Deep Mapping the Thoughts and Emotions Evoked by the Historical Attractions of Sicily during the Grand Tour

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Abstract: This article presents an interdisciplinary approach which includes digital humanities, emotionology, and spatial humanities applied to an archaeological context. The aim is to produce a digital deep map, by means of the Geographical Information System (GIS), of the historical attractions of Sicily, Italy, depicting the emotional responses, and the opinions described in the travelogues of the Grand Tour travellers. Mapping the emotions and opinions of the travellers reveals the idea that Northern and Central European travellers had of Sicily. The article compares different historical landmarks and demonstrates that travellers had a major interest in Greek and Roman antiquities. However, we can see that there were also conflicting impressions about the same material evidence, or area. The combination of emotionology, archaeology, and spatial humanities helps in reasoning about the role of antiquities, the sense of place, and the identity of places and people.

Keywords: deep map; Grand Tour; Sicily; antiquarianism; emotionology.

Introduction

The Grand Tour and the *anticomania*

In 1670, the travel journal titled *Voyage of Italy,* written by the British priest Richard Lassels, began publication and circulation in Paris. In this work, the term Grand Tour appeared for the first time, indicating the educational journey to Italy and France that young scholars fond of antiquities, arts, and architecture should undertake (Lassels and Wilson 1670). The Grand Tour was not considered only as a study trip, but above all as an experience to fortify and train young aristocratic males; thus, to build an elite manhood (Sweet 2012, 23). The journeys lasted months, or years, and the main destination was Rome, although some travellers also reached South Italy, Greece,

and the Near East. A major scholar of this phenomenon, Cesare De Seta, dates the end of the Grand Tour journeys to 1796, when Napoleon invaded Italy (De Seta 2014, 11). A quite recent and valuable work that shows the attraction that Southern Italy exerted over Grand Tour travellers is represented by the study completed by Manuela D'Amore on the activities of the Royal Society (D'Amore 2017). Her research shows the type of interests that the British had towards Sicily, and how such a journey to Southern Europe influenced their own identity and opinions about one of the most remote places in the Mediterranean.

Several Grand Tour travellers were antiquities lovers: some portrayed the ruins of ancient cities, others left detailed descriptions of monuments, while others collected ancient objects. The "*anticomania*", as it was called by Pinelli, characterized the 18th century in Europe; already in the following century, the cult for the ancient culture was reduced (Pinelli 2010). Some journeys were real archaeological expeditions, such as those organized by the Society of Dilettanti (Kelly 2010). The travel journals constitute important evidence of the antiquities the travellers examined. These texts are not only reports of what they saw, but they are also a manifestation of the subjective experiences the travellers lived during their journey. Moving from town to town, they experienced different emotions, that helped them to form their own opinions about the places visited. Edward Gibbon wrote about his trip to Rome:

> My temper is not very susceptible of enthusiasm, and the enthusiasm which I do not feel I have ever scorned to affect. But at the distance of twenty-five years, I can neither forget nor express the strong emotions which agitated my mind as I first approached and entered the *Eternal City*. After a sleepless night, I trod, with a lofty step, the ruins of the Forum; each memorable spot where Romulus stood, or Tully spoke, or Caesar fell, was at once present to my eye: and several days of intoxication were lost or enjoyed before I could descend to a cool and minute investigation. (Gibbon and Smeaton 1911, 69).

Despite the numerous references to personal experiences contained in the travel journals, they have not been fully investigated yet. To the best of my knowledge, only two scholars have focused their research on emotions and experiences narrated in Grand Tour travel writing. Chloe Chard examined, from a linguistic perspective, the way good (for instance pleasure and familiarity) and bad (for example danger and delusion) sensations were expressed in the travel writing of the Grand Tour (Chard 1999, 2014). Sarah Goldsmith investigated first the nostalgia and homesickness experienced by the Grand Tourists, and the way they described it (Goldsmith 2018). Later on, she concentrated on the experience of danger during the Grand Tour, and how it is related to the travellers' identity (Goldsmith 2020).

Emotionology

Emotions are a key aspect of human life and contribute to shaping societies and places. The study of past emotions has always been quite neglected, probably because it is something subjective and difficult to measure, but in the last 20 years, the sub-field of emotionology has been developing. These historians study the emotions of the past, and the ways they are expressed, through texts (such as letters, interviews, diaries, and novels), graphical representations (paintings, drawings, sculptures), and material culture (objects), in order to understand how emotions evolve in time and across different societies, and why (Barclay 2020). Actually, the word emotion itself is discussed since it is quite a new term that has different meanings in different cultures and times (Rosenwein and Cristiani 2018). Unfortunately, antiquities are not yet much considered in the sub-field of emotionology (Marchant 2017) from an archaeological perspective. As Miller and Louis stated, the way that we are touched by ancient objects is inexplicable (Miller and Louis 2012). Taking a more general perspective, Sarah Tarlow has well investigated and explained the importance of applying emotionology in archaeology, as well the challenges this approach entails (Tarlow 2000, 2012). In this respect, some progress has been made by Angelos Chaniotis who explored the display and the creation of emotions in the Greek and Roman world (Chaniotis 2021).

I intend to highlight how emotions, perceptions, and memories play a fundamental role in *forming* opinions, as demonstrated in studies about political judgements (Kühne et al. 2011), immigrations (Lechler, Bos, and Vliegenthart 2015), and social media (Mansouri, Taghiyareh, and Hatami 2018). Especially travel experiences are characterized by emotional impacts which influenced the ideas about visited places. The feelings expressed in the travelogues produced by Northern and Central European travellers exploring Mediterranean areas could contribute to comprehend the general idea people of these countries had about Southern Europe. What role had antiquities, and other historical attractions, in shaping positive or negative opinions in the minds of foreigners? How were Mediterranean antiquities conceptualized? Using deep mapping, the aim of this article is to investigate (and map) the emotions and opinions Grand Tour travellers described in their travel journals when visiting historical *loci* of interest in Sicily.

Deep Mapping

Sicily was not easy to reach and visit, because of the brigands, the lack of inns, and the dangerous routes, but the fascination of *Magna Graecia* was strong enough to attract adventurers (Bedin 2017). The representation on a map of the impressions and opinions of travellers is advantageous because

it allows us to visualize them in relation with the places and the points of interest that attracted them, facilitating the process of analysis and comprehension of the history of places, and their identity. There is no unique definition for deep map, but several scholars have attempted to explain the concept (Aitken 2015, 103; Bodenhamer 2015, 24; Bodenhamer, Corrigan, and Harris 2015, 3; Harris 2015, 31–39; Warf 2015, 135–136; Engel 2018; Donaldson 2020, 214–215). The definition used here sees deep map as including both quantitative and qualitative data, because its purpose is to represent not only the geographical and geometrical characteristics of places, but also their stories and their relationship to each other, and with people. The main function of a deep map is the narration of stories and the representation of their complexity, which will raise new questions about the identity of places. To quote Donaldson:

> In practice, deep mapping involves accumulating different kinds of geographical and attribute information, and submitting that information to comparative analysis and inquiry. The aim of such analysis and inquiry is, of course, not only to facilitate considerations of the differences between the past and present characteristics of a given location, locality, or region but also to explore the continuous interplay between past and present that informs how the location, locality, or region in question is perceived, experienced, and understood. (Donaldson 2020, 214–215).

Several valuable works have applied the particular methodology of deep mapping to 18–19th century travellers, by means of GIS, in digital humanities. Cooper and Gregory mapped the experience of the two British poets Thomas Gray and Samuel Taylor Coleridge exploring the Lake District in England (Cooper and Gregory 2011). They created four types of maps: a "base map" indicating the places visited by the two poets; an "analytical map" to visualize quantitative geo-specific data; an "exploratory map" that shows the emotional responses according to the visited places; and an "interactive map" to follow the itineraries of Gray and Coleridge in the area and read additional information. The maps were produced for the journeys of both poets; after which they were compared to analyse any differences in their itineraries and emotional response. For Cooper and Gregory, it was also relevant to notice the association between adjectives and specific places. Indeed, the English Lake District project was enhanced with an additional study which mapped aesthetic terminology used in travel and topographical literature produced in the 18th and 19th centuries (Donaldson, Gregory, and Taylor 2017).

The second project implementing deep mapping is the Grand Tour Project at Stanford University (https://grandtour.stanford.edu/), which aims to localize and visualize all documented British travellers visiting Italy

during the Grand Tour. Here, the authors focused on the itineraries of the travellers, the time spent in each place, their background, funding, and networks (Ceserani *et al.* 2017).

Deep mapping is the methodology chosen in this article to investigate specifically the feelings of Grand Tour travellers visiting the historical attractions of Sicily, in order to analyse the role of Mediterranean antiquities in evoking emotions. It is an effort to demonstrate the utility of the combined use of emotionology and deep mapping applied to archaeological contexts, hoping for a larger implementation in future archaeological and historical research.

Methods and tools

The first step of the research consisted of the selection of specific travelogues about Sicily. Travel journals dated during the Grand Tour are numerous, so a choice had to be made. The latter was based on the particular interest and attention some of the Grand Tour travellers had towards antiquities or historical attractions. Thus, 11 travelogues written by travellers of different nationalities (five British, four French, and two Germans) who undertook their journey between 1672 and 1812 were selected.[1]

Every travel journal contains more or less accurate descriptions of the places visited by the travellers, the routes taken, the people met, and the local historical attractions. The latter are the focus of this research: they do not consist only of antiquities, but also of churches, catacombs, palaces, convents, museums, and castles. Here, the term *antiquity* is used to include remains from Sicanians, Phoenicians, Greeks, and Romans. Considering all the attractions, and not only the antiquities, is advantageous to be able to make comparisons, and thus to verify if the most ancient witnesses evoked different feelings. In this article, the attractions are defined as *points of interest*.

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1.   Albert Jouvin de Rochefort was a French cartographer who visited Sicily and Malta in 1672 (Jouvin de Rochefort 1712). Johan Hermann von Riedesel, a diplomat from Germany, described his trip to *Magna Graecia*, occurred in 1767 (Riedesel 1773). In 1770, the Scottish Patrick Brydone toured Sicily and Malta (Brydone 1773). The French painter Jean Pierre Hoüel depicted in detail his travel to Sicily happened in 1776 and 1777 (Hoüel 1782). The British Richard Payne Knight explored Sicily in 1777 (Knight 1986). In the same year, also his compatriot Henry Swinburne started his journey across the island (Swinburne 1783). The year after, Sicily was visited by the French writer Vivant Denon (Denon 1788), and by Jean Claude Richard (de Saint Non 1781), from the same country. In 1787, the famous German writer Johan Wolfgang Goethe undertook a journey through Italy, including Sicily (Goethe 2017). The British antiquarian Richard Colt Hoare explored Sicily in 1790 (Hoare 1819). Finally, in 1812, the British architect Charles Robert Cockerell, started his trip in Sicily (Cockerell 1903).

Every travelogue was carefully read with the goal being to identify adjectives, or full expressions, which indicate the level of subjective pleasure, or discontent, within the descriptions of the points of interests. During the reading, a Microsoft Excel table was compiled to record all the fundamental information about the texts (author, year of travel, interests and education of the traveller, name of the points of interest, place where the points of interest are located, positive and negative words used to describe the points of interests). This step was useful to think through how to efficiently elaborate the tables successively used in the geodatabase, and to take all meaningful data into consideration. Once all travel journals were examined, and all the relevant information noted in the Excel table, it was decided to code all the adjectives and phrases attributed to the points of interest with a 5-point scale (values from 1 to 5) to easily implement the data in a GIS environment. The positive and negative terms previously noted were categorized in five groups, according to the feelings they indicate. Number 5 corresponds to "enthusiastic," 4 to "good," 3 to "average," 2 to "bad," and 1 to "disappointing." The list of all grouped words and expressions is quite long: here, for sake of conciseness, only some sample words will be presented to help in understanding the subdivision in the mentioned groups. Words like "stupendous," "magnificent," "incredible," and "wonderfully striking," were included in Group 5 (enthusiastic). "Picturesque," "beautiful," "regular," and "remarkable" populate Group 4 (good). Phrases like "nothing very interesting" and "little to recommend" belong to Group 3 (average). "Barbarous," "inferior," and "ruined" were considered appropriate for Group 2 (bad). Phrases like "so ruinous and desolate," or anything that recall unsatisfying expectations, were included in Group 1 (disappointing). The numerical values (from 1 to 5) were then used in the geodatabase created in GIS to indicate the quality of the experience of every traveller related to the different attractions in every place, in order to obtain a map of feelings. It must be noted however, that the descriptions the travellers made of their impressions or experiences are not always straightforward. They may use several adjectives, or roundabout expressions, to depict how they felt in specific moments (amazed? Annoyed? Worried?). Thus, the choice they made of the words was deeply analysed, and the final decision about the numerical value to assign well pondered. For instance, one traveller talking about one point of interest, could use some attributes belonging to Group 5, and some other attributes belonging to Group 4. Then, a careful choice was made to assign the most suitable numerical value, considering the overall idea which illustrates the specific point of interest. The complexity of the textual descriptions is also the reason to opt, at the moment, for a full reading of the travel journals instead of using natural language processing techniques

to extract data. The software ArcGIS Pro was the preferred choice to elaborate the collected data. First, a historical map of Sicily dated to 1747 was georeferenced to visualize the location of the attractions in their historical/ geographic context.

The second step consisted of adding the points of interest (333) mentioned by all travellers to the map. The attribute table of this layer, called "points of interest," is characterized by the following fields: ID (unique number), name, place (village, or town, where they are located), region (in this case, Sicily), type (antiquity, church, palace, temple, etc.), geographical coordinates, accuracy of location, and date. As mentioned before, antiquities were not the only historical landmark considered, but also catacombs, churches, castles, convents, palaces, museums, and towers: the corresponding categories are shown in the "type" field. The field "accuracy" refers to the localization: it indicates if the points of interest are pinpointed with certainty or not, and if the location is known. For instance, the travellers narrated that they saw a collection of ancient coins, or an ancient wall, while they were visiting Palermo. Sometimes, they explained where they encountered these vague objects, but since it is not possible to be certain about the location, the accuracy field states "uncertain." Other times, they just referred to the name of the town where the findings are, without giving any more clarification; in this case the accuracy is "unknown." When the travellers mentioned a well-known site, as a temple or a church, the accuracy is "certain." Moreover, two standalone tables were created in the same geodatabase. The first table contains general information about the travellers: ID, name, nationality, year of birth, education, interests, title of the published travelogue, starting and ending year of the journey. The second table consists of the travellers ID, the point of interest ID, and the numerical value that represents the travellers' opinions about specific attractions. These two tables, plus the attribute table of the points of interest, were thought to be logically organized and interrelated: collection of general information for two main subjects, the points of interest and the travellers, plus another table about the data which connects the two subjects, that is the personal opinions of the travellers about the point of interest represented through numerical value from 1 to 5.

If we consider the main aim of our research, namely mapping and analysing the feelings stated by the travellers while experiencing different historical attractions, some of the information added to the tables may look superfluous. The reason to include data that are not strictly related to the aim of the research is twofold. First of all, to enable the visualization of the general framework which is helpful for evaluation and interpretation; second, to be able to expand the analysis in the future, and to enrich the deep map of Sicily.

The following step consisted of joining the abovementioned independent tables and layers to explore all the data together. The joining of several tables in one enables queries, analyses, selections, and mapping of all the included data together. The ArcGIS option "add join" is not very efficient in tracking multiple relationships as each point of interest may have been visited by more than one traveller. Thus, it was opted to use the "make query table" tool. The result was a layer with the attribute table containing all the selected fields from the three data sets (the points of interest layered together with the attribute table, the travellers table, and the opinions table).

The final step was the creation of smart maps which represent the analysis of the data by means of different styles. For this type of work, the Map Viewer Online module of ArcGIS is a powerful instrument since it offers several styles to depict the results of queries and combinations of attributes. The characteristics of each style can be manipulated to make the results more understandable.

Results

The result of the study is a deep map of Sicily which contains the locations of historical sites together with specific details related to the date and accuracy, information about the travellers who visited the sites (name, nationality, interests, education, years of travelling), and, most importantly, the feelings and opinions these travellers described in their travelogues.

There is a total of 333 points of interest mentioned in the examined travel journals, distributed approximately all around the island, but particularly in the south-eastern area. It seems that not every historical landmark provoked feelings or sparked the interest of the travellers. Indeed, even if the travellers had the opportunity to observe several attractions, they did not attribute specific appreciation or discontent to all of them, or at least they did not mention them in their travel journals. The total number of impressions related to the points of interest identified in the diaries is 295 (some of them refer to the same attraction because they were visited and commented on by more than one traveller) (Fig. 1). Among these, 222 comments are related to antiquities, 26 to churches,11 to museums, 12 to castles, 8 to catacombs, 6 to palaces, 4 to convents, and 1 to a tower. It is evident that antiquities attracted the most interest from the European travellers in Sicily: almost 76% of the impressions described are related to ancient temples, walls, theatres, baths, etc. The heat map shows that most comments are related to the area of Syracuse and Agrigento, followed by Catania (Fig. 2). This result is consistent with the importance of these cities during the Greek times and the increased interest of the travellers towards Greek and Roman antiquities.

Figure 1: Map of Sicily with the points of interest. The yellow points are all the attractions visited by all travellers, whereas the green points are the attractions which stimulated travellers' feelings and opinions.

It might be surprising that Selinunte, located in the area of Castelvetrano (on the map, east of Mazara del Vallo), which preserves a large archaeological site (nowadays the most extensive in Europe), did not achieve similar success. The case of Palermo is also indicative of the deep fascination Greek antiquities had on the travellers. Palermo, the main city of the island, is rich in stunning palaces and churches. Already in the 18th century there was much to visit, every traveller passed by Palermo, but the heat map shows that they did not put so much effort in depicting their sensations, or opinions, when exploring it. The reason is probably that its origin is Phoenician, and many attractions are dated to the Arab-Norman period (9th–12th century). It is also surprising that even Taormina resulted in an area with a low record of impressions. Taormina was a very well-known place already in the 18th century, and frequently visited, mainly because of its well-preserved Greek theatre. Probably, the theatre was the main and only attraction worthy of notice according to the travellers. This would explain the low number of impressions with respect to Agrigento and Syracuse, where relevant antiquities were (and still are) numerous.

Graph 1, generated from the geodatabase containing the 295 impressions related to the points of interest, shows the number of emotional responses and personal opinions for each qualitative group of the 5-point scale. Seven travellers' comments belong to the group "disappointing" (n. 1); 37
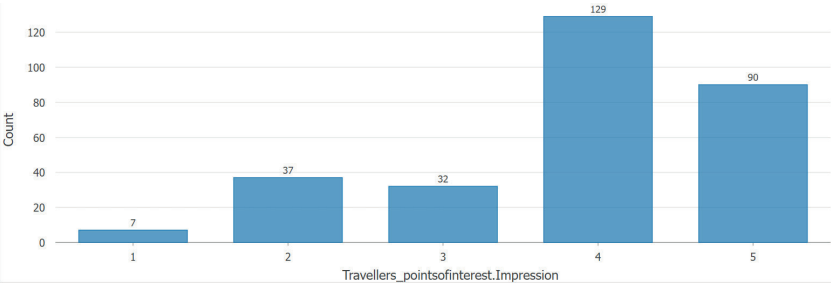
Graph 1: Number of adjectives for each qualitative group.

comments expressed feelings and opinions that apply to the group "bad" (n. 2); 32 judgments pertain to the group "average" (n. 3); the group "good" (n. 4) is represented by 129 opinions; finally, 90 comments belong to the group "enthusiastic" (n. 5). Therefore, the general overview of sensations of the European travellers visiting the attractions of Sicily is good. A large part of the comments belong to Group 4 and 5, demonstrating a mostly pleasant experience of the travellers exploring the island.

The map of the impressions about the points of interest, which is a graphical representation of the distribution of the 5-point scale for each historical attraction (Figs. 3–8), indicates that different categories of impressions are distributed all around the island. It seems that the travellers did not have any specific preference (or disfavour) about the attractions according to the geographical areas of Sicily. However, interestingly, the map shows discordant ideas among the travellers about the same point of interest. This is the case
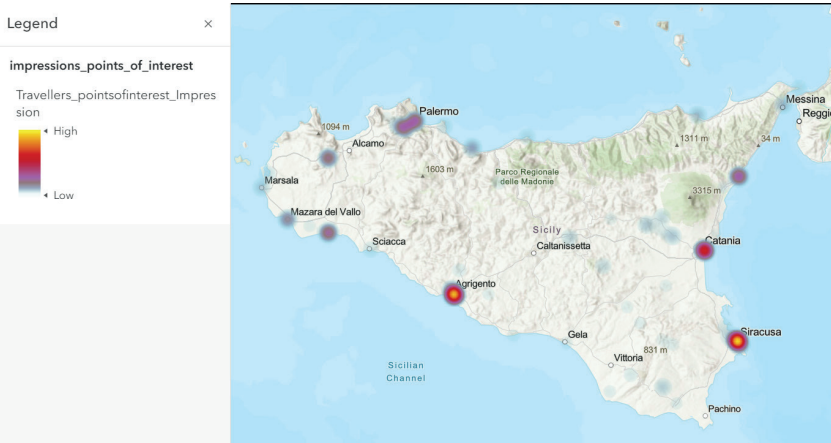

Figure 2: Heat Map of the points of interest of Sicily.
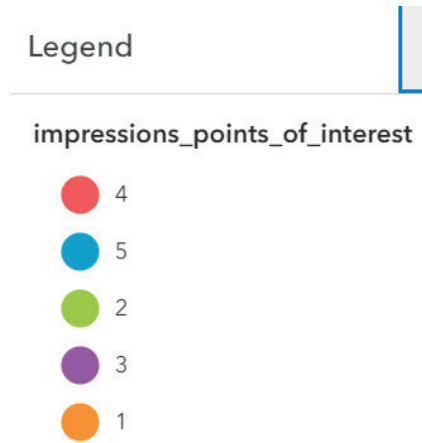
Figure 3: Legend of the 5-point scale: 1 is disappointing; 2 is bad; 3 is average; 4 is good; 5 is enthusiastic.

of the tomb of Theron at Agrigento (Fig. 9). From the different size of the circles, it is understandable that the opinions about this attraction belong to all levels of scale, from 1 to 5. We can see the same contrasting feelings for larger areas too, and not only for single instances of material evidence, as in the case of Agrigento (Fig. 10).
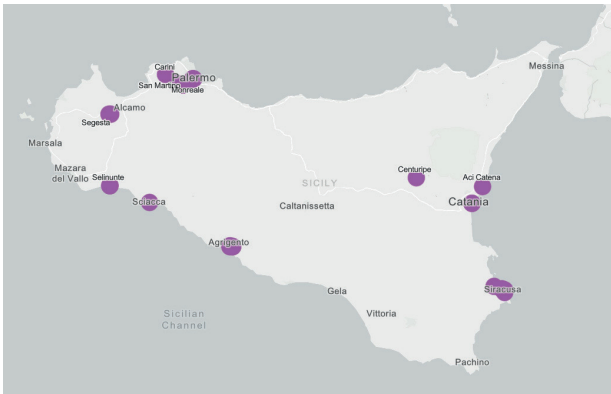
In order to know the details about the specific point of interest (which traveller visited it, and what they thought about it), it is enough to click on
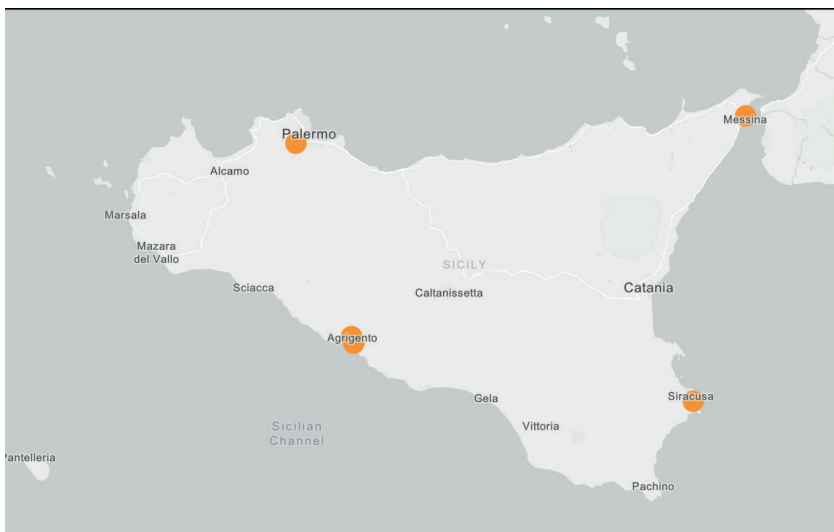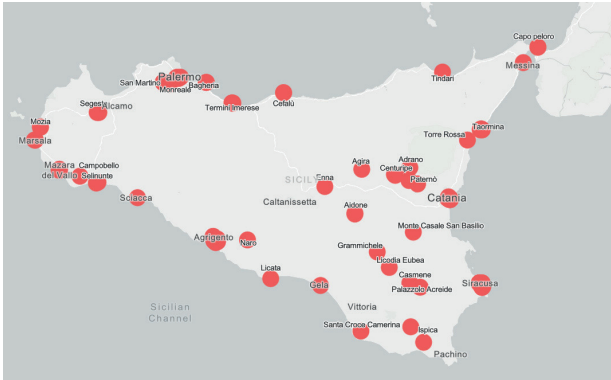

Figure 4: Points of interest with impressions corresponding to number 1 (disappointing).

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Figure 5: Points of interest with impressions corresponding to number 2 (bad).
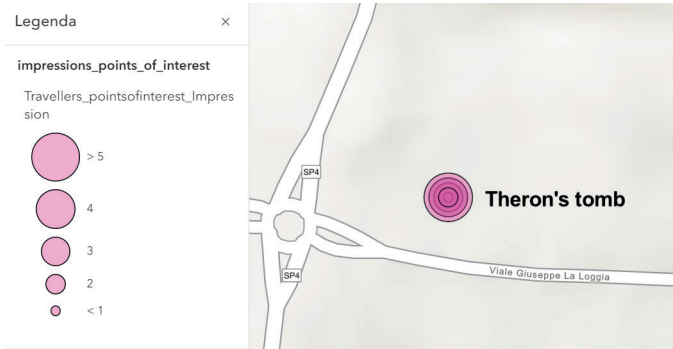

Figure 6: Points of interest with impressions corresponding to number 3 (average).
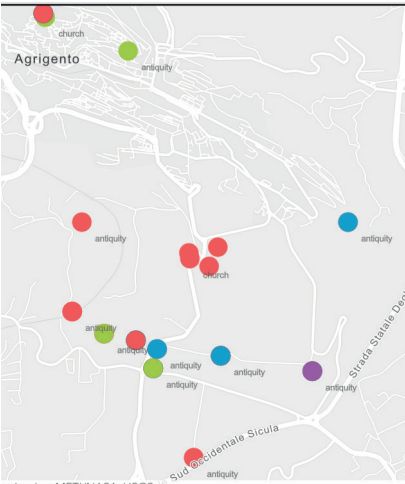

Figure 7: Points of interest with impressions corresponding to number 4 (good).
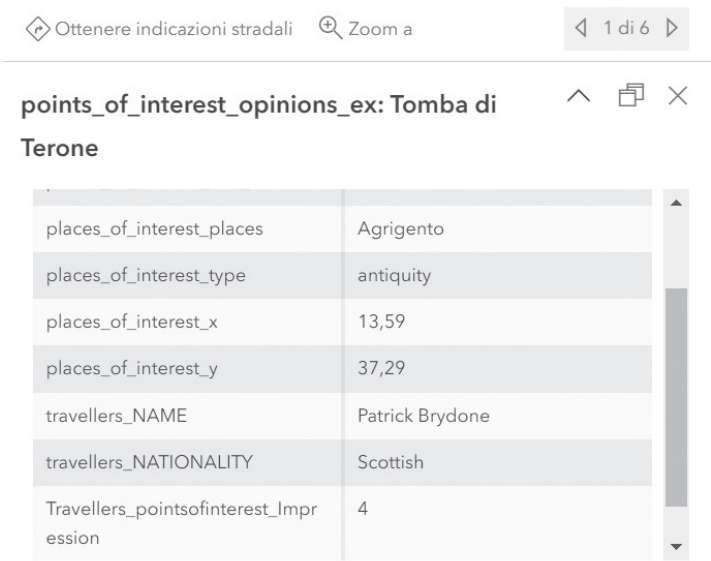
Figure 8: Points of interest with impressions corresponding to number 5 (enthusiastic).

Figure 9: Map of impressions about the tomb of Theron at Agrigento.

Figure 10: Details of the impressions of the travellers of the area of Agrigento.

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Ottenere indicazioni stradali   Zoom a   ◁ 1 di 6 ▷

points_of_interest_opinions_ex: Tomba di   ∧ ⧉ ✕
Terone

places_of_interest_places	Agrigento
places_of_interest_type	antiquity
places_of_interest_x	13,59
places_of_interest_y	37,29
travellers_NAME	Patrick Brydone
travellers_NATIONALITY	Scottish
Travellers_pointsofinterest_Impression	4

Figure 11: Details about the point of interest "Tomb of Theron."

the circles: a navigable pop-up window will appear showing the attributes of the geodatabase (Fig. 11).

Thanks to the informative geodatabase that was created, further maps can be produced according to what we are interested in. For example, we may want to visualize the opinions about the points of interest according to the nationality of the traveller, or to the date of the historical landmarks.

By means of the deep map of Sicily, it is possible to understand the high esteem that European travellers had for the island, considering its historical attractions. The map, together with the relative geodatabase, confirms that there is a dominance of positive impressions. The major relevance, or interest, attributed to the antiquities, respect to churches or other attractions, is evident, suggesting the deep attachment of Europeans to Greek and Roman roots. The overwhelming desire to explore pushed travellers to seek antiquities right across the island, even in more mainland areas, and on the Aeolian islands. The travel journals were published once the travellers finished their journeys, and were circulated within their society, influencing the ideologies of the wider public for places that they had never experienced. The deep map can become an instrument to represent the opinions Europeans had of the antiquities of the Mediterranean area. It can be used as a starting point to investigate the influence that Greek and Roman material culture had in Europe during the Enlightenment. The advantage of deep maps is the possibility to continuously enrich them with data. Currently, the map created is

being expanded adding to the geodatabase the journeys that European travellers undertook to Cyprus. Other geographical areas in the Mediterranean, such as Greece, are being considered to compare the perceptions in different cultural and geographical environments. Moreover, impressions and details of travellers of different times, such as the pilgrims during the Middle Ages, can be added to enable comparisons for different historical periods.

Discussion

The impressions represented on the maps describe the quality of the experience of the European travellers when visiting various points of interests in Sicily. The result of this research, with further in depth-analysis, can expand the study conducted by Moe on the development of a cultural idea of the South occurred during the 19th century in Europe, considering the influence Grand Tourists could have had in the society (Moe 2002, 55–76). In front of the remains of a temple, an aqueduct, or a church, each one of us can experience a different feeling, depending on our personal memories, interests, and cultural background. Someone can be surprised because they have never seen something similar before; someone else can be upset because of the state of preservation; others can be fascinated by the traces of the years imprinted on it, or happy, or nostalgic, because of the memories recalled by it. All these feelings strongly influence our opinions. In Europe, we are used to being surrounded by historical landmarks in our own *topos* (village or city). There is a mutual exchange between us and the material heritage which populates our spaces. The historical remains contribute to shaping our emotions and our relationship with spaces and landscapes. At the same time, our feelings contribute to shaping our opinions, and consequently our spaces. It is us giving meaning to spaces, based on their historical landmarks, and transforming those spaces in something that can be sacred, functional, or symbolical. As stated by Lefebvre, there is a strong connection between space and emotions. The representational space that he presented is indeed the depiction of the space as it is experienced (Lefebvre 1991). The material cultural heritage strongly influences people's experiences, and it is thus part of the concept of representational space. In addition, our relationship with what surrounds us, and our experiences of it, contribute to building our sense of place. Human geography has recognized the importance of subjectivity and perceptions in the study of geographical phenomena (Foote and Azaryahu 2009). In the last decade, studies about sensorial archaeology saw a thrilling increment, but the majority focuses on physical senses, such as auditory stimuli, visibility, smell, and the perception of the body in the space (Betts 2017; Landeschi and Betts 2023). In order to deeply study the

past, and its geographical and human dynamics, it is important to consider people's experiences not only from the point of view of the senses, but from the one of the emotions and feelings as well. Emotionology is a method applied by historians to several fields: medicine and science, legal, political, humanitarian, media, witchcraft, religion, urbanism, gender, families, youth (Barclay 2020), but not yet to archaeology, except for the aforementioned book edited by Angelo Chaniotis that investigates emotions and material culture in the Greek and Roman world (Chaniotis 2021).

The main limitation of the approach and the method presented here is the codification of words (the adjectives, or the descriptions of feelings) in numbers. There are thousands of words expressing different emotions, their shades, and their different intensity. The transformation of words in numbers is an oversimplification, and we should aim to overcome this obstacle. However, the presented methodology offers a meaningful contribution as a starting point for mapping and investigating feelings and emotions related to antiquities and other historical attractions. Furthermore, the codification of words is an interpretative process, and then it is liable to subjectivity. However, I have attributed a number to the words related to emotions and opinions only after having carefully read all the travelogues. The writing style of every traveller was considered before the codification action. Moreover, a file containing all the words with the respective assigned number has been drafted, and for transparency it will be made available in a future monography which will expand the topic here presented. In this first attempt to create a deep map of Sicily, my aim is mainly to show the possibilities that this interdisciplinary approach can lead to. Furthermore, the investigation of emotions related to historical landmarks need to be promoted. A deeper study involving linguistic experts is already being planned, including an attempt at using natural language processing.

The second limitation of this research is that the results are relative to a single group of the society: only opinions and feelings of Central and Northern European male aristocrats are considered. This is a partial vision of the influence antiquities and other attractions of Sicily could have in Europe in the 18th century. Moreover, the advantage of deep mapping is the possibility to enrich the geodatabase with other data. Indeed, future research envisages the analysis of diaries written by female travellers, if any correspond to the criteria. Indeed, comments expressing opinions and feelings related to the places where the historical attractions are, the people, the routes, the food, and the landscape can also be included to explore the connection between points of interest and their physical and cultural environment.

Conclusion

The creation of a deep map of Sicily by means of GIS showed the different attention European travellers had for the historical points of interest in the region. The traces left by the ancient Greeks on the island looked to be the most attractive and evoked most of the feelings. Syracuse, Agrigento, and Catania produced results showing these locations to be the most interesting and summoning cities. The map displays that most of the opinions and feelings of the travellers towards the attractions of Sicily are positive. Moreover, the visualization helped in noticing some discordant considerations of the travellers about the same site, as in the case of the tomb of Theron at Agrigento.

The deep map indicated the advantage of using an interdisciplinary approach for the study of local antiquities, and their perceptions in Europe. Material cultural heritage strongly affects our emotions which are responsible for representational spaces and our sense of place, and thus our identity. Antiquities shape our spaces and us. Places, identity, and cultural heritage are strictly connected; thus, it is fundamental to integrate disciplines such as spatial humanities, emotionology, and archaeology to analyse and understand the development of both national and self-identity.

This article demonstrates the useful implementation of spatial humanities to the history of emotions applied to archaeological contexts. Moreover, it stresses the importance of including emotionology and the sense of place as methods in archaeological research.

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About the Author

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