

Vittorio Fronza

Personal profile - Short CV

Summary

I am a Medieval Archaeologist with a strong digital background, acquired since childhood in the late 1970s. After obtaining an IT secondary school diploma in 1991, I began my archaeological education and academic career at the University of Siena, where I earned an MA (1999) and a PhD (2005), both in Medieval Archaeology. Since 1994, I have been one of the original and leading members of the Laboratory of IT Applied to Medieval Archaeology (LIAAM), an internationally recognised research team and a point of reference for the technological development of many Italian academic groups working in cultural heritage.

From 2000 to 2011 I served as Adjunct Professor at the University of Siena, teaching BA and MA courses in digital archaeology. From 2010 to 2016 I was a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the same university. I held the Italian National Scientific Qualification for the role of Associate Professor in Archaeology from 2014 to 2026.

I have been actively involved in major research projects since 1996, also assuming planning, fundraising and management responsibilities from 2001 onwards. Since 1992 I have gained extensive field experience, mainly as site supervisor and field director on long-term research excavations of medieval sites in Tuscany. Since 2018 I have also worked as a freelance archaeologist, carrying out rescue excavations and preliminary archaeological investigations, mainly in Tuscany and Emilia-Romagna.

In 2010 I co-founded Archeòtipo s.r.l., a spin-off company of the University of Siena specialising in archaeological and cultural heritage services, with a particular focus on public archaeology.

Since 2021 I have also worked as a support teacher in Italian upper-secondary schools. In 2025 I completed a postgraduate specialisation at the University of Macerata, with a dissertation on archaeology-based educational pathways for students with visual impairments. This experience has broadened my interest in inclusion, accessibility and participatory education.

I am the author of 60 scientific publications (since 1996) and have presented my research at 47 national and international seminars and conferences (since 1997).

Research interests

My main research interests concern Late Antique and Early Medieval timber and earthen architecture in Italy, while the study of settlement networks of the same period represents a complementary line of investigation. Archaeometallurgy, particularly iron production processes, is another field I have explored. Digital archaeology, grounded in a quantitative approach based on statistical and spatial analysis, provides the principal—though not exclusive—theoretical and methodological framework for most of my research. Within this field, I have focused particularly on the design of conceptual and logical models and on the development of archaeological information systems (GIS and DBMS).

The distinctive combination of research topics and chronological focus requires a strong European perspective, particularly in relation to the archaeology of Central and Northern Europe, which has gradually become a further and complementary research interest.

Extensive fieldwork has always accompanied these research lines, fostering the investigation of methodological issues related to the interpretation of archaeological contexts. Since 2010, I have also developed a growing interest in experimental archaeology, historical reconstruction and living history, which I regard as effective forms of public archaeology and as powerful means of communicating complex historical and archaeological knowledge to wider audiences.

Languages

Italian	<i>Native</i>
English	<i>Fluent</i>
German	<i>Intermediate</i>
Spanish	<i>Pre-intermediate</i>
French	<i>Elementary/pre-intermediate</i>

Current positions and qualifications

2021-present	High School support teacher
2018-present	Freelance Professional Archaeologist and independent researcher
2007-present	Honorary fellow in Medieval Archaeology at the Department of Historical Sciences and Cultural Heritage of the University of Siena

Education

2025	Postgraduate Specialization for Support Teaching (Ministerial Decree 75/2025) University of Macerata, Italy. Awarded with full marks (30/30; thesis supervisor: Prof. Paolo Creati)
2005	PhD (Medieval Archaeology) University of Siena, Italy (in a consortium with the Universities of Pisa, Venice, Padua and Genoa; tutors: Prof. R. Francovich and Prof. M. Valenti).
1999	MA degree (Medieval Archaeology) University of Siena, Italy. Awarded with full marks and honour (110/110 <i>cum laude</i> , dissertation coord. prof. R. Francovich, advisor prof. M. Valenti).

Research

04/02/2014- 04/02/2026	National Scientific Qualification for Associate Professor Holder of the National Scientific Qualification for the role of Associate Professor in Archaeology ("Abilitazione Scientifica Nazionale alle funzioni di Professore Universitario di II fascia nel S.C. 10/A1- Archeologia").
2004-2020	PRIN (Projects of National Relevant Interest) Participation in 4 PRIN research projects, as a member of the Siena University units locally coordinated by Prof. M. Valenti, carrying out assigned <u>research activity</u> and helping the coordinator with the project <u>management duties</u> , being also regularly in charge of coordinating the research proposal <u>drafting phase</u> and producing the intermediate and final <u>research/financial reports</u> .
2000-2018	Research contracts Holder of several research collaboration contracts, mostly at the University of Siena, for a total of 45 months.
2009-2017	Scholarships/grants Holder of several short-term scholarships and grants at the University of Siena, for a total of 15 months.
2010-2016	Post-doctoral Research Fellowships Post-doc Research fellow in Medieval Archaeology at the University of Siena (scientific supervisor: Prof. M. Valenti), for a total of 72 months.
2001-2008	Project "Archaeology of Medieval Landscapes" Member of the research and management team of the project, an important joint programme of the Siena University and the Monte dei Paschi of Siena Bank Foundation.

- 1995-Present Field activity: archaeological excavations
Area supervisor and/or field director of several research archaeological excavations of the University of Siena and rescue excavations as a freelance archaeologist. Among them: Poggio Imperiale in Poggibonsi (prov. Siena), 1996-2001 and 2017; Siena Cathedral, 2000-2001; Castle of Miranduolo (prov. Siena), 2001-2016; Comacchio- S. Agostino (prov. Ferrara), 2020; Rocca di Montalcino (prov. Siena), August- October 2020; Villa Verucchio-SCM Group (prov. Rimini), July-September 2022; Castle of Macereto (Murlo, prov. Siena), July-September 2025.
- 1995-2019 Univeristy of Siena, LIAAM (Laboratory of IT Applied to Medieval Archaeology) membership
Founding member, in charge of database management applications, conceptual data modeling and all the development activities of archaeological information systems.

Academic teaching and tutoring

- 1999-2020 Thesis tutoring
Tutor of many (at least 45) BA and MA degree thesis in "Computer applications in Archaeology" and in "Medieval Archaeology" at the University of Siena.
- 2003-2019 Graduation commissions. Thesis coordinator/co-examiner
Member of many University MA graduation commissions at the University of Siena. Coordinator of 2 BA degree thesis in "IT applied to Archaeology" and co-examiner of many MA degree thesis in the courses of "Medieval Archaeology" and "IT applied to Archaeology".
- 2000-2011 Adjunct professorship
Adjunct professor ("professore a contratto") at the University of Siena, teaching several different BA, MA and Master Programmes courses related to digital humanities (mostly digital archaeology).

Other teaching experiences

- 2021-Present High school support teacher
Support teacher in different high schools of the Italian province of Forlì-Cesena, working within the classes with disabled students (autism, Down syndrome, personality and behaviour disorders).
- 2015-2018 Summer School "The materiality of History"
Lecturer at the Summer School "The materiality of History: experimental archaeology and living history. The formation of a new figure of cultural heritage operator" , organized yearly by Archeòtipo s.r.l. at the Poggibonsi Archaeodrome
- 1995-2003 Professional placement courses
Lecturer at several cultural heritage professional placement courses, organized by the University of Siena together with local administrations, teaching mainly digital archaeology. courses

Public archaeology and Heritage communication

- 2010-Present Company partnership
Founding partner of Archeòtipo s.r.l., a spin-off company of the University of Siena operating in the field of cultural heritage services. In the period 2016-2022, also vice- president of the same company.
- 2011-Present Poggibonsi Archaeodrome
Collaboration at the planning, building and managing of the Archaeodrome in Poggibonsi (prov. Siena), a full scale reconstruction of the Carolingian age village (9th- 10th century AD) excavated at the site.

Other relevant positions and titles

- 2007-Present Honorary Fellowship
Honorary fellow ("Cultore della materia") in Medieval Archaeology at the Department of Historical Sciences and Cultural Heritage of the University of Siena.
- 2000-Present Society of Italian Medieval Archaeologists (SAMI)
Member of the Society. In the period 2008-2011, also member of the Auditors Board of the same Society.

Selected Conferences

(On the whole, speaker at 46 national and international seminars/conferences, since 1997)

1. Seminar *Ars lignea. Raw materials, medieval architecture and multidisciplinary*, Rome, Spanish School of History and Archaeology in Rome (EEHAR-CSIC), 12-13 November 2024. Invited paper: *Tools and materials for an atlas of early medieval construction in perishable material*.
International Conference *Clay, Timber and Perishable Materials in Ancient Architecture*. Padova, Palazzo Liviano, 3-5 June 2021. Talk: *Riconoscere, interpretare, portare a sintesi. Griglie di lettura dei contesti stratigrafici e proposta tipologica per lo studio dell'edilizia in legno e in terra. (Recognize, interpret, synthesize. Grids for reading stratigraphic contexts and proposal of a typology for the study of timber and earthen buildings)*.
2. *VIII Congresso Nazionale di Archeologia Medievale*. Matera, Chiesa del Cristo Flagellato (ex Ospedale di San Rocco), 12-15 September 2018. Talk: *Poggio Imperiale a Poggibonsi (SI). Due botteghe di fabbro del XIII secolo: gli spazi di lavoro*.
3. Seminar *Ricostruzione storica per il racconto della quotidianità: dalle fonti alla narrazione. Contesti archeologici e loro rappresentazione (Historical reconstruction to tell everyday life: from sources to narration)* Siena, Auditorium Santa Chiara Lab, 10 maggio 2017. Talk: *Dai dati di scavo alla ricostruzione di capanne: il caso dell'Archeodromo di Poggibonsi (From excavation data to the reconstruction of huts: the case of the Poggibonsi Archaeodrome)*.
4. *Storia e Archeologia globale dei paesaggi rurali in Italia fra Tardoantico e Medioevo. Sistemi integrati di fonti, metodi e tecnologie per uno sviluppo sostenibile*. Final conference of the PRIN 2010-2011 Project (Foggia, 10-12 December 2015). Talk with M. Valenti: *OpenArcheo 2: una webapp per la conoscenza archeologica dei paesaggi*.
5. *Von der römischen Villa zum frühmittelalterlichen Dorf in Bayern. Strukturveränderungen der Siedlungslandschaft in spät- und nachantiker Zeit*. Interdisziplinäres Kolloquium, Benediktbeuern 5-6 October 2015, organized by Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München e Bayerische Landesamt für Denkmalpflege. Talk: *Timber buildings in Italy (5th - 8th c. AD): a socio-economic indicator*.
6. *ArcheoFOSS 2014 - IX Workshop Free, libre and open source software e open format nei processi di ricerca archeologica*. Verona, 19-20 June 2014, Università degli Studi di Verona - Dipartimento Tempo, Spazio, Immagine e Società (TeSIS). Talk: *Openarcho2. I perché di un knowledge-base*.
7. *Indicatori, strumenti e interpretazioni archeologiche per una storia dell'alto medioevo*. International Conference. Padova – Palazzo del Bo, 25-27 March 2010. Talk: *Edilizia in legno nell'Italia altomedievale: appunti per un'agenda della ricerca*.
8. *Recerca avançada en arqueologia medieval*. V Curs Internacional d'Arqueologia Medieval. LLeida (Espanya), 11-12 marzo 2010. Relazione: *Archeologia e informatica applicata. Dalla modellazione del dato alla produzione di conoscenza*.
9. *WAC-6. 6th World Archaeological Congress*. Dublin 29 June – 4 July 2008. Talk with Andrea Scotti and Marco Valenti: *Sharing archaeological information: testing Pinakes 3.0 on a Tuscan medieval archaeology dataset*.
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Selected Publications

(On the whole, the author of 60 scientific publications, since 1996)

1. FRONZA V., SANTANGELI VALENZANI R. 2020, *Tecniche costruttive dell'edilizia residenziale tardo antica e altomedievale*, in CASTIGLIA G., PERGOLA Ph. (eds.), *Instrumentum Domesticum. Archeologia Cristiana, temi, metodologie e cultura materiale della tarda antichità e dell'alto medioevo*, vol. 1, Città del Vaticano, Pontificio Istituto di Archeologia Cristiana, pp. 529-564.
2. FRONZA V. 2019, *Timber buildings in Italy (5th-8th c. AD): a socio-economic indicator*, in HABERSTROH J., HEITMEIER I. (eds.), *Gründerzeit. Siedlung in Bayern zwischen Spätantike und Frühmittelalter*, St. Ottilien, EOS Verlag, pp. 315-354
3. FRONZA V., 2018, *From excavation to reconstruction of timber buildings at the Archeodromo of Poggibonsi (Siena, Italy)*, in VALENTI M., RICCI S., FRONZA V. (eds.), *Dalle fonti alla narrazione. Ricostruzione storica per il racconto della quotidianità*, Firenze, All'Insegna del Giglio, pp. 67- 84.
4. FRONZA V., 2016, *Timber and Earth in the Architecture of Italian Early Medieval Fortified Sites (8th-10th Centuries AD)*, in CHRISTIE N., HEROLD H. (eds.), *Fortified Settlements in Early Medieval Europe: Defended Communities of the 8th-10th Centuries*, Oxford, OUP, pp. 302-319.
5. FRONZA V., 2016, *Openarcheo2. An archaeological knowledge base*, in BASSO P., CARVALE A., GROSSI P. (eds.), *ArcheoFOSS. Free, libre and open source software e open format nei processi di ricerca archeologica*. Atti del IX Workshop (Verona 19-20 giugno 2014), «Archeologia e Calcolatori», Supplemento 8, Firenze, All'Insegna del Giglio, pp. 254-262.
6. FRONZA V. 2011, *Edilizia in materiali deperibili nell'alto medioevo italiano: metodologie e casi di studio per un'agenda della ricerca*, «PCA Post-Classical Archaeologies», 1, pp. 95-138.
7. FRONZA V., 2009, *L'archiviazione del dato in archeologia*, in FRONZA V., NARDINI A., VALENTI M. (eds.), *Informatica e Archeologia Medievale. L'esperienza senese*, Firenze, All'Insegna del Giglio, pp. 29-43.
8. FRONZA V., 2008, *Tecniche costruttive in legno e in terra*, in VALENTI M. (ed.), *Miranduolo in alta Val di Merse (Chiusdino – SI). Archeologia su un sito di potere del Medioevo toscano*, Firenze, All'Insegna del Giglio, pp. 245-282.
9. BOSCATO P., FRONZA V., SALVADORI F., 2003, *Proposal of a faunal remains database*, in Proceedings of the 9th Conference of the International Council for Archaeozoology (ICAZ). Durham (UK), 23-28 agosto 2002, «Archaeofauna. International Journal of Archaeozoology», 12, pp. 113-126.
10. FRONZA V., NARDINI A., VALENTI M., 2003, *An integrated information system for archaeological data management: latest developments*, in DOERR M., SARRIS A. (eds.), *CAA2002. The digital heritage of Archaeology*. Proceedings of the 30th International Conference. Heraklion (Crete, April 2002), Athens, Hellenic Ministry of Culture, pp. 147-153.

LEGALLY BINDING STATEMENT (pursuant to articles 46 and 47 of the Italian Presidential Decree 445/2000)

I, the undersigned Vittorio Fronza, aware that false declarations will be prosecuted by law (art. 76 of Italian Presidential Decree 445/2000), hereby declare that all the informations provided in this "Personal profile - Short CV" are true, correct and complete.

Cesena, 19 July 2026

Vittorio Fronza

