

From Villanovan *Tombe a Fossa* to Etruscan Rock-Cut Tombs: Four Centuries of Funerary
Assemblages in the San Giuliano Necropolis

Since 2016, the San Giuliano Archaeological Research Project (SGARP) has conducted an archaeological field school at a Villanovan/Etruscan/Mediaeval site (9th century BCE through 13th century CE) located within the Marturanum Regional Park in northern Lazio, Italy. The SGARP team has sought to reconstruct the *longue durée* history of human habitation at San Giuliano not only through excavation of the Mediaeval fortifications on its plateau, but also through extensive survey and selective excavation of the Villanovan and Etruscan necropolis surrounding the plateau. This presentation offers preliminary analyses of the material remains, and in particular the ceramic evidence, recovered from the San Giuliano necropolis.

Over the course of three field seasons, SGARP has documented more than 500 Etruscan rock-cut tombs and completed excavations of four tombs within the San Giuliano necropolis. The first two tombs, excavated during the 2016 and 2017 field seasons, are single-chamber Etruscan rock-cut tombs dating to the Archaic period (c. 600-550 BCE). Both are characterized by plentiful, though highly fragmentary, ceramic assemblages of bucchero, red impasto jars, and black-figure decorated vessels. A third single-chamber Etruscan rock-cut tomb, excavated during the 2018 field season, dates to the Classical period (c. 500-450 BCE). It, too, had been looted in the modern period, but still contained a large quantity of bucchero as well as both black- and red-figure decorated pottery. The fourth tomb, excavated during the 2018 field season, stands apart from the first three tombs in its morphology and preservation. It is a transitional, late Villanovan/early Etruscan *tomba a fossa* (pit grave) dating to c. 700 BCE located in the eastern

part of the necropolis, and the fully intact grave contained the inhumation of a woman with a rich assemblage of bronze accoutrements and 14 complete ceramic vessels.

The material evidence recovered from the four tombs, alongside the pottery sherds collected during the SGARP survey of the necropolis, reveal the presence of large and thriving Villanovan and Etruscan communities at San Giuliano. What more can the San Giuliano funerary assemblages say, however, about the people buried with them, especially when three of the four tombs excavated were extremely disturbed by looter activity? By offering a close examination of the ceramics from the SGARP tomb excavations, alongside an overview of the osteological evidence from each burial, this presentation will demonstrate how the careful study of the San Giuliano mortuary assemblages sheds light not only on the people buried in the tombs, but also on shifting communal identities and political allegiances during the early history of the site.