

## MARITIME NETWORKS IN THE ANCIENT MEDITERRANEAN WORLD

This volume brings together scholars of Mediterranean archaeology, ancient history, and complexity science to advance theoretical approaches and analytical tools for studying maritime connectivity. For the coast-hugging populations of the ancient Mediterranean, mobility and exchange depended on a distinct environment and technological parameters that created diverse challenges and opportunities, making the modeling of maritime interaction a paramount concern for understanding cultural interaction more generally. Network-inspired metaphors have long been employed in discussions of this interaction, but increasing theoretical sophistication and advances in formal network analysis now offer opportunities to refine and test the dominant paradigm of connectivity. Extending from prehistory into the Byzantine period, the case studies here reveal the potential of such network approaches. Collectively they explore the social, economic, religious, and political structures that guided Mediterranean interaction across maritime space.

Justin Leidwanger is Assistant Professor in the Department of Classics, a faculty member at the Stanford Archaeology Center, and the Omar & Althea Dwyer Hoskins Faculty Scholar at Stanford University. His research uses maritime cultural heritage to understand the role of seaborne networks in structuring economic and social relationships across the Roman and late antique worlds.

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# MARITIME NETWORKS IN THE ANCIENT MEDITERRANEAN WORLD

*Edited by*

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## PREFACE

This book owes its initial impetus to a year of collaboration between the coeditors at the University of Toronto in 2012–2013, which allowed for fruitful discussions of maritime networks spanning three millennia between the Bronze Age and late antiquity. It was this interest in comparing and contextualizing network behavior across different Mediterranean worlds that gave rise to the November 2013 Toronto workshop on which this volume is based, *Networks of Maritime Connectivity in the Ancient Mediterranean: Structure, Continuity and Change over the Longue Durée*. In the midst of that venture came Cyprian Broodbank's provocative proposal that the group author a collective "manifesto" capturing some of the key ideas and insights of our focused discussions (Leidwanger et al., "A manifesto for the study of Mediterranean maritime networks," *Antiquity* 342 (2014), at <http://journal.antiquity.ac.uk/projgall/leidwanger342d>), a stimulating process that prompted further reflection and informed the present contributions.

We thank the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada for the Postdoctoral Fellowship and the Connections Program grant that made this collaboration and workshop possible. Support for the event was also provided by the Department of the History of Art, the Aegean Material Culture Laboratory, and the Archaeology Centre at the University of Toronto. The Royal Ontario Museum kindly hosted a public lecture in association with the workshop. Assistance in the running of the event came from graduate students Paula Gheorghide, Rachel Kulick, and Elana Steingart. We wish to thank Beatrice Rehl, the editorial team, and the reviewers for Cambridge University Press, who have helped shepherd the volume along. Most importantly, though, we wish to acknowledge the participants who made the workshop such a stimulating success, some of whom were not able to contribute to the present volume.

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