

Laura Motta  
*Curriculum Vitae*

**Current Position:** Lecturer I, Department of Classical Studies (Winter 2010-present).  
Lecturer I, Department of Anthropology (2012-). Assistant Research Scientist, Museum of Anthropology (2012-), University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

**Previous Academic Positions:**

- Research Investigator. The Kelsey Museum of Archaeology, Museum of Anthropology. University of Michigan, Ann Arbor (2007-2012).
- Lecturer. Department of Anthropology. University of Michigan, Ann Arbor (Winter 2008- Winter 2009).
- Research Associate. Research Laboratories of Archaeology. University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (2002-2007).
- Lecturer. Department of Archaeology, University of Siena (1997-2001).
- Lecturer, Monte Amiata Technical School in Cultural Resource Management (2000).
- In charge of the environmental lab of the Classics Department. University of Rome “La Sapienza” (1995 and 1996).

**Education:**

- PhD in Archaeology, University of Cambridge (defended March 2011). Dissertation title: “The seed of the Roman State. Archaeobotanical assemblages from Archaic Rome”.
- Certificate of Post-Graduate Studies in Archaeological Science. University of Cambridge (1998).
- Laurea in Roman Archaeology (110/110 *summa cum laude*). University of Pisa (1994). Thesis title: "Il sito tardo antico di San Mario. Ricostruzione ambientale e quadro archeologico".
- Workshop ‘New directions in Phytolith analysis’, McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research, Cambridge (March 2000).
- Visiting Scholar. University of Cambridge, George Pitt-Rivers Laboratory for Bioarchaeology (winter 1996-7).
- School in Archaeobotany, Musei Civici di Como (March 1995).

**Awards, Scholarships and Grants:**

- University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. Outstanding Research Mentor Certificate, Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (2012).
- St John’s College, Cambridge. Benefactors’ Scholar (1999-2001).
- AHRB, British Academy, doctoral studentship in the Humanities (1999-2001).
- St John’s College, Cambridge. Research Support Grant (1999 and 2000).
- European Trust. European Student Bursary (1997-1998).
- British School at Rome. Molly Awlyn Cotton Foundation Research Scholarship "Daniela Fusaro". Research project: "Volterra e il suo territorio nella tarda antichità. Un tentativo di storia ambientale" (1995-96).

- Earthwatch Institute, Etruscan Farms Project (1994-1996)

### **Invited Talks and Conference Participations:**

- AIA-APA joint panel *Peasants in Mediterranean Landscapes*, Philadelphia, “Not your run of the mill cereal farmer”. 2012.
- University of Michigan, Museum of Anthropology. “The archaeobotany of state formation in archaic Rome”. 2007.
- University of Cincinnati, Department of Classics. “Archaeobotany in Central Italy”. 2006.
- University of North Carolina. Research Laboratories of Archaeology. Archaeology Program Colloquium. “Current Trends in the Archaeology of Iron Age Rome”. 2005.
- Round Table *Les mutations de la fin de l'age du fer*, “The origins of the state *par excellence*. Power and Society in Iron Age Rome”. Cambridge, 2005.
- American Institute of Archaeology Meeting, San Francisco, “Etruscan and Roman Farmers in Northern Etruria. The site at San Mario and the Cecina Valley Survey, Italy”. 2004.
- University of North Carolina Colloquium, *State formation in Mediterranean and beyond*, “The origins of Rome: an archaeobotanical approach”. 2003.
- Columbia University, Center for the Ancient Mediterranean *The Roman State from the Etruscan Kings to the Plebeian Consuls*, “The origins of Rome: an archaeobotanical approach”, poster presentation. 2002.
- Society for American Archaeology Meeting, Denver, “Planting the seed of Rome”, poster presentation. 2002.
- 12<sup>th</sup> Symposium of the International Work Group for Palaeoethnobotany, Sheffield, “Planting the seed of Rome”. 2001.
- University of Cambridge, Department of Archaeology Brownbag talk, “Recent trends in state formation studies in Italian archaeology”. 2000.
- Society for American Archaeology Meeting, Philadelphia, “The charred seed and the marble apple. Archaeobotany in Classical archaeology”. 2000.
- European Archaeological Association meeting, Ravenna, “Perspectives on environmental archaeology in Italian Classical studies”. 1997.
- M. A. Cotton Lecture, British School at Rome, , “Volterra e il suo territorio nella tarda antichità. Un tentativo di storia ambientale”. 1996.
- Earthwatch Annual PI Conference, Boston, “Excavations at San Mario, Italy”, poster presentation. 1996.

### **Fieldwork:**

- Principal Investigator and Field director. Excavation at S. Mario (Pisa), University of Pisa and University of Rome “La Sapienza” (1992-1996). Funded by Earthwatch.
- Crew chief and Principal Investigator in the Val di Cecina Field Survey, University of Pisa and University of Rome “La Sapienza” (1987-2000). Funded by Earthwatch.
- Field director. Excavation at the Auditorium site, Rome. (1996-1997).
- Trench Supervisor. Excavation at the Northern Slope of the Palatine, Rome (dir. Prof. A. Carandini, University of Rome “La Sapienza”). 1989-1992.

*Environmental Archaeology/Archaeobotany Lab Director at the following sites:*

- Sangro Valley, Italy, University of Oxford and Oberlin College (2012-present)
- Colle Rotondo, Italy, University of Rome 2 (2011-present)
- Pecica - Santul Mare, Romania, University of Michigan (2009-present).
- Rome, Sant'Omobono, University of Michigan (2010-present).
- Gabii, Italy, University of Michigan (2009-present).
- Donoratico, Italy, University of North Carolina (2001-2006).
- Rome, Forum of Trajan (1999).
- Siena, Santa Maria della Scala, Italy, University of Siena (1998).
- Cosa, Italy, American Academy in Rome (1997).
- Rome, Porticus Minucia, University of Siena (1996).
- Rome, Auditorium, Comune di Roma (1996-97).
- Rome, Northern Slope of the Palatine (1992-present).
- San Mario, Italy (1992-1996).
- Roman Villas at S. Pietro - Tolve e S. Gilio - Oppido, Italy (1992-1996).

**Courses taught:**

Introduction to Field Archaeology, Introduction to Roman Archaeology, Archaeobotany, Plants in Archaeology, Food in Antiquity.

In Italian: Environmental Archaeology, Quantitative Methods in Archaeology.

**Thesis Supervision:**

Lauren Kreinbrink, in progress, Honors Thesis, University of Michigan, 2013. Advisor.

Victoria Moses, *Status and meat consumption in Pompeii: Diet and its Social Implications through the Analysis of Ancient Primary Sources and Zooarchaeological Remains*. Honors Thesis, University of Michigan, 2012. Advisor.

Sarah Oas, *Santul Mic (Romania). Paleoethnobotany of an Early Bronze Age settlement*. Honors Thesis, University of Michigan, 2010. Advisor.

M. Rosaria Borzetti, *The Late Bronze Age-Iron Age transition in Central Italy*, Tesi di Laurea, University of Siena, 2001.

Michela Valdambri, *Compared flotation methods and their recovery rates*, Tesi di Diploma, University of Siena, 2000.

Giovanna Naldi, *The History of Bread: a Museum display*, Tesi di Diploma, University of Siena, 2000.

**Undergraduate and Graduate Research Supervision:**

Stephanie Berger, Rebecca Bonner, Amber Ashwanden, Clara Reini, Meghana Kulkarmi, Nina Barraco, Kush Sharma, Kelly Gillikin (undergraduates). Angela Committo, Jessie Lipkowitz (graduate).

**Academic reviewing and refereeing:**

Reviewer of manuscripts submitted for publication: *Journal of Roman Archaeology*, *Journal of Anthropological Archaeology*, *University of Michigan Research Journal*.

**Other Academic Service:**

Department of Anthropology, UROP Research Sponsor, 2010-present.

IPCAA Prelims Committee, Ivan Cangemi, 2011

Department of Classical Studies, Undergraduate Affairs Committee, 2010-11.

**Professional activities:**

Cooperativa ASTRA-Archeologia Stratigrafica (CRM firm). Pisa. Vice-President (1996-1999).

Consultant for environmental archaeology. Museo Archeologico di Rosignano M.mo (Italy).

Conference organizer, American Academy in Rome/British School at Rome (1995).

*Publications***Articles in refereed journals:**

J. O'Shea, A. Barker, L. Motta, A. Szentmiklosi, "Archaeological Investigations at Pecica "Șanțul Mare" 2006 – 2009", *Analele Banatului*, XIX, 2011, 67-78.

L. Motta, "Planting the seed of Rome", *Vegetation History and Archaeobotany*, 11, 2002, 71-78.

L. Motta, "I paesaggi di Volterra nel tardoantico", *Archeologia Medievale*, 24, 1997, 245-268.

**Articles in non-refereed journals:**

L. Motta, L. Camin, N. Terrenato, "Un sito rurale nel territorio di Volterra", *Bollettino di Archeologia*, 22-24, 1993, 109-116.

**Book Sections:**

L. Motta, 2011 "Seeds and the city. Archaeobotany and state formation in early Rome", in N. Terrenato, D.C. Haggis, eds., *State Formation in Italy and Greece: Questioning the Neoevolutionist Paradigm*, Oxford, Oxbow, 245-255.

L. Motta, N. Terrenato, 2006, "The origins of the state *par excellence*. Power and society in Iron Age Rome", in C. C. Haselgrove, ed., *Celtes et Gaulois, l'Archéologie face à l'Histoire, 4: les mutations de la fin de l'âge du Fer*, Glux-en-Glenne, Bibracte, pp. 225-234.

N. Terrenato, L. Motta, 2006, "Uno stato debole? Alcune riflessioni su potere pubblico e potere privato in Roma arcaica", in *Studi di protostoria in onore di Renato Peroni*, Florence, Insegna del Giglio, 764-768.

L. Motta, "La Val di Cecina: il quadro ambientale", in E. Regoli, N. Terrenato, eds., *Guida al Museo Archeologico di Rosignano Marittimo. Paesaggi e insediamenti in Val di Cecina*, Siena, Nuova Immagine, 2000, pp. 12-23.

- L. Motta, “La Fattoria di San Mario: lo scavo”, in E. Regoli, N. Terrenato, eds., *Guida al Museo Archeologico di Rosignano Marittimo. Paesaggi e insediamenti in Val di Cecina*, Siena, Nuova Immagine, 2000, pp. 132-133.
- L. Motta, “La Fattoria di San Mario: l’ambiente”, in E. Regoli, N. Terrenato, eds., *Guida al Museo Archeologico di Rosignano Marittimo. Paesaggi e insediamenti in Val di Cecina*, Siena, Nuova Immagine, 2000, pp. 134-135.
- L. Motta, “I reperti ambientali”, in M. Munzi, N. Terrenato, eds., *Volterra. Il teatro e le terme*, Florence, Insegna del Giglio, 2000, pp. 185-186.
- P. Brocato, L. Motta, “Area I”, in M. Munzi, N. Terrenato, eds., *Volterra. Il teatro e le terme*, Florence, Insegna del Giglio, 2000, pp. 139-143.

**Dictionary entries:**

- L. Motta, “Archeologia ambientale” in R. Francovich, D. Manacorda, eds., *Dizionario di Archeologia*, Rome, 2000, pp. 3-4.
- L. Motta, “Archeobotanica” in R. Francovich, D. Manacorda, eds., *Dizionario di Archeologia*, Rome, 2000, pp. 14-18.
- L. Motta, “Bioarcheologia” in R. Francovich, D. Manacorda, eds., *Dizionario di Archeologia*, Rome, 2000, pp. 44-46.

**In preparation:**

- L. Motta, “Changing perspective with seeds and bones. A case study from Central Italy”, to be submitted to *Journal of Mediterranean Archaeology*.
- L. Motta, ed., *The Etrusco-Roman farm at Podere San Mario*, final excavation report in preparation for the BAR series.
- L. Motta et al., *The Cecina Valley Survey*, final survey report.