



**HAL**  
open science

## Growing up in an Italian Copper Age community: the role of children in everyday life

Sara Bernardini, Gwenaëlle Goude, Kerry L. Sayle, Caroline Gauthier, Eric Douville, Biancamaria Aranguren, Antonietta del Bove, Mary Anne Tafuri

► **To cite this version:**

Sara Bernardini, Gwenaëlle Goude, Kerry L. Sayle, Caroline Gauthier, Eric Douville, et al.. Growing up in an Italian Copper Age community: the role of children in everyday life. *Bulletins et Mémoires de la Société d'anthropologie de Paris*, 2023, 35, 10.4000/bmsap.10826 . hal-03982407

**HAL Id: hal-03982407**

**<https://hal.science/hal-03982407v1>**

Submitted on 10 Feb 2023

**HAL** is a multi-disciplinary open access archive for the deposit and dissemination of scientific research documents, whether they are published or not. The documents may come from teaching and research institutions in France or abroad, or from public or private research centers.

L'archive ouverte pluridisciplinaire **HAL**, est destinée au dépôt et à la diffusion de documents scientifiques de niveau recherche, publiés ou non, émanant des établissements d'enseignement et de recherche français ou étrangers, des laboratoires publics ou privés.



Distributed under a Creative Commons Attribution - NonCommercial - NoDerivatives 4.0 International License

---

## Growing up in an Italian Copper Age community: the role of children in everyday life

*Grandir dans une communauté de l'âge du Cuivre en Italie : le rôle des enfants  
dans la vie quotidienne*

**Sara Bernardini, Gwenaëlle Goude, Kerry L. Sayle, Caroline Gauthier, Eric  
Douville, Biancamaria Aranguren, Antonietta Del Bove et Mary Anne Tafuri**

---



### Édition électronique

URL : <https://journals.openedition.org/bmsap/10826>  
ISSN : 1777-5469

### Éditeur

Société d'Anthropologie de Paris

### Référence électronique

Sara Bernardini, Gwenaëlle Goude, Kerry L. Sayle, Caroline Gauthier, Eric Douville, Biancamaria Aranguren, Antonietta Del Bove et Mary Anne Tafuri, « Growing up in an Italian Copper Age community: the role of children in everyday life », *Bulletins et mémoires de la Société d'Anthropologie de Paris* [En ligne], 35(S) | 2023, mis en ligne le 14 janvier 2023, consulté le 19 janvier 2023. URL : <http://journals.openedition.org/bmsap/10826>

---

Ce document a été généré automatiquement le 19 janvier 2023.



Creative Commons - Attribution - Pas d'Utilisation Commerciale - Pas de Modification 4.0 International  
- CC BY-NC-ND 4.0

<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/>

---

# Growing up in an Italian Copper Age community: the role of children in everyday life

*Grandir dans une communauté de l'âge du Cuivre en Italie : le rôle des enfants dans la vie quotidienne*

Sara Bernardini, Gwenaëlle Goude, Kerry L. Sayle, Caroline Gauthier, Eric Douville, Biancamaria Aranguren, Antonietta Del Bove et Mary Anne Tafuri

---

- 1 The study of children's role in past communities is difficult to face in archaeology. An active contribution of the children in everyday life varies within societies and cultures, as well as the social and biological definition of childhood. In Central Italy, specific funerary customs for subadults are documented in the Copper Age (4<sup>th</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> millennia BCE) according to age classes. Here we propose to investigate childhood in an Italian Copper Age human group by a multi-isotope analysis ( $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ ,  $\delta^{15}\text{N}$ ,  $\delta^{34}\text{S}$  and  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$ ) on dentine/enamel and bone of two adult individuals, from the funerary cave of Grotta Spinosa (Central Italy). The reconstruction of the dietary intake variation and of the displacements occurred during early-life was compared to the adult values and to those of the rest of the group analysed, as well as the few comparative data available from prehistoric Italy. The framework obtained from this multi-tissue and multi-isotope study helped to shed light on experiences previously only suggested by the archaeological and skeletal evidence (i.e. passage to adulthood, and children's implication in community life). The interpretation of the isotopic data in the light of the archaeological and biological information available, from the cave and the region (Central Italy), allowed us to suggest an age interval (ca. 10-12 y.o.) in which the children were likely involved in the "adult's" tasks. This exploratory study highlights the interest of geochemical tools applied on archaeological remains and the need to develop further high-resolution and multi-tissue sampling when investigating particular past population practices.

---

## AUTEURS

### **SARA BERNARDINI**

UMR 7269 LAMPEA, Aix Marseille Univ, CNRS, Minist Culture, Aix-en-Provence, France ;  
Department of Environmental Biology, Sapienza University of Rome, Rome, Italy  
bernardinis90[at]gmail.com

### **GWENAËLLE GOUDE**

UMR 7269 LAMPEA, Aix Marseille Univ, CNRS, Minist Culture, Aix-en-Provence, France

### **KERRY L. SAYLE**

Scottish Universities Environmental Research Centre, Scottish Enterprise Technology Park, East  
Kilbride, United Kingdom

### **CAROLINE GAUTHIER**

UMR 8212 Laboratoire des Sciences du Climat et de l'Environnement, LSCE/IPSL, CEA-CNRS-  
UVSQ, Université Paris-Saclay, Gif-sur-Yvette, France

### **ERIC DOUVILLE**

UMR 8212 Laboratoire des Sciences du Climat et de l'Environnement, LSCE/IPSL, CEA-CNRS-  
UVSQ, Université Paris-Saclay, Gif-sur-Yvette, France

### **BIANCAMARIA ARANGUREN**

Soprintendenza Archeologica, Belle Arti e Paesaggio della Toscana, Firenze, Italy

### **ANTONIETTA DEL BOVE**

Universitat Rovira i Virgili, Departament d'Història de l'Art, Tarragona, Spain ; Institut Català de  
Paleoecologia Humana i Evocluació Social (IPHES-CERCA), Tarragona, Spain

### **MARY ANNE TAFURI**

Department of Environmental Biology, Sapienza University of Rome, Italy