

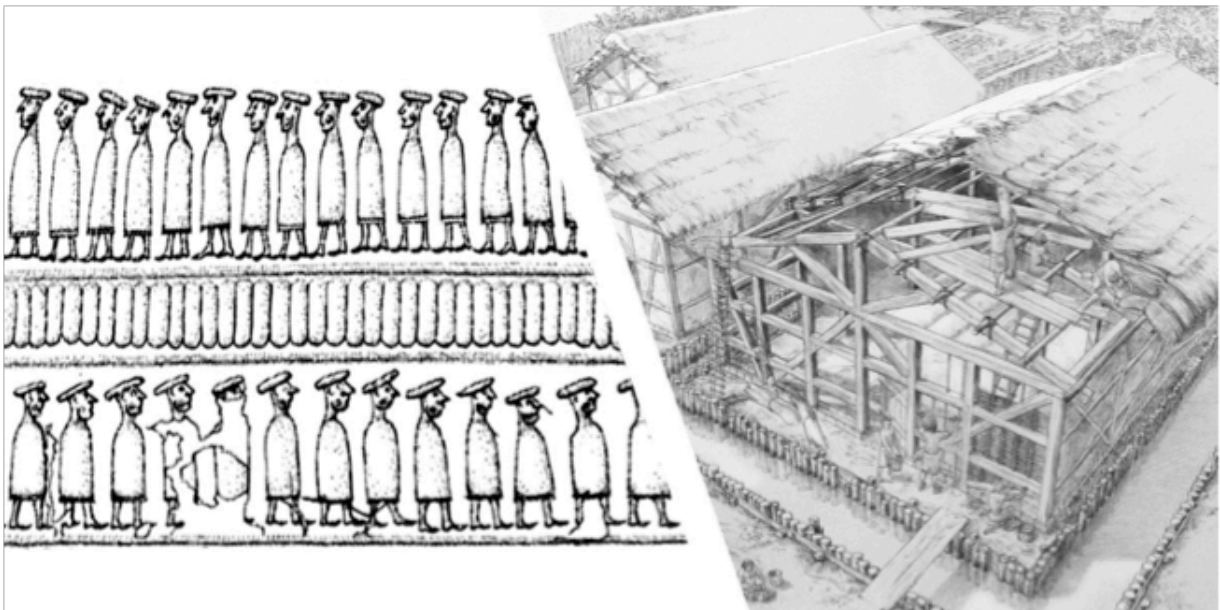
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No Country for rich men? Exploring Urbanisation and non-elite societies in the Iron Age Po Valley

Recent discoveries and studies have revealed evidence of an early and perhaps independent nucleation and centralisation process in the region south of the Alps. Beyond unidirectional developments, this led to a substantial broadening of our comprehension of the appearance of site agglomerations in northern Italy, by looking at possible cases of instability, ephemerality, and seasonality.

Yet previous archaeological research has placed excessive emphasis, I argue, on elites and high social ranks, overemphasising the role of a powerful ruling class who alone promoted and led the urbanisation process.

By adopting a comparative perspective, a more nuanced scenario could be suggested, disentangling a simplistic equation between urbanism and increasing social hierarchy. Alternative social actors will be considered, including merchants, commoners, and subaltern groups, exploring possible forms of collective cooperation and different strategies of wealth-sharing.



Detail of the Alpaugo Situla (left) and reconstruction of a house of Spina (right)