

## Amphibious Archaeology, Waterscapes, and Fluidity

### Session #13



Water covers most of the planet's surface, and aquatic ecosystems have been important for humans throughout all times. Archaeologists working in aquatic environments tended to solidify the fluid boundaries of land, sea, and shore. But what if land, sea, shore, the object, and the human were actually inextricably bound up in one another, making such divisions far less relevant? By blurring these ideological fields, we can better understand how territories and environments are permanently changing. Humans are amphibious creatures and these ecosystems—whether beaches, dune belts, coastal lagoons, alluvial plains, river terraces, estuaries, lakes, underwater, or oceans—have been essential to our cultural development. Fish, shellfish, aquatic mammals and aquatic plants have been staple foods. Rivers, lakes and oceans served as natural highways facilitating transportation and exchange of goods, ideas and people. Human occupations near waterlines have also been the most affected by climate change and shifts in sea levels, providing great insights into adaptation to environmental conditions. The purpose of this session is to encourage discussions in fluidity, amphibiousness and hybridity in archaeology. We welcome papers on archaeological, ethnographic and experimental case-studies, waterscapes, maritime and nautical archaeology, innovations in theory, methodologies and the arts, from prehistory to the present.

#### Keywords:

- aquatic ecosystems
- archaeosciences
- archaeological theory
- landscape archaeology
- maritime archaeology
- waterways
- multitemporality

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