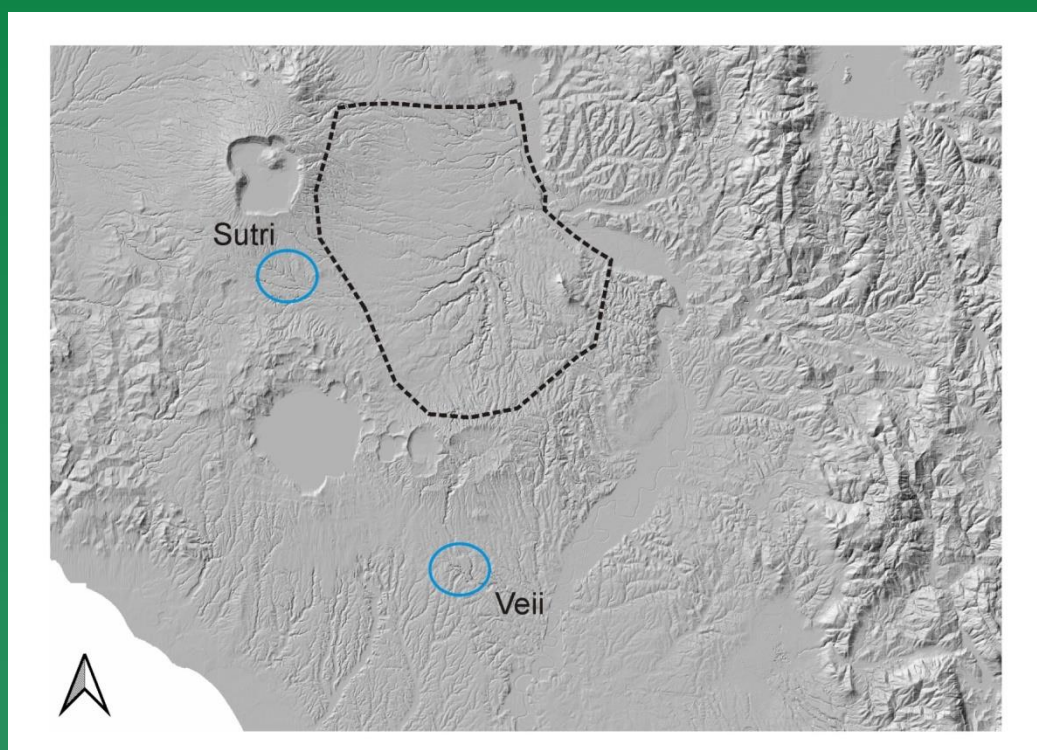


Locus horridus? Nature and liminal places in the Faliscan area

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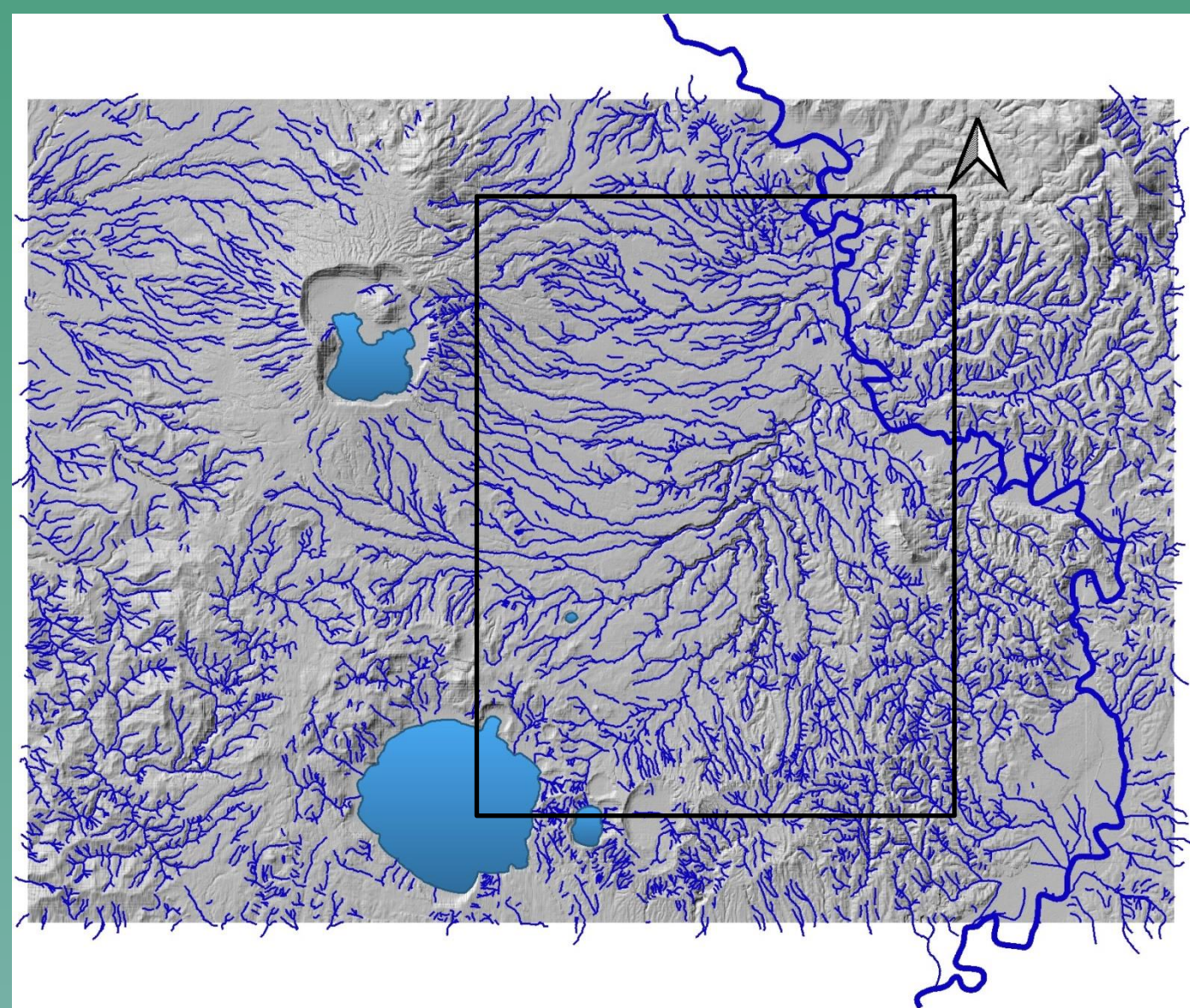


*hi Fescenninas acies Aequosque Faliscos,
hi Soractis habent arces Flaviniaque arva
et Cimini cum monte lacum lucosque Capenos*

Vergil, Aeneas, 7,695-697

LIMINALITY

- In between state or threshold
- Latin *limes* = boundary
- Liminal places: borders and frontiers, no man's lands and/or disputed territories
- In general springs, caves, shores, rivers, volcanic calderas, fords, passes, crossroads, bridges, and marshes are all liminal
- In architecture, liminal spaces are defined as "the physical spaces between one destination and the next"
- Landscapes can be perceived through spatial, temporal, cultural and mythological liminality

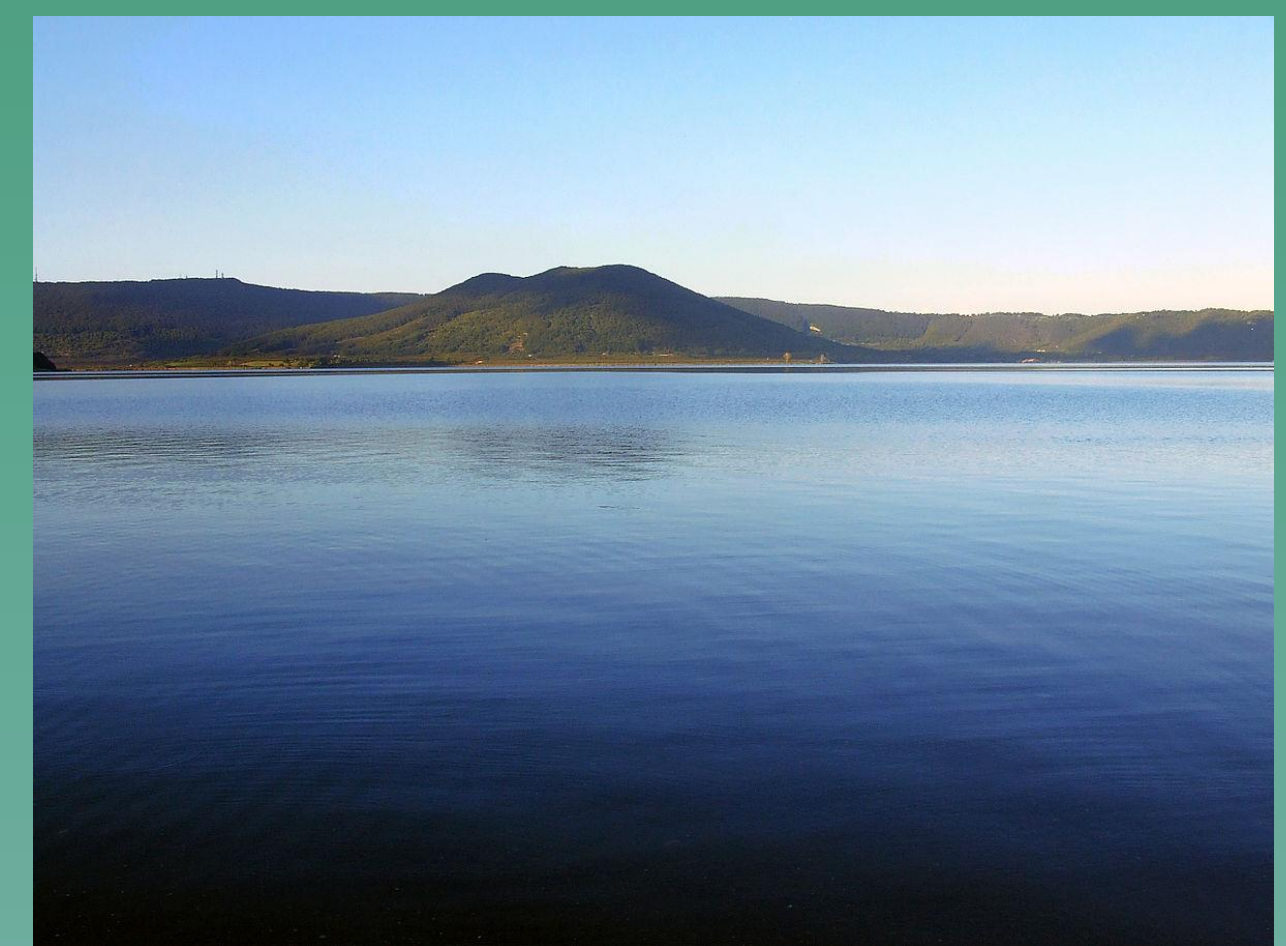


FALISCAN RIVERS

- The rivers fed by perennial springs
- Several areas in central Italy, e.g. near Gabii
- The major rivers in canyon-like ravines
- Faliscan shrines, e.g. Temple of Juno at Falerii Veteres and Le Rote at Narce in the valleys

FALISCAN SPRINGS

- Both normal and sulphureous springs
- SOLFARATE
 - ✓ A large sulphureous spring on a plain SW from Nepi
 - ✓ Prehistoric settlement
 - ✓ Chalcolithic/BA1-2
 - ✓ Recent Bronze Age
- Edlund (1987): Etruria, spring sanctuaries, perhaps Grotta dell'Acqua



FALISCAN LAKES

- Lake Monterosi
- Lake Vico in a volcanic caldera with Monte Venere hill (BM1-2)
- Edlund-Berry & Turfa (2019): Lake Bolsena nearest with votives

MONTE SORATTE

- Segre 1952: A Neolithic jar, probably an offering, was found from a cave on the eastern side of the mountain
- Rellini (1920, 111): A Chalcolithic arrowhead was found from the slopes
- Apennine pottery was found north from the church Madonna delle Grazie in the summit.
- di Gennaro (1995b, 97) suggested that the place was sacred already during the Bronze Age



FALISCAN CAVES

- The prehistoric caves were often located near later Archaic centres:
 - Grotta Vannaro was at Ponte del Ponte
 - S. Edigio near Corchiano (cf. Di Gennaro 1995b, fig. 59)
 - The Fabbreccie caves near Civita Castellana (Rellini 1920, 86-105)
- The finds in the caves included Stone Age, Middle Bronze Age and Recent Bronze Age material, also votive terracottas and Roman finds (see Calapà 2019, 125)
- Ninfeo Rosa had caves in the Archaic/Roman sanctuary (Cignini 2015)

FALISCAN CAVES

- Corchiano
 - Grotta Vannaro (Neolithic)
 - Grotta Alta (BM 1-2, BR)
 - Cavernetta di Terra Rossa (BM 1-2)
 - Caverna Terza di Piazza Castello (BR)
 - Cavernetta di Sant'Edigio (BM 1-2, BM3)
 - Grotte di Piluccio (BM 1-2)
- Gallese
 - Grotta dell'Acqua (BM 1-2, votives)
 - Riparo della Fontana (BM 1-2)
 - Caverna della Stipe (BM 1-2, votives)
 - Riparo dell'Ortaccio (prehistoric)



CIMINIAN FOREST

Profectio Q. Fabi trans Ciminiam silvam quantum Romae terrorem fecerat, tam laetam famam in Samnium ad hostes tulerat interclusum Romanum exercitum obsideri; cladisque imaginem Furculas Caudinas memorabant: eadem temeritate avidam ulteriorum semper gentem in saltus invios deductam, saeptam non hostium magis armis quam locorum iniquitatibus esse.

Livy 9.38

- Could this passage be interpreted to mean that more than the Ciminian forest the Romans were afraid of a defeat?

CONCLUSIONS

- The Faliscan area is one of unusual areas in central Italy: perennial rivers
- Also volcanic calderas and the Ciminian forest on the boundaries, springs, mountains and caves
- Liminal places: Early Bronze Age, but also in the Archaic/ Roman times and to the modern age
- Could it have been considered liminal by default?



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