IIHSA Day School 2021

*Seascapes:*

*Island and Coastal Life in the Aegean and Beyond,*

*from Prehistory to the Recent Past*

**21st and 22nd April 2021 16.00**

*On Zoom, hosted by UCD.*

The ancient Greek world was defined to one extent or another by the seas which surrounded it. Jutting out into the Mediterranean, the expansive coastlines of the Greek peninsula and neighbouring islands made it inevitable that the sea would shape the lives of the peoples it surrounded. From the pioneering colonisation of new lands in the ages of stone through to the participation in vast empires of the Hellenistic and Roman world, the sea not only connected people but shaped their view of the world around them. The good surely came with the bad – while resources could be accessed through expansive trade networks bringing prosperity, they could be taken away by force through piratic raids. Yet even more routinely, the sea shaped leisure, diet and the very nature of communities. The Aegean Sea connected and divided, sustained and challenged, lay beyond places for living but was at the centre of life. In these short papers, we present case studies and theoretical reflections on how island and coastal life was a defining characteristic of Greece from prehistory to more recent times.

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