

# Maritime Archaeology of the Arab World

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## Session Description

The Arab world, extending from the western Indian Ocean to the Mediterranean, has an intrinsic connection to the sea, which has shaped its heritage, communities and lifeways. This connection is evident in the material and intangible records across sites in the region. Maritime archaeological investigations in the Arab world began during the colonial era, driven by external studies with minimum to no local involvement. This, however, began to change in the 1950s and 1960s, as western pioneers in underwater archaeology initiated collaborations with and encouraged local archaeologists. Now, the field has gradually become driven by local maritime archaeology experts, and research in the Arab world continues with enhanced collaboration and co-production.

This session aims to provide a platform to showcase recent projects and research undertaken within the maritime Arab world. In doing so it seeks to highlight the contributions of local experts and early career researchers, who are often underrepresented on the international stage. We invite research papers focussing on the maritime archaeology and heritage of the Arab world, particularly those led or co-led by members of the local community.

## Keywords

Middle East; Arab World; Post-Colonial Archaeology; Maritime Heritage