Frontiers of the European Iron Age
with a regional focus on Central Italy

20th - 22nd September, 2013. Magdalene College and the McDonald Institute, Cambridge

Frontiers take many forms. Some frontiers are well demarcated, others are "fuzzy", permeable or liminal. Some frontiers have an enduring quality in memory and materiality, others are transitory. Frontiers range in depth and definition, and in their entanglement with topography, culture and politics. This conference will focus on one region (central Italy) and one phase (from the Iron Age to Romanisation), in order to understand the distinctive regional development of central Italy (e.g. Etruscans, Latins and Umbrians), but the organizers warmly encourage discourse with, and contributions on, other periods and regions. We particularly welcome the continued engagement with scholars who have attended the previous conferences in the series.

The main goals of the conference are:

- To facilitate dialogue between European scholars working on frontiers and disseminate the latest thinking;
- To explore the diversity and durability of early frontiers in the mind and materiality;
- To focus on new interpretations of frontiers that go beyond modernist treatment, taking into account anthropological reasoning;
- To consider European Iron Age archaeology as a pre-Roman European archaeology overcoming the Mediterranean/non-Mediterranean divide;
- To analyze the emergence of new frontier concepts with the emergence of the Roman World;
- To focus on Central Italy within a much broader geographical context;
- To relate tuder, toderor totcor, Fines Finium, and other corresponding boundary concepts outside ancient Italy, to material realities

Contributors are invited to present papers on the construction and development of early frontiers by presenting both new data and innovative views on theoretical approaches to frontiers. Suggested materials for frontier construction include, but are not limited to:

- topography and landscape
- settlement and place
- monumentality (including religious)
- material culture
- burial and the body
- the entangled discourses of written, oral and material sources
- the relationship of concepts to material realities

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http://www.arch.cam.ac.uk/iron_age/2013/index.html