



## ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

# Distinct nautical traditions and agency of prehistoric long-distance interaction

VOTRUBA G. <sup>1</sup>\*

<sup>1</sup> independent, Lyon, France

\*Corresponding author

## Abstract

While substantial study of prehistoric Near Eastern and Aegean long-distance interaction through material culture and ancient document has illuminated much of its scale and nature, what is less well understood is its primary agency: nautical traditions and technology. This paper is an enlightenment of this theoretical lacuna by synthesizing the evidence of distinctions in traditions of seagoing ships, harbours and anchors as they varied through time and space, including information that has only recently come to light.

Issues to be developed are the effect of changes in hull-types and the employment (or not) of the sail on nautical culture and economy. These are placed in context with the facility to secure vessels in basic navigation, but also to keep capital and crew safe in shoreward gale-force winds, rendering hauling-out, anchors, anchorages and harbours consideration imperative. Relevant details encompass the nature and duration of seafaring (voyaging and season) and, ultimately, to what extent there were practical and cultural limitations on navigation. This includes characterizing the changing coastal topographical conditions, merchant culture, and where and when artificial construction was desirable.

## Keywords

Nautical culture, Prehistory, Long-distance interaction, Merchants, Anchoring

## Session

2. Natural resources and anthropised landscapes

## Type of paper

Oral presentation