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Propositions belonging to the PhD thesis:

Spatial patterns in landscape archaeology

A GIS procedure to study settlement organization in early Roman colonial territories

by Anita Casarotto

1. The archaeological surface record is currently being dramatically damaged and, in many areas of the world, disappearing very quickly. Regional investigations will therefore increasingly depend on legacy survey data. (This thesis, Chapter 5)
2. The significant differences in site density and pattern highlighted in the deductive analysis are difficult to reconcile with the conventional idea of neatly partitioned Roman colonial territories, but fit the new nucleated settlement hypothesis well. (This thesis, Chapter 3)
3. The site patterns recorded for the Aesernia region are not the result of visibility and geomorphological biases. (This thesis, Chapter 4)
4. The inductive analysis corroborates both the new nucleated settlement theory and Von Thünen's prediction of higher site density closer to the colonial town. (This thesis, Chapter 6)
5. Early colonial-period sites cluster in those zones of the landscape that were marginal or unoccupied in the pre-colonial period. (This thesis, Chapter 6)
6. When using legacy survey data for settlement pattern analysis, it is better to apply first a deductive approach and then an inductive approach. The contrary is less effective.
7. Legacy site-based survey data are used best to detect macro patterns.
8. A deductive approach to survey data does not permit establishing which settlement theory is true, but it can reveal which one is more probable to be correct.
9. Archaeologists must devise tailor-made detectability analyses for their survey dataset.
10. If Hamlet had been an archaeologist, he might have said: "Absence of evidence, or biased evidence: that is the question".