



Archaeological Institute of America
Tampa Bay Society
Lecture Series Fall 2020

December 3rd, 5:30pm (EST) - via Zoom

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**Archaeology of Sicilian countryside
during Late Antiquity, Byzantine
and Islamic periods (4th-11th c. CE)**



From the 4th century, the so-called “late antique agrarian system” characterized Sicily in an exemplary way that is readable in material evidence of the wealth of senatorial elite and its luxury villas but also in the development of large secondary agglomerations / villages along the main roads. This “golden age” of the *possessores* began to suffer profound changes already from the 5th century, a significant moment in which many villas ruined and started to be reused and reoccupied in different ways.

Another important phase of Sicilian countryside dynamics is the Byzantine period, and in particular around the institution of the *thema* from the late 7th century, which was characterized by more consistent phenomena of public power investments in the construction of *kastra* in rural areas and the emergence of new types of sites (especially in Eastern Sicily). The archaeology of the Islamic presence in Sicily has had noticeable progress in recent years allowing better delineation of settlement trends between the 9th and the 11th century, despite this the data on possible pre-Norman fortified sites they still remain rather uncertain, awaiting further research in the field.

Follow the link to register:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/zoom-link>