Contestualizzare la “prima colonizzazione”:
Archeologia, fonti, cronologia e modelli interpretativi fra l'Italia e il Mediterraneo

Contextualising “early Colonisation”:
Archaeology, Sources, Chronology and interpretative models between Italy and the Mediterranean

Early Greeks in southeast Italy

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Traditionally the contacts between Greek-speaking people from the southern Balkans and the Aegean on the one hand and Italic groups on the other hand are formulated in antithetic terms: superior Greeks wiped out native populations and colonized the coastal strip around the Gulf of Taranto (8th-7th century BC). The present evidence suggests that the presence of these sailors and migrants in southeast Italy was rather varied. It will be argued that three stages can be discerned:

1. Pioneers, prospectors and pirates: trading, raiding and piracy
2. Institutionalized trade: trade stations and resident Greeks
3. ‘Greek’ territoriality: the birth of farmer states.

And by the way, the transformation from stage 2 to stage 3 took place in only a few coastal settlements of southeast Italy.