

# From Local Impact to Global Networks: The Archaeology of Maritime Cultural Exchange

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## Session Description

This session examines the archaeology of maritime cultural exchange and its theoretical underpinnings to explore how material culture—manifested in the form of shipwrecks, ports, trade goods, coastal settlements, cargoes, commodities and their embodied social practices—reveals the intricate networks of maritime interaction that have shaped human societies from the earliest times to the present day.

To deepen our understanding of the globalizing forces that have shaped economic, cultural and social landscapes throughout history, From Local Impact to Global Networks focuses on new and revisited archaeological discoveries from all parts of the world and any chronological period that tell the exciting tales of our past and highlight the pivotal role of global waterways in facilitating the exchange of goods, people, ideas, customs, traditions and technologies between distant societies, paying particular attention to how social relations were constituted, reproduced, or altered through material forms.

We invite contributions that bridge historical and contemporary perspectives, including those that illustrate the development of global trade systems, the diffusion of religions, the spread of knowledge systems, evolving human diasporas and the emergence of cultural hybridity across maritime space. This session seeks to foster interdisciplinary dialogue among scholars, practitioners, and policymakers, illuminating the processes of cultural contact, exchange, adaptation, and transformation through maritime interaction.

In support of the UN SDGs, we are committed to creating a diverse, inclusive, geographic, and gender-balanced session. We particularly welcome and value contributions from marginalized or under-represented academics and practitioners, as your unique perspectives enrich our understanding of maritime cultural exchange.

## **Keywords**

Maritime Cultural Exchange; Material Culture; Maritime Archaeology; Shipwrecks;  
Globalisation; Global Networks