

Wittgenstein-Award Project
“Mobility, Microstructures and Personal Agency in Byzantium”

Lilia Campana

Institute of Nautical Archaeology, *Texas A&M University*

**Byzantine Ship Design and Its Legacy in the West:
Transmission and Application of Shipbuilding Knowledge in Venice and Beyond**

Monday, 17 May 2021, 17:00 to 18:30 CEST

Online Lecture and Discussion by Zoom

<https://www.byzneo.univie.ac.at/veranstaltungen/wittgenstein-prize-project/>

The Wittgenstein Project Team invites you to a virtual lecture and discussion with Lilia Campana (Texas A&M University). After a 45-minute lecture by Dr. Campana, there will be time for discussion, moderated by Prof. Dr. Claudia Rapp.

The virtual meeting hosted via Zoom will provide the unique opportunity to discuss with **Dr. Campana** her current work on **“Byzantine Ship Design and Its Legacy in the West: Transmission and Application of Shipbuilding Knowledge in Venice and Beyond”**. In the Eastern Mediterranean, the period spanning from the 7th to the 11th century was a time of considerable progress in the technology of ship construction. Archeological data from Byzantine shipwrecks document the transition from shell-first to skeleton-first construction, suggesting the use of whole-moulding methods, a new, revolutionary ship design process devised by Byzantine shipwrights based on Euclidean geometry to produce superior vessels. Fourteenth-century Venetian maritime manuscripts provide the earliest textual and visual evidence for Byzantine whole-moulding methods, implying that, by the Late Middle Ages, they were adopted by the shipyards of European maritime states. Completely revolutionizing ship construction concepts, Byzantine whole-moulding methods created sturdier ships, able to safely cross oceans, eventually launching Europe into the Age of Exploration.



Byzantine whole-moulding methods from *The Notebook of Zorzi Trombetta from Modon* (1444-1449). British Library, Cotton Ms Titus A XXVI, fol. 45r

Dr. Lilia Campana is a maritime and naval historian of the medieval and early modern Mediterranean, specializing in the history of shipbuilding technology, with a focus on the application of ancient mathematics, geometry, and mechanical arts in ship design. Her research on Byzantine shipbuilding and ship design is supported by the Archaeological Institute of America, the Dumbarton Oaks Research Library & Collections, the American Council of Learned Societies, and the Gladys Kriebel Delmas Foundation. She is currently an Affiliated Scholar at the Institute of Nautical Archaeology at Texas A&M University.

Please feel free to share this invitation with anyone who might be interested in the topic. Pre-registration for this online event is mandatory. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email. For Zoom-safety reasons, after you confirm your data we will send you the event’s link a few days or hours before the lecture: <https://www.byzneo.univie.ac.at/veranstaltungen/wittgenstein-prize-project/>

If you have inquiries, please contact Dr. Ekaterini Mitsiou (Project Team Member, ekaterini.mitsiou@univie.ac.at).

For further information and updates on future events, you may also consult our website:
<http://rapp.univie.ac.at/>