

EGU26 media tip sheet: Caves, temples, forests and more, on geoarchaeology and art

The intersection of geosciences with archaeology, art and history provides fertile ground for exploring and preserving relics of the recent past. Presentations about ceramics in Cyprus, mythology in Peru and forests in France provide unique insight into aspects of human life. Abstracts about art in Italy and temples in Egypt consider how to study and save invaluable pieces of history.

Neanderthals and Their Speleofacts

The Bruniquel Cave in France contains circular structures made of broken stalagmites more than 175,000 years old. These structures have been attributed to Neanderthals. Did these early hominids intentionally break these speleothems, and from where within the cave were they sourced?

Monday 04 May 16:36–16:46 CEST; Room F1 [EGU26-12788](#)

[Session CL1.2.3: Speleothem and karst records - Reconstructing terrestrial climatic and environmental change](#) (oral)

Levantine Iron Age Anomaly Found in Cyprus

Cyprus sits at a crossroads of eastern Mediterranean civilizations, connecting Eastern Europe with the Levant. A new study presents archaeointensity data from 55 ceramic fragments collected from the ancient Kingdom of Idalion archaeological site. The data demonstrate rapid geomagnetic field variations during the early first millennium BCE, consistent with the well-documented Middle Eastern Levantine Iron Age Anomaly.

Wednesday 06 May 10:45–12:30 CEST; Hall X2, X2.164 [EGU26-10115](#)

[Session EMRP3.3: Paleomagnetic Variations and Geomagnetic Field Modelling: Data, Simulations, and Future Challenges](#) (poster)

Fire in France's Fontainebleau Forest from Iconographic Documents

Within France's Ile-de-France region lies the Fontainebleau forest, in which fires shapes the ecosystem. Iconographic archives including postcards, engravings and photographs help scientists explore how fire has changed the forest over time.

Wednesday 06 May 16:15–18:00 CEST; Hall X3.137; [EGU26-17907](#)

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Session ITS4.21/NH13.5: [Historical Perspectives on Climate Resilience and Cultural Pyroscares](#) (poster)

Roman Forests: The Woodlands of Antiquity

Romans dominated much of western and central Europe during Antiquity, their influence reaching into natural landscapes. How did they manage demand for wood? This study, spanning 300 BCE to 700 CE, explored how forests were exploited during Antiquity, and how Roman expansion shaped woodlands north of the Alps.

Wednesday 06 May 16:55–17:05 CEST; Room 0.49/50 [EGU26-9314](#)

Session CL1.2.1: [Interdisciplinary Tree-Ring Research](#) (oral)

Quantifying Rockfall Hazards at Egypt's Temple of Hatshepsut

The 3,500-year-old Mortuary Temple of Hatshepsut in Ancient Thebes sits beneath a limestone cliff standing about 100 meters high. The cliff issues frequent rockfalls, including a major slope failure that buried a neighboring temple. A new study combines satellite data with Terrestrial Laser Scanning to model different scenarios to identify areas most prone to rockfall.

Thursday 07 May 10:05–10:15 CEST; Room 1.31/32 [EGU26-21236](#)

Session NH3.8: [Landslide monitoring: recent technologies and new perspectives](#) (oral)

Ground Penetrating Radar and Giotto's Murals

Renaissance mural paintings attributed to Giotto, the founder of modern Western painting, are culturally and historically important. Yet as time goes by, wall paintings degrade. Identifying the subsurface deterioration within the walls and paintings themselves requires non-destructive techniques. Ground Penetrating Radar could help. A new study develops and applies advanced processing strategies for this task.

Thursday 07 May 12:10–12:20 CEST; Room -2.92 [EGU26-20938](#)

Session GI5.2: [Non-destructive Testing and Earth Observation Methods for Sustainability and Resilience of Infrastructure and Built Environments](#) (oral)

Provenance of Medieval Building Materials in Italy: The Times of Castles Project

In Italy, medieval castles abound. A new study of castles—one in each of the Piedmont, Liguria and Tuscany regions—considers the provenance of raw material used by workers to build the structures. By sampling and characterizing mortar from the walls, scientists found

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that raw material for the Ligurian and Tuscan castles were local, whereas the material for the Piedmont castle's origin is uncertain.

Thursday 07 May 16:15-18:00 CEST; Hall X2, X2.53 [EGU26-12199](#)

Session GMPV2.2: Advances in Geochronology and Thermochronology: from traditional methods to avant-garde applications (poster)

The Case (Study) of Rome's Palazzo Ripetta

As historic structures like bridges, monuments and roads continue to deteriorate, measuring and documenting them via nondestructive methods is critical. A new study relies on GNSS, Terrestrial Laser Scanning, and UAVs to create a digital model of the Bernini Hall, which is now part of the Palazzo Ripetta in Rome. The model, imported into virtual reality, has facilitated ways for monitoring structural health.

Thursday 07 May 16:15–18:00 CEST; Hall X4, X4.104 [EGU26-12107](#)

Session GI5.2: Non-destructive Testing and Earth Observation Methods for Sustainability and Resilience of Infrastructure and Built Environments (poster)

Serpents and Faults in Cusco, Peru

Indigenous oral traditions recorded during colonial time may hold generational memories of past Peruvian earthquakes. A mid-seventeenth century passage recounts the appearance of an Amaru—a serpent-like deity of pre-Hispanic cosmology—above Cusco, which may correspond to a major 15th century earthquake.

Friday 08 May 11:00–11:10 CEST; Room 2.17 [EGU26-7009](#)

Session ITS3.4/GM3: Mythogenic landscapes: From Geodiversity through Geomythology to Geoheritage (oral)

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