto. 2022. "IRAAR: A Project for Promoting the Study of Rock-Cut Sites and Quarries." In *18th International Congress of Speleology – Symposium 13: Artificial Cavities*, vol. 2.

Sciuto, Claudia. 2021. "Racconti di pietre. L'applicazione di metodi archeometrici portatili allo studio dei paesaggi." In *Landscape. Una sintesi di elementi diacronici. Nuove metodologie per l'analisi di un territorio*, edited by D. Gangale Risoleo and I. Raimondo, pp. 121–132. BAR International Series. Oxford: BAR Publishing.

### **Journal Articles and Conference Proceedings**

Rochette, Pierre, Claudia Sciuto, Simona Raneri, et al. 2022. "Non-Destructive Magnetic and Chemical Characterization of Granite Column Shafts Traded in the Mediterranean Area: The Case of Piazza dei Miracoli in Pisa (Italy) and Basilica of Saint-Martin d'Ainay in Lyon (France)." *Journal of Physics: Conference Series* 2204 (1): 012037. IOP Publishing.

Roubis, Dimitrios, and Claudia Sciuto. 2019. "Origin and Circulation of Calcarene Artifacts in the Area of Montescaglioso Between the 6th and 3rd Century BC: An Interdisciplinary Approach." *Heritage* 2 (1): 467–489. doi:10.3390/heritage2010032.

Sciuto, C., Allios, D., Bendoula, R., Cocoual, A., Gardel, M.-E., Geladi, P., Gobrecht, A., Gorretta, N., Guermeur, N., Jay, S., Linderholm, J., and Thyrel, M. 2019. "Characterization of Building Materials by Means of Spectral Remote Sensing: The Example of Carcassonne's Defensive Wall (Aude, France)." *Journal of Archaeological Science: Reports* 23: 396–405.

Sciuto, Claudia. 2018. "Recording Invisible Proofs to Compose Stone Narratives: Applications of Near-Infrared Spectroscopy in Provenance Studies." *Digital Humanities Quarterly* 12 (3). <http://www.digitalhumanities.org/dhq/vol/12/3/000384/000384.html>.

Sciuto, Claudia, Lorenza La Rosa, Paul Geladi, Johan Linderholm, and Mats Thyrel. 2018. "Hyperspectral Imaging for Characterization of Lithic Raw Materials: The Case of a Mesolithic Dwelling in Northern Sweden." *Journal of Lithic Technology* 44 (1): 22–35.

Linderholm, Johan, Paul Geladi, and Claudia Sciuto. 2015. "Field-Based Near-Infrared Spectroscopy for Analysis of Scandinavian Stone Age Rock Paintings." *Journal of Near Infrared Spectroscopy* 23 (4): 227–236.

### **Related Conference Papers**

Sciuto, C. 2018. "What Are Men to Rocks and Mountains? The Interdisciplinary Challenge of Rock-Cut Sites." EAA Conference, Barcelona.

Sciuto, C., and Allios, D. 2023. "Weaving Stone Itineraries Between Caves, Quarries and Buildings in the Area of Murol and Saint Nectaire (France)." EAA Belfast.

Sciuto, C., Lamesa, A., and Porqueddu, M-E. 2020. "What About Rock-Hewn Caves? Theoretical and Methodological Approaches to the Art of Carving." EAA Virtual Annual Meeting.

Cocoual, A., and Sciuto, C. 2014. "Contexte et interactions des sites troglodythiques: le cas de Murol." 9e Colloque International de Saint-Martin-le-Vieil.

Brillant, G., A. Cocoual, and C. Sciuto. 2013. "Étude des sites troglodythiques et villages abandonnés du plateau de Rajat (Murol, Puy-de-Dôme)." *Structure et monuments rupestres d'Europe et d'Asie*, 8e Colloque International de Saint-Martin-le-Vieil.

### **Monograph**

Sciuto, Claudia. 2018. *Carved Mountains and Moving Stones: Applications of Near-Infrared Spectroscopy for Mineral Characterisation in Provenance Studies*. Archaeology and Environment 31. Umeå: Umeå University Print Services. ISBN 978-91-7601-993-1.