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Correlations between archaeology, ethno-linguistics and ethno-philology (Francesco Benozzo)

This research project consists in the application of Palaeolithic Continuity Theory (PCT) (see www.continuitas.com) to the field of European Archaeology and Ethno-philology. In the last Annual Meeting in Riva del Garda, I gave a paper providing a few examples of this new approach, studying in particular prehistoric incubatio (the practice of remaining for a long period inside a cave, in order to receive, through a dream, some sort of revelation/inspiration or healing). Starting from a reconsideration of the problem of folkloric, dialectal and oral remains in the frame of an epistemologically renewed approach, incubatio has been treated from different points of view, pointing out that sources studied by ethno-philology could be regarded as the only material evidence for many unresolved subjects approached by archaeology. This research operates on three main levels: 1) The linguistic one; 2) the folkloric one; and 3) the one documented by early written texts. The paper given in Riva del Garda (title: Sounds of the Silent Cave. An Ethno-philological Perspective on Prehistoric incubatio) represents a new starting point, after ten years of field-research on various subjects, such as the totemic motivation behind dialect names of animals and atmospheric phenomena and the prehistoric motivation of many dialect names of hand-tools and crafts. Previous archaeological-ethno-philological data were presented in the last congress of WAC ('World Archaeological Congress'), which took place in Dublin in July 2007, where I offered a representative exemplification of the evidence of a continuity from prehistory given by dialect names and legends related to European megaliths (title: Names and Legends of European Megaliths: Evidence of an Ethno-linguistic Continuity from Prehistory).

Images: My research project is now mainly concentrated on the structural correlation between prehistoric archaeological areas and contemporary linguistic areas: as an example, I include an illustration showing the correlation between the area of Megalithism (right) and the area of consonantal lention (left) in Celtic, Germanic and Romance languages (taken from Al inci-Benozzo, Megalithism).

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