

# FEDRA A. PIZZATO

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POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCHER | ADJUNCT PROFESSOR

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## Profile

I am a postdoctoral researcher and adjunct professor in History of Science and Science Communication at the University of Verona, and an associated researcher at the Institut d'Arqueologia de la Universitat de Barcelona (IAUB). My work lies at the intersection of history and philosophy of science, science and technology studies, the history of archaeology and prehistory, gender studies, and museum and collection studies. I examine the production, circulation, and public communication of scientific knowledge across disciplinary, institutional, and social contexts. I am particularly interested in the role of objects, visual cultures, data, and scientific discourses in shaping scientific authority, cultural meaning, and narratives of deep time and the human past. My work also addresses science communication, public engagement, memory studies, and cognitive approaches to visual interpretation, including educational projects on ancient DNA, radiocarbon dating, and the critical analysis of gender bias in prehistoric narratives. From 2023 to 2025, I was a member of the research team of the PRIN project RIPRESA - Re-assessing Italian Prehistorical Studies from a Transdisciplinary Perspective. I am also a member of ArqueólogAs/Herstory, Women in Natural History Museums and Collections, and the Association for Critical Heritage Studies. I serve as editor of the Did-Acta section of Scientia and as co-editor of NatureCulture.

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## Education

### Ca' Foscari University of Venice / Universitat de Barcelona, 2012 - 2016

Double European PhD in European Social History and Society, Culture, and Heritage, with distinction

Dissertation: Fossili della nazione: Paleontologia, antropologia e nazionalismo in Italia (1871-1915).

Supervisors: M. Díaz-Andreu, S. Levis Sullam, G. M. Varanini.

### University of Padua, 2007 - 2012

MA in Historical Sciences, 110/110 cum laude

### University of Padua, 2003 - 2006

BA studies in Astrophysics

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## Work Experience

### University of Verona, Jan 2026 - PRESENT

Postdoctoral Research Fellow in History of Science

Department of Cultures and Civilizations, PHIL-02/B (formerly M-STO/05).

### University of Verona, 2023 - PRESENT

Adjunct Professor in Science Communication

Laboratory of Science Communication, BA programme in Humanities and Communication Sciences, PHIL-02/B (36 hours).

### Institut d'Arqueologia de la Universitat de Barcelona (IAUB), 2022 - PRESENT

Associated Researcher

Research activity in the history of archaeology and prehistory, public archaeology, cultural heritage, gender history, and museum studies.

### University of Verona, Jan 2024 - Dec 2025

Postdoctoral Research Fellow in History of Science

Research activity within the PRIN RIPRESA project, Department of Cultures and Civilizations, PHIL-02/B (formerly M-STO/05).

### University of Verona, Jan 2022 - Dec 2023

Postdoctoral Research Fellow in History of Science

History of science, STEM education, and transdisciplinary approaches to scientific heritage.

**University of Verona, 2021 - 2022**

Lecturer / Teaching and Learning Center

Courses in public speaking, transversal skills, and astronomy education for primary teacher training.

**University of Verona, Feb 2020 - Feb 2021**

Research Fellow, School of Economics / Teaching and Learning Center

Faculty development, service learning, and innovation in higher education.

**M9 - Museum of the 20th Century, Venice Mestre, 2017 - 2019**

Curator and Assistant Project Manager

Historical research, curatorial development, archival work, multimedia storytelling, and coordination between research and exhibition design.

**Università Popolare di Vicenza / Adult Education Network, 2016 - 2017**

Lecturer

Public courses on ancient Mediterranean history, Greek history, and the archaeological culture of the Iliad.

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## University Teaching

**University of Verona, A.Y. 2025 - 2026**

Adjunct Professor, Laboratory of Science Communication

BA in Humanities and Communication Sciences, Department of Cultures and Civilizations, PHIL-02/B, 36 hours.

**University of Verona, School of Specialization in Hygiene and Preventive Medicine, A.Y. 2025 - 2026**

Lecturer, Allenare lo sguardo: Visual Thinking Strategies, Medical Humanities, and metacognition in healthcare organizational contexts

Department of Diagnostics and Public Health. Course for medical residents / healthcare professionals, 12 hours, 4 sessions, May-June 2026.

**University of Verona, 2025 - PRESENT**

Subject Expert / Teaching Committee Member in History of Science

PHIL-02/B (formerly M-STO/05).

**University of Verona, A.Y. 2024 - 2025**

Adjunct Professor, Laboratory of Science Communication

BA in Humanities and Communication Sciences, PHIL-02/B, 36 hours.

**University of Padua, A.Y. 2023 - 2024**

Adjunct Professor, Museums, Collections, Heritage

International MA in Mobility Studies, 6 hours.

**University of Verona, A.Y. 2023 - 2024**

Adjunct Professor, Laboratory of Science Communication

BA in Humanities and Communication Sciences, PHIL-02/B, 36 hours.

**University of Padua, A.Y. 2022 - 2023**

Adjunct Professor, Museums, Collections, Heritage

International MA in Mobility Studies, 6 hours.

**University of Verona, A.Y. 2022 - 2023**

Lecturer, Transversal Skills - Public Speaking Advanced

Teaching and Learning Center, BA and MA programmes, 12 hours.

**University of Padua, A.Y. 2021 - 2022**

Adjunct Professor, Museums, Collections, Heritage

International MA in Mobility Studies, 4 hours.

**University of Verona, A.Y. 2021 - 2022**

Lecturer, Public Speaking; Pedagogical Concepts and Methods Applied to Astronomy and Astrophysics

Teaching and Learning Center and BA in Primary Teacher Education, 24 hours total.

**University of Verona, A.Y. 2020 - 2021**

Lecturer, Transversal Skills - Public Speaking

Teaching and Learning Center, BA and MA programmes, 6 hours.

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## Research Interests

History and philosophy of science; science and technology studies; history of archaeology and prehistory; gender studies; museum and collection studies; scientific heritage and critical heritage studies; science communication and public

engagement; visual cultures of science; data, objects, and material culture; deep time and narratives of the human past; collective identities, inclusion and exclusion; human-environment relations; cognitive approaches to prehistoric interpretation; memory studies; Visual Thinking Strategies and educational methodologies.

ERC sectors: SH6\_14 History of science, medicine and technologies; SH5\_8 Cultural studies, cultural identities and memories, cultural heritage; SH6\_12 Gender history, cultural history, history of collective identities and memories; SH6\_2 Classical archaeology, history of archaeology.

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## Research Groups

### **Arqueólogos / Herstory, 2024 - 2028**

Member of the research team

Mujeres y Arqueología en España en su contexto internacional: visiones poliédricas de resiliencia. Funded by the Ministerio de Ciencia, Innovación y Universidades, Agencia Estatal de Investigación, and the European Union.

### **Women in Natural History Museums and Collections (WOMNH), 2024 - PRESENT**

Associated member

International consortium on women in natural history museums and scientific collections.

### **Grup de Recerca en Arqueologia Protohistòrica (GRAP), IAUB, 2022 - PRESENT**

Associated member / Col·laboradora

Research collaboration on protohistoric archaeology, public archaeology, and heritage-making processes.

### **PRIN RIPRESA, 2023 - 2025**

Member of the research team

Re-assessing Italian Prehistorical Studies from a Transdisciplinary Perspective, University of Verona, CNR, and Civic Museums of Verona.

### **SISS Study Group on Scientific Heritage, 2022 - PRESENT**

Member

Historical, epistemological, and cultural approaches to scientific heritage.

### **SISS Study Group on Teaching and School, 2021 - PRESENT**

Member; national co-coordinator, 2021 - 2024

History of science education, teaching methodologies, and teacher training.

### **Association for Critical Heritage Studies - ICH Network & Mediterranean Chapter, 2020 - PRESENT**

Member

Intangible cultural heritage in the Mediterranean context.

### **Reclaiming Herstory: Women in Mediterranean Archaeology, 2023 - 2024**

Member of the international EAA research group

Coordinated with Maria José Berlanga Palomo, Margarita Díaz-Andreu, Bianca Ferrara, and Fedra A. Pizzato.

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## Professional Services

Editor of the Did-Acta section, Scientia. Rivista della Società Italiana di Storia della Scienza; co-editor / editorial board member of NatureCulture, Civic Museum of Natural History of Verona.

Ad-hoc reviewer for Revista del Museo de Antropología; Oxford University Press; Centaurus; Nuncius; Boletín del Museo Arqueológico Nacional de Madrid; Lo Sguardo; NatureCulture.

Memberships: EAA - European Association of Archaeologists; ACHS - Association for Critical Heritage Studies; SISS - Società Italiana di Storia della Scienza; ESHS - European Society for the History of Science; BSHS (2018-2020); SCHCT (2014-2018); HARN - History of Archaeology Research Network; VTS Italia / Generazione VTS; CISC - Centro Interuniversitario di Storia Culturale.

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## Conference Organization

2026 - Member of Scientific Committee, 150 anni dall'esposizione preistorica veronese, Verona, Italy.

2026 - Co-organizer, Digging into the documents: New perspectives on documentary legacies in the history of archaeology, 21st UISPP Congress, Poznań, Poland.

2025 - Co-organizer, A Definite Selection of Nature / Una precisa selezione della natura, Museo di Storia Naturale and University of Verona.

2025 - Head of Scientific Committee, Archeology from the margins / Archeologia dai margini, PRIN RIPRESA International Conference, Verona.

2024 - Co-organizer, Reclaiming Herstory: Women in Mediterranean Archaeology from the 18th Century to Today, EAA Annual Meeting, Rome.

2024 - Organizer and Scientific Chair, Pratiche fotografiche. Documentare, misurare e divulgare nelle scienze tra '800 e '900, Verona.

2024 - Organizer, Per una Civic History of Science, SISS National Conference, Bari.

2018 - Organizer, From Local Science to Public History, ESHS Conference, University College London.

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## Selected Presentations

### 2026

Introductory talk, Digging into the documents: New perspectives on documentary legacies in the history of archaeology, 21st UISPP Congress, Poznań.

La preistoria dal salotto all'università. Eugenio Neumann e la cultura materiale della scienza dilettante del suo tempo, invited talk, CAM University of Padua.

### 2025

(In)Visible Presences? The history of women archaeologists through photographic sources, invited talk and session chair, University of Naples Federico II.

Tassidermie e tassonomie / Taxidermies and Taxonomies, session chair, A Definite Selection of Nature, Verona.

Cosa diventa patrimonio? The acquisition register of Enrico Tedeschi and Raffaello Battaglia, ANMS Conference, Padua (with E. Dalla Longa and N. Carrara).

An ongoing inquiry: An intersectional analysis of women in the history of archaeology, EAA Annual Meeting, Belgrade (with C. Tavera-Medina et al.).

Fieldwork, museum, and engagement: The multifaceted legacy of Maria Fioroni (1887-1970), PRIN RIPRESA International Conference, Verona.

### 2024

Expertise and enthusiasm: The interplay of knowledge in prehistoric studies and museum collections, ESHS Conference, Barcelona.

A "Benefactor of Science." Maria Fioroni, an (Amateur) Archaeologist, Museologist, and Philanthropist, EAA Annual Meeting, Rome.

L'obiettivo dell'archeologia: Immaginari visuali nei fondi Halbherr e Van Deman, Museo Civico di Storia Naturale, Verona.

Riscoperta storica e innovazione educativa, SISS National Conference, Bari (with C. Morabito).

'Na scaiéta se strenze in le man. Francesco Zorzi combattente, animatore, e guida, Verona.

### 2023

Reconsidering the "Two Cultures." New perspectives from the history of anthropology, invited talk, HOIAC Conference, Pisa.

Patrimonio trasversale. Un progetto di service learning tra museo, scuola e università a Verona, Pavia.

Interpretare il nostro patrimonio, invited talk, Museo Liquido, Verona.

Chair, Etnozoologia ed Etnobotanica, SISS National Conference, Naples.

### 2022

Preistorie transdisciplinari, SISS National Conference, Catania.

### 2021

A Mediterranean Imagery. How archaeological materials influenced Giuseppe Sergi's racial theory, On Ruins International Conference, L'Aquila.

Scienza, preistoria, sociabilità, SISS National Conference.

Wetlands as a laboratory, EAA Annual Meeting, Kiel.

### 2020

Contested cultural heritages, ACHS Annual Conference, UCL.

From Troy to the "Great Mediterranean", ESHS Conference, Bologna.

L'analisi delle pratiche discorsive come strumento dell'innovazione didattica nella Higher Education, ASDUNI Virtual Conference (with L. Mortari et al.).

### 2018

Objects and theories: Prehistorical findings and public discourses in Liberal Italy, ESHS Conference, UCL.

Dinamiche transnazionali nell'archeologia mediterranea, invited talk, Ca' Foscari University of Venice.

### 2017

Raccontare la preistoria, Cantieri di Storia IX, Padua.

### 2015

The origins of the Italians: A new issue in Italian nationalism, Padua-Oxford International Doctoral Workshop.  
El Origen de los Italianos: Ciencia y Construcción Nacional a Finales del Siglo XIX, CSIC, Barcelona.  
Identidades a la frontera, V Encuentro de Jóvenes Investigadores, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona.

## 2014

Teorie del popolamento e costruzione identitaria, Storie in corso IX, Milan.  
Theories of populations and Italian national identities, 1871-1918, Universitat de Barcelona and ICREA.

## 2013

Bodies and the Nation: Sergi and physical anthropology in Italy, Central European University, Budapest.

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## Academic Activities

Design, coordination, and teaching of university orientation courses (PCTO/POT/PLS) integrating history of science, scientific education, transversal skills, visual thinking, and school-university-museum relations.

2025-2026 - Life finds a way II. Viaggio tra evoluzione e DNA / DNA, mtDNA, C14 e palinologia negli scavi preistorici, 8 hours, POT Oltre le Due Culture.

2025-2026 - Letteratura e gestione delle emozioni. Dalle competenze linguistiche a quelle relazionali, 20 hours, POT.

2024-2025 - Life finds a way I; Comunicare la scienza, comunicare con la storia della scienza, 15 hours, MUR DM934, seven editions in 2024.

2023-2024 - Quando per fare la storia serve la scienza; Letteratura e gestione delle emozioni; Pensare (criticamente) e comunicare con l'arte e le immagini; Per una buona comunicazione scientifica.

2021-2023 - Courses on science communication, Visual Thinking Strategies, assertive communication, new media, soft skills, and university orientation.

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## Public Engagement

Invited discussant or speaker for public engagement and third mission activities, including La Biblioteca di Nemo series at the Museo di Storia Naturale di Verona, teacher training at the Museum of Geography, public lectures on memory and equality, scientific consultancy for Il teatro della natura, and public history / science communication activities with M9 - Museum of the 20th Century.

Selected activities: Presentations of Il tempo profondo dell'umanità (2026), Prima delle STEM (2026), Da cimeli a beni culturali (2025), Sulle tracce di un evolucionista (2023); public lecture Scienza, femminile singolare? (2023); Festival dell'Economia di Trento event on technologies and women's emancipation (2018).

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## Skills & Languages

Advanced Visual Thinking Strategies Facilitator, Museo delle Civiltà, Rome, 2021.

Security Training Course, 2023; Public Speaking Certificate, M9 Museum, Venice, 2018; FSE Certificate in Restoration and Conservation of Paper Documents and Artworks, Istituto Veneto dei Beni Culturali, Venice, 2012.

Experience in national and international research projects, including PRIN, PNRR-related initiatives, and research networks funded by Spanish and European agencies.

Languages: Italian (native); English (C1); Spanish (C1); Catalan (limited working proficiency); Portuguese (reading); Latin and Ancient Greek (professional working proficiency).

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## Publications

### Books

Pizzato, F. A. (2026). Immaginare le origini. Scienza, preistoria e politica nell'opera di Giuseppe Sergi. Rome: Carocci Editore. ISBN 9788829010332.

### Edited Volumes and Special Issues

Pizzato, F. A. (Ed.). (2022). Special issue: Rethinking ancient remains. Archaeological practices and the circulation of scientific knowledge. Nuncius, 37(3).

Ciancio, L., Pizzato, F. A., & Tenca, A. (Eds.). (2025). Pratiche fotografiche. Documentare, misurare e divulgare nelle scienze tra Otto e Novecento. Verona: NatureCulture.

Ciancio, L., Cultraro, M., & Pizzato, F. A. (Eds.). (2025). Il tempo profondo dell'umanità. Rome: Carocci.

Pizzato, F. A. (Ed.). (2019). Una nuova frontiera della didattica: Metodi, tecnologie, esperienze italiane. Rome: Carocci.

### Journal Articles (peer-reviewed)

- Pizzato, F. A. (2026, accepted 30 November 2025). "Il tuo museo fu modesto, ora è splendido." Circulation of ideas, objects, and people in late 19th-century Italy. *Centaurus. Journal of the European Society for the History of Science*, 3 (2026).
- Pizzato, F. A., Benetti, F., Carletto, M., & Ambrosini, S. (2025). "Life finds a way": DNA antico, storia e comunicazione della scienza per l'orientamento scolastico. *Scientia*, 2(2).
- Pizzato, F. A. (2025). "Una scaiéta se strenze en la man." Francesco Zorzi uomo e scienziato. In N. Martinelli & M. Saracino (Eds.), *Francesco Zorzi: l'uomo e lo studioso. Memorie del Museo Civico di Storia Naturale di Verona, 2nd series, Series C*, 29-43.
- Pizzato, F. A. (2025). Patrimonio storico-scientifico e cambiamento sociale. Il service-learning nella progettazione di attività significative tra scuola, musei scientifici e università. *Museologia Scientifica - Memorie*, 121-126.
- Ghezzi, A., Falcucci, B., & Pizzato, F. A. (2024). De-costruire il razzismo. Percorsi per la scuola secondaria di primo grado. *Scientia*, 2(1), 119-150.
- Ghiroto, L., & Pizzato, F. A. (2024). Mapping the global qualitative research landscape on dementia: A visualization and bibliographical analysis. *Rivista Sperimentale di Freniatria*, 2, 91-117.
- Pizzato, F. A. (2023). Did-acta. Prospettive integrate. Una rubrica a servizio della progettazione didattica ed educativa per la storia della scienza. *Scientia*, 1(2), 147-151.
- Pizzato, F. A. (2022). Objects of inquiry: Archaeological remains, politics, and the public. *Nuncius*, 37(3), 513-527.
- Pizzato, F. A. (2022). Between the history of the earth and the history of man: Transdisciplinary exchanges in liberal Italy (1861-1915). *Nuncius*, 37(3), 564-589.
- Mortari, L., Bevilacqua, A., Silva, R., & Pizzato, F. A. (2021). L'analisi delle pratiche discorsive come strumento a servizio dell'innovazione didattica nella Higher Education. *Excellence and Innovation in Learning and Teaching*.
- Mortari, L., Pizzato, F. A., Ghiroto, L., & Silva, R. (2020). Pratiche educative per la promozione del civic engagement: una systematic review. *Enciclopedia*.
- Pizzato, F. A. (2015). Archeologia locale, racconto nazionale: La collezione pre-romana del museo civico di Bassano del Grappa e la costruzione di identità nel periodo post-unitario. *Ateneo Veneto*, 201(13/2), 11-30.
- Pizzato, F. A. (2015). Per una storia antropologica della nazione: Mito mediterraneo e costruzione nazionale in Giuseppe Sergi (1880-1919). *Storia del Pensiero Politico*, 2015(1), 25-52.

### Book Chapters (peer-reviewed)

- Pizzato, F. A., Ciancio, L., & Cultraro, M. (2025). Introduzione. In L. Ciancio, M. Cultraro, & F. A. Pizzato (Eds.), *Il tempo profondo dell'umanità* (pp. 6-12). Rome: Carocci.
- Pizzato, F. A. (2025). Migrazione. Popoli e paesi in movimento dall'età preistorica al discorso pubblico attuale - una overview. In L. Ciancio, M. Cultraro, & F. A. Pizzato (Eds.), *Il tempo profondo dell'umanità* (pp. 135-150). Rome: Carocci.
- Pizzato, F. A. (2025). L'obiettivo dell'archeologia. Prospettive di genere sulle pratiche fotografiche di Esther Van Deman (1862-1937) e Federico Halbherr (1857-1930). In L. Ciancio, F. A. Pizzato, & A. Tenca (Eds.), *Pratiche fotografiche* (pp. 149-175). Verona: NatureCulture.
- Pizzato, F. A. (2025). Identità. In M. Piazza & S. Achella (Eds.), *Le parole della filosofia: lemmi dell'inclusione e dell'interculturalità* (pp. 145-155). Rome: Carocci.
- Pizzato, F. A. (2025). Archaeological sociability: Building patriotic and scientific networks in liberal Italy (1861-1915). In L. Coltofean, B. Arnold, & L. Bartosiewicz (Eds.), *Connecting people and ideas* (pp. 97-109). Berlin: Springer.
- Pizzato, F. A. (2024). The journey of prehistoric remains: Re-reading the case of Scoglio del Tonno (1900-1903). In A. Falcucci, D. Giusti, & A. Trentacoste (Eds.), *Travelling matters* (pp. 256-280). Turnhout: Brepols.
- Pizzato, F. A. (2024). Objects in transit: On the theory and practices of archaeological collecting. In L. Coltofean & M. Díaz-Andreu (Eds.), *Oxford handbook of history of archaeology* (pp. 307-324). Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Pizzato, F. A. (2023). La transdisciplinarietà come strumento storiografico: Storia della scienza, archeologia e patrimonio. In *Ad Limena: Atti del National Conference of Italian Society for History of Science SISS*. Milan: Editrice Bibliografica.
- Pizzato, F. A., & Ferrara, V. (2022). Didattica e visuale: I Visual Cultural Studies e le Visual Thinking Strategies come risorsa per l'educazione. In M. Badino et al. (Eds.), *Oltre le due culture*. Trento-Rome: Erickson.
- Colizzi, M. A., Ferrara, V., Pizzato, F. A., & Troiano, M. (2022). Osservare, pensare, comunicare con l'arte e le immagini. In M. Badino et al. (Eds.), *Oltre le due culture*. Trento-Rome: Erickson.
- Mortari, L., Pizzato, F. A., Silva, R., & Bevilacqua, A. (2021). La peer observation nei corsi di laurea internazionali. In *Atti del Convegno Nazionale sul Faculty Development, ASDUNI*.
- Pizzato, F. A. (2019). Didattica, ultima frontiera: Sinergie possibili e avanguardie educative nel contesto della rivoluzione digitale. In F. A. Pizzato (Ed.), *Una nuova frontiera della didattica* (pp. 13-24). Rome: Carocci.
- Pizzato, F. A. (2017). How landscapes make science: Italian national narrative, the Great Mediterranean, and Giuseppe Sergi's biological myth. In B. Fuerst-Bjeliš (Ed.), *The Mediterranean region* (pp. 79-98). Rijeka: InTech.

### Dictionary Entries

- Pizzato, F. A. (2020). Francesco Zorzi. In *Dizionario Biografico degli Italiani*. Rome: Treccani.
- Pizzato, F. A. (2015). Luigi Pigorini. In *Dizionario Biografico degli Italiani*. Rome: Treccani.

### Book and Exhibition Reviews

- Pizzato, F. A. (2024). Exhibition review: The Botanic Museum (Padua). *Nuncius*, 39(1).
- Pizzato, F. A. (2023). Review of Fabiana Dimpflmeier (Ed.), *Folklore, Razza, Fascismo*. *Scientia*, 1.
- Pizzato, F. A. (2015). Review of Elena Zanoni, *Scienza, Patria e Religione. Il Mestiere di Storico*.
- Pizzato, F. A. (2015). Review of Alessandro Guidi (Ed.), *150 anni di Preistoria e Protostoria in Italia*. *European Journal of Archaeology*, 18(4), 38-41.