



Justin Leidwanger

Associate Professor of Classics and, by courtesy, of Oceans

Bio

BIO

Justin Leidwanger's work focuses on Mediterranean mobilities, interaction, and maritime heritage. Ships and ports, most recently in southwest Türkiye and southeast Sicily, are central to exploring these themes in the field, providing evidence for connections and the long-term dynamics that shaped communities amid economically, socially, and politically changing worlds. To this end, he is particularly drawn to the long arc of the Roman Mediterranean, including its temporal edges, from the emergence of Hellenistic states through the long late antiquity and beyond.

Between 2013 and 2019, he led investigations of the 6th-century Marzamemi 2 "church wreck" (Sicily), which sank while carrying nearly 100 tons of marble architectural elements. Work continues through underwater survey, 3D analysis, and publication as well as immersive museum-based and pop-up exhibits and other initiatives. Project 'U Mari extends this collaborative and community-based field research across southeast Sicily, interrogating the heritage of diverse but co-dependent interactions with and across the sea that have long defined the central Mediterranean. These connections offer a resource for deeper critical engagement with the past, more meaningful identities in the present, and more sustainable development in the future. One facet of this work examines the socioeconomic dynamics spanning three millennia of tuna fishing through maritime landscape archaeology and documentation of the fading material culture and traditional knowledge of the mattanza. Another mobilizes archaeology to better understand the creation and circulation of plastics as maritime material assemblages, offering a window into socio-environmental systems. These efforts simultaneously foreground heritage activism through community-based archaeology of the spaces, materialities, and memories of contemporary journeys of forced and undocumented migration across these waters.

Justin teaches courses and advises students on topics in Hellenistic, Roman, and Late Antique archaeology, Mediterranean heritage, economies and interaction, port networks, ceramic production and exchange, and Greco-Roman architecture and engineering. The Maritime Archaeology & Digital Heritage Lab (MEDLab) at the Archaeology Center serves as a fieldwork base and collaborative resource for digital modeling (structured light scanning, laser scanning, photogrammetry, GIS, network analysis) and pottery analysis (petrography, pXRF, computational morphological analysis).

Author of *Roman Seas: A Maritime Archaeology of Eastern Mediterranean Economies* (Oxford), and editor or co-editor of six more volumes, including *Regional Economies in Action* (Vienna) and *Maritime Networks in the Ancient Mediterranean World* (Cambridge), he is currently working on two books. The first, entitled *Fluid Technologies: Innovation on the Ancient Mediterranean*, arises from research with students in the field, lab, and museum, analyzing transport amphoras, port infrastructure, and other clues to ancient technologies of distribution. The second, *The Tuna Trap*, explores the entanglement of mobilities that have and continue to bind the shores surrounding the Strait of Sicily.

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- Associate Professor, Classics
- Associate Professor (By courtesy), Oceans

BOARDS, ADVISORY COMMITTEES, PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

- Faculty Member, Stanford Archeology Center, Stanford University (2013 - present)
- Consulting Scholar, Mediterranean Section, University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology (2011 - present)
- Affiliated Faculty, Institute of Nautical Archaeology (2012 - present)
- Fellow, Kolb Foundation, Penn Museum (2011 - present)
- Co-Director, Marzamemi 2 "church wreck" excavation, Sicily (2013 - 2019)
- Co-Director, Burgaz Harbors Project, Turkey (2011 - 2015)
- Director, Maritime landscape surveys, Cyprus (2003 - 2009)
- Director, Marzamemi Maritime Heritage Project (2012 - 2025)
- Consulting Scholar, Penn Cultural Heritage Center (2011 - present)

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

- Ph.D., University of Pennsylvania , Art and Archeology of the Mediterranean World (2011)
- M.A., Texas A&M University , Nautical Archeology, Anthropology
- B.A., Loyola University, Chicago , History & Classical Studies

Teaching

COURSES

2025-26

- Engineering the Roman Empire: ARCHLGY 118, CLASSICS 168 (Spr)
- History of Archaeological Thought: ANTHRO 103B, ARCHLGY 103, CLASSICS 170 (Win)
- Mediterranean Networks: ARCHLGY 367, CLASSICS 367 (Spr)
- Professionalization Workshop: CLASSICS 251 (Aut)
- Sailing the Wine-Dark Sea: Maritime Archaeology of the Ancient Mediterranean: ARCHLGY 145, CLASSICS 154 (Win)

2024-25

- Ancient Mediterranean Ports: CLASSICS 360 (Spr)
- Engineering the Roman Empire: ARCHLGY 118, CLASSICS 168 (Win)
- Sailing the Wine-Dark Sea: Maritime Archaeology of the Ancient Mediterranean: ARCHLGY 145, CLASSICS 154 (Win)

2022-23

- Engineering the Roman Empire: ARCHLGY 118, CLASSICS 168 (Spr)
- Sailing the Wine-Dark Sea: Maritime Archaeology of the Ancient Mediterranean: ARCHLGY 145, CLASSICS 154 (Win)
- Sicily and the Sea: ARCHLGY 140, CLASSICS 155 (Spr)

STANFORD ADVISEES

Doctoral Dissertation Advisor (AC)

Beth Minney, Matthew Previto

Master's Program Advisor

Sophia Wu

Publications

PUBLICATIONS

- **Navigating the Narrative: Integrating Traditional Knowledge and Embodied Practice within Computational Models of Ancient Seafaring** *JOURNAL OF MARITIME ARCHAEOLOGY*
Farr, H., Berard, B., Genz, J., Leidwanger, J., Slayton, E.
2025
- **Launching CAST** *JOURNAL OF MARITIME ARCHAEOLOGY*
Leidwanger, J., Borreggine, M., Farr, H., Jarriel, K., Slayton, E.
2025
- **Food at sea on the Late Antique Mediterranean** *JOURNAL OF ROMAN ARCHAEOLOGY*
Donnelly, A., Leidwanger, J.
2025
- **Maritime hinterlands and interregional interaction at Late Antique Kekova Adası, Türkiye** *JOURNAL OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SCIENCE-REPORTS*
Gross, J., Leidwanger, J., Ozdas, H., Kizildag, N.
2024; 58
- **MARITIME ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS AT VENDICARI, SOUTHEAST SICILY. A PRELIMINARY REPORT ON 2023-2024 WORK** *ARCHAEOLOGIA MARITIMA MEDITERRANEA-AN INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL ON UNDERWATER ARCHAEOLOGY*
Leidwanger, J., Greene, E., Bartos, N., Constantine, N., Sgroi, F.
2024; 21
- **Regional Economies in Action. Standardization of Transport Amphorae in the Roman and Byzantine Mediterranean** *Sonderschriften des Österreichischen Archäologischen Instituts*
edited by Leidwanger, J., González Cesteros, H.
Austrian Academy of Sciences.2023; 63
- **ROMAN PORT SOCIETIES: THE EVIDENCE OF INSCRIPTIONS (Book Review)** *JOURNAL OF ROMAN STUDIES*
Book Review Authored by: Leidwanger, J.
2022
- **Toward Systematic Underwater Survey of Mediterranean Maritime Activity along the Southern Turkish Coast** *JOURNAL OF FIELD ARCHAEOLOGY*
Ozdas, H., Leidwanger, J., Gross, J., Kizildag, N.
2022
- **Ephemeral Heritage: Boats, Migration, and the Central Mediterranean Passage** *AMERICAN JOURNAL OF ARCHAEOLOGY*
Greene, E. S., Leidwanger, J., Repola, L.
2022; 126 (1): 79-102
- **Wandering Ports on the Datca Peninsula Exploring Regional Mobility in a Maritime Landscape** *HOMO MIGRANS*
Greene, E. S., Leidwanger, J.
edited by Daniels, M. J.
2022: 269-290
- **UNDERWATER ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS AT VENDICARI, SOUTHEAST SICILY: A PRELIMINARY REPORT ON THE 2018 - 2022 WORK** *ARCHAEOLOGIA MARITIMA MEDITERRANEA-AN INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL ON UNDERWATER ARCHAEOLOGY*
Leidwanger, J., Bartos, N., Wilker, S. T., Greene, E. S.
2022; 19: 113-120
- **Welcome from the new editors** *JOURNAL OF ROMAN ARCHAEOLOGY*
Trimble, J., Ben Russell, Van Oyen, A., Leidwanger, J.

2021; 34 (1): 1-2

- **The Sixth-Century CE Shipwreck at Marzamemi** *AMERICAN JOURNAL OF ARCHAEOLOGY*
Leidwanger, J., Greene, E. S., Donnelly, A.
2021; 125 (2): 283-317
- **A NEW COMPUTATIONAL METHOD TO QUANTIFY MORPHOLOGICAL STANDARDIZATION AND VARIATION WITHIN CERAMIC ASSEMBLAGES** *ARCHEOLOGIA E CALCOLATORI*
Vo-Phamhi, J., Leidwanger, J.
2020; 31 (1): 55–76
- **Roman Seas: A Maritime Archaeology of Eastern Mediterranean Economies**
Leidwanger, J.
Oxford University Press.2020
- **MARZAMEMI II 'CHURCH WRECK' EXCAVATION: 2019 FIELD SEASON** *ARCHEOLOGIA MARITIMA MEDITERRANEA-AN INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL ON UNDERWATER ARCHAEOLOGY*
Leidwanger, J., Sgroi, F.
2020; 17: 103–23
- **Archaeological Investigations in the Harbours of Burgaz, Turkey: 2011-2015 field seasons** *INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF NAUTICAL ARCHAEOLOGY*
Greene, E. S., Leidwanger, J., Tuna, N.
2019; 48 (1): 103–22
- **Knidian "Anyports": a model of coastal adaptation and socioeconomic connectivity from southwest Turkey** *MEDITERRANEAN HISTORICAL REVIEW*
Greene, E. S., Leidwanger, J.
2019; 34 (1): 9–25
- **MARZAMEMI II 'CHURCH WRECK' EXCAVATION: 2018 FIELD SEASON** *ARCHEOLOGIA MARITIMA MEDITERRANEA-AN INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL ON UNDERWATER ARCHAEOLOGY*
Leidwanger, J.
2019; 16: 13–31
- **Virtual simulation of a late antique shipwreck at Marzamemi, Sicily: Integrated processes for 3D documentation, analysis and representation of underwater archaeological data** *ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROSPECTION*
Repola, L., di Carlo, N., Signoretti, D., Leidwanger, J.
2018; 25 (2): 99–109
- **MARZAMEMI II 'CHURCH WRECK' EXCAVATION: 2017 FIELD SEASON** *ARCHEOLOGIA MARITIMA MEDITERRANEA-AN INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL ON UNDERWATER ARCHAEOLOGY*
Leidwanger, J., Tusa, S.
2018; 15: 37–55
- **Maritime Networks in the Ancient Mediterranean World**
edited by Leidwanger, J., Knappett, C.
2018
- **New investigations of the 6th-c. AD "church wreck" at Marzamemi, Sicily** *JOURNAL OF ROMAN ARCHAEOLOGY*
Leidwanger, J.
2018; 31: 339–56
- **From Time Capsules to Networks: New Light on Roman Shipwrecks in the Maritime Economy** *AMERICAN JOURNAL OF ARCHAEOLOGY*
Leidwanger, J.
2017; 121 (4): 595–619
- **MARZAMEMI II 'CHURCH WRECK' EXCAVATION: 2016 FIELD SEASON** *ARCHEOLOGIA MARITIMA MEDITERRANEA-AN INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL ON UNDERWATER ARCHAEOLOGY*
Leidwanger, J., Tusa, S.
2017; 14: 105–22

- **GLOBALISATION AND THE ROMAN WORLD: WORLD HISTORY, CONNECTIVITY AND MATERIAL CULTURE (Book Review)** *JOURNAL OF ROMAN STUDIES*
Book Review Authored by: Leidwanger, J.
2017; 107: 378-379
- **The Making of the Middle Sea: A History of the Mediterranean from the Beginning to the Emergence of the Classical World (Book Review)** *CLASSICAL PHILOLOGY*
Book Review Authored by: Leidwanger, J.
2016; 111 (4): 465-469
- **An Assemblage of Early Modern Ordnance and Ground Tackle from South-west Cyprus** *INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF NAUTICAL ARCHAEOLOGY*
Howitt-Marshall, D., Jones, T. N., Leidwanger, J., Nowak, T. J.
2016; 45 (1): 175-180
- **MARZAMEMI II 'CHURCH WRECK' EXCAVATION: 2015 FIELD SEASON** *ARCHAEOLOGIA MARITIMA MEDITERRANEA-AN INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL ON UNDERWATER ARCHAEOLOGY*
Leidwanger, J., Tusa, S.
2016; 13: 129-143
- **A Late Antique Ceramic Assemblage at Burgaz, Datca Peninsula, South-west Turkey, and the "Normality of the Mixed Cargo" in the Ancient Mediterranean** *INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF NAUTICAL ARCHAEOLOGY*
Leidwanger, J., Greene, E. S., Tuna, N.
2015; 44 (2): 300-311
- **MARZAMEMI II 'CHURCH WRECK' EXCAVATION: 2014 FIELD SEASON** *ARCHAEOLOGIA MARITIMA MEDITERRANEA-AN INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL ON UNDERWATER ARCHAEOLOGY*
Leidwanger, J., Tusa, S.
2015; 12: 103-115
- **Burgaz (Palaia Knidos) 2012 Yılı Çalışmaları Kazı Sonuçları Toplantısı**
Tuna, N., Atıcı, N., Sakarya, I., Greene, E. S., Leidwanger, J.
2014; 35 (1): 60-75
- **Maritime Networks and Economic Regionalism in the Roman Eastern Mediterranean** *Les nouvelles de l'archéologie*
Leidwanger, J.
2014; 135: 32-38
- **Implementing Underwater Cultural Heritage 'Best Practices' in the Mediterranean: The Noto Meeting** *International Journal of Nautical Archaeology*
Leidwanger, J., Greene, E. S., Daniels, B. I., Leventhal, R. M., Tusa, S.
2014; 43 (2): 453-455
- **A Preliminary Archaeometric Analysis of the Late Roman 1 Amphoras from the Cargo of the Seventh-Century Yassiada Shipwreck, Turkey** *LRCW 4. Late Roman Coarse Wares, Cooking Wares and Amphorae in the Mediterranean*
Leidwanger, J.
edited by Poulou-Papadimitriou, N.
Oxford University Press.2014: 897-906
- **Marzamemi II 'Church Wreck' Excavation: 2013 Field Season** *Archaeologia Maritima Mediterranea*
Leidwanger, J., Bruno, N.
2014; 10: 191-198
- **Integrating an Empire: Maritime Trade and Agricultural Supply in Roman Cyprus** *Skyllis: Zeitschrift für Unterwasserarchäologie*
Leidwanger, J.
2014; 13 (1): 59-66
- **Review of "Trading Communities in the Roman World: A Micro-Economic and Institutional Perspective"** *Columbia Studies in the Classical Tradition*
Leidwanger, J.

Leiden: Brill.2014

- **Excavating the Harbors of Old Knidos** *INA Quarterly*
Greene, E. S., Leidwanger, J., Tuna, N.
2014; 40 (4): 8-13
- **Opportunistic Ports and Spaces of Exchange in Late Roman Cyprus** *JOURNAL OF MARITIME ARCHAEOLOGY*
Leidwanger, J.
2013; 8 (2): 221-243
- **Between Local and Long-Distance: A Roman Shipwreck at Fig Tree Bay off SE Cyprus** *Journal of Roman Archaeology*
Leidwanger, J.
2013; 26: 191-208
- **Review of "Maritime Technology in the Ancient Economy: Ship-Design and Navigation"** *Journal of Roman Archaeology Supplementary Series, American Journal of Archaeology*
Leidwanger, J.
2013; 117 (2)
- **Expanding Contacts and Collapsing Distances in Early Cypro-Archaic Trade: Three Case Studies of Shipwrecks off the Turkish Coast** *Transport Amphorae and Trade of Cyprus*
Greene, E. S., Leidwanger, J., Özdaş, H.
edited by Lawall, M. L., Lund, J.
Aarhus: Aarhus University Press.2013: 21–34
- **Modeling Distance with Time in Ancient Mediterranean Seafaring: A GIS Application for the Interpretation of Maritime Connectivity** *Journal of Archaeological Science*
Leidwanger, J.
2013; 40: 3302-3308
- **Burgaz 2011 Yılı Çalışmaları** *Kazı Sonuçları Toplantısı*
Tuna, N., Atıcı, N., Sakarya, I., Greene, E. S., Leidwanger, J.
2013; 34 (3): 5-24
- **Law, Ethics, and Deep-Water Archaeology: the Wreck of Cesnola's Napried** *IKUWA3: Beyond Boundaries: The 3rd International Congress on Underwater Archaeology*
Greene, E. S., Leidwanger, J.
edited by Henderson, J.
Frankfurt: Roman-Germanic Commission.2012: 83–88
- **Sourcing the Cargos of Three Archaic Shipwrecks: Kekova Adası, Kepçe Burnu, and Çaycağız Koyu** *Arkeometri Sonuçları Toplantısı*
Leidwanger, J., Özdaş, H., Greene, E. S.
2012; 27: 393-409
- **Mare Nostrum? Ethics and Archaeology in Mediterranean Waters** *AMERICAN JOURNAL OF ARCHAEOLOGY*
Greene, E. S., Leidwanger, J., Leventhal, R. M., Daniels, B. I.
2011; 115 (2): 311-319
- **Two Early Archaic Shipwrecks at Kekova Adası and Kepce Burnu, Turkey** *INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF NAUTICAL ARCHAEOLOGY*
Greene, E. S., Leidwanger, J., Ozdas, H. A.
2011; 40 (1): 60-68
- **Amphoras from an Early Imperial Shipwreck at Fig Tree Bay, Cyprus: International Imports and Local Imitations** *Rei Cretariae Romanae Fautorum Acta*
Leidwanger, J.
2010; 41: 9-16
- **Toward Best Practices in Mediterranean Underwater Archaeology** *International Journal of Nautical Archaeology*
Greene, E. S., Leidwanger, J., Leventhal, R. M., Daniels, B. I.
2010; 39 (2): 437-439