
ANTONINO CRISÀ (University of Warwick)
PRESENTS: Master Class on 'Excavating' into the
archives: archaeology, social contexts and
unknown characters in Sicily (1861–1918)

Tues, Mar 7, 2017
GMCS 120
11 AM -12:15 PM



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Can archaeologists dig without excavating? An intriguing method of archaeological investigation is generated from tracing, copying and analyzing records. It allows us to gather valuable, substantial and accurate data on past excavations. The history of archaeology is therefore a fascinating subject, which still needs to be deeply investigated. Many records are still unpublished and wait—covered by dust—to be studied by scholars.

The Kingdom of Italy became a nation in 1861, acquiring a huge cultural heritage from the pre-unification states. In particular, Sicily had a multitude of archaeological sites to be supervised, investigated and visited. What do we actually know about this period in the history of archaeology in Sicily and how can we reconstruct excavations and reveal contemporary (often unknown) characters acting in these archaeological contexts? What was the impact of archaeology on local communities in Sicily?

The scope of my paper is to provide an outline of my recent research in the province of Messina during the post-unification era. It is now forthcoming as a monograph including approximately 700 records and B/W pictures from Palermo, Rome and Glasgow. Documentary materials offer much information on the evolution of archaeological discipline, cultural heritage, archaeologists, illegal diggers, priests as unlawful antiquities dealers, collectors, custodians, workers, politicians and state authorities.

