

PRESENTER BIOGRAPHIES (alphabetical order of first names)

Adolfo Fernández Fernández holds a PhD in Archaeology and is an Associate Professor at the University of Vigo. He specialized in ceramic studies and in the analysis of trade and the economy in the Roman and Late Antique worlds. He is the scientific director of several regional R&D projects, including Armea (2016–2026) and various initiatives within the Maritime-Terrestrial National Park of the Atlantic Islands of Galicia (PNMTIAG). He has led projects funded through competitive calls, including ATLANTRADE, focused on Late Roman Atlantic trade, and SENTINELA, aimed at monitoring and protecting coastal heritage against erosion. He also participates in international projects such as LECHAION (ASCSA–University of California) and MAROCO, which address ancient economy and trade.

Ellie Graham is a researcher at the University of Aberdeen working on climate change impacts to coastal sites. Her PhD research used drone-based survey to assess erosion threat and site vulnerability and she currently manages the CITADEL Project which combines research- and rescue-led excavations at the early medieval Pictish power centre on the coastal promontory fort of Burghead, Moray.

Gert Jan van Wijngaarden (PhD) is Associate Professor in Mediterranean Archaeology at the Amsterdam Centre for Ancient Studies and Archaeology (ACASA) of the University of Amsterdam. His specialism is Mediterranean pre- and Protohistory, in particular that of Mycenaean Greece. He has directed fieldwork on the island of Zakynthos (2005-2015) and the renowned site of ancient Troy in Turkey (2018-2022). Currently, he is preparing new archaeological fieldwork on Zakynthos.

Heleen van Londen (PhD) works as an assistant professor of Archaeology at the University of Amsterdam and is also the portfolio holder for Spatial Planning, Landscape, and Cultural History at the Wadden Academy. Additionally, she is an expert for the Dutch Commission for Environmental Assessment (Commissie mer) in the fields of cultural history, landscape and archaeology. Among other projects, Heleen leads the CARE Schylge project on Terschelling, where students and islanders research the history of the island together.

Jason Laffoon (BA 2004 & MA 2006 in Anthropology, University of Illinois at Chicago; PhD in Archaeology 2012, Leiden University) is an Associate Professor at the Faculty of Archaeology (UL). His main research interests focus on integrating bioarchaeological and biochemical approaches to the study of past lifeways with a special focus on mobility, diet, and exchange. Jason has conducted archaeological investigations in North America, South America, and Europe but his main area of expertise is the Caribbean region. He is currently

the PI of the NWO-funded Vidi project PastPorts project which leverages and advances recent developments in archaeological science to address fundamental questions about human migrations in the Caribbean.

Jitte Waagen is a digital archaeologist at Amsterdam Centre of Ancient Studies and Archaeology, as well as coordinator of the 4D Research Lab (4DRL). He holds a PhD in landscape archaeology, with a thesis titled 'Sampling past landscapes: Methodological inquiries into the bias problems of recording archaeological surface assemblages.'. His current research engages with archaeological prospection, (UAS) remote sensing, geo-ICT, statistics, 3D modeling, eXtended reality and technology enhanced learning. His working area is the whole of Europe, with a focus on Mediterranean Archaeology, but he is also involved in projects in the Caribbean and Asia.

Josje van Leeuwen (rMA) worked at Archeologie West-Friesland, a joint arrangement of nine counties in Noord-Holland, for nearly six years after finishing her thesis on the medieval harbour town of Medemblik. She then started at Buro de Brug as an archaeologist and adviser to many counties, working mostly in the Northwestern part of the Netherlands and Frisia particularly. Since 2023 Buro de Brug helps with the organisation of the CARE Schylge project, with Josje as project coordinator. Since 2026 she is the director of Stichting Tastbare Tijd. Apart from archaeology, Josje is also a basketmaker.

Maaïke S. de Waal (PhD in archaeology, Leiden University) is Assistant Professor and Head of the Field Research and Education Centre, Faculty of Archaeology, Leiden University. Previously, she lectured archaeology at the University of the West Indies (Barbados). Her research interests include coastal and (small) island archaeology, Caribbean archaeology and heritage, landscape archaeology, prospective archaeology and archaeological heritage management. Recent publications include 'Ethics in Caribbean Archaeology. Past, present and future' (University of Florida Press, 2026) and 'Coastal Archaeology in Small Islands. Prehistoric Lifeways, Research Perceptions, Biases, Methods and Approaches' (Sidestone Press, 2026).

Màiri MacLean completed her BSc in Archaeology & Geoscience at the University of Aberdeen, followed by an MSc in Osteoarchaeology at the University of Sheffield. She recently completed her PhD with SUERC and the University of Glasgow, studying Neolithic and Bronze Age population movements in the Inner and Outer Hebrides. She specialises in Hebridean prehistory, stable isotope analysis, postcolonial analysis, and perceptions of remoteness in island contexts. She currently works for *Comann Eachdraidh Barraidh agus*

Bhatarsaidh (Barra & Vatersay Heritage Centre) as their Project Co-ordinator, developing ongoing digitisation projects and public engagement.

Manuela Ritondale is Assistant Professor in Classical Archaeology at the IMT School for Advanced Studies Lucca and Postdoctoral Researcher in the ERC Consolidator Grant *MarDepend* at the University of Trier, where she co-coordinates the work package on seafaring simulation. Previously, she held a postdoctoral position in Digital Heritage-Inclusivity, Innovation, and Curation, at the University of Groningen where she particularly addressed the ethics of digital and computational methods. In her double-PhD she developed an archaeological predictive model for shipwrecking probability in Mediterranean waters. She also co-founded and co-coordinates the Dutch chapter of the Association of Critical Heritage Studies, contributing to debates on critical digital heritage.

Marie Kolbenstetter is a PhD candidate at the Faculty of Archaeology at Leiden University and at the University of Paris-Nanterre. Since 2021, she has been directing the mosaic-funded *Mangrove and Islands of the Gulf of Fonseca Archaeological Project* (PAMIGOLF) in Honduras. As part of this project, she has led several seasons of survey and excavation on islands, in mangrove forests and on the mainland of Southern Honduras together with a team of Honduran students and graduates. Her doctoral research, focusing on the island of El Tigre, is primarily concerned with the diversity of ways precolonial communities formed and maintained social ties across the region.

Matt Law (PhD in archaeology, Cardiff University) is Senior Lecturer in Environmental Change and Sustainability at Bath Spa University, UK. He received his Ph.D. in Archaeology in 2018. His research primarily focuses on mollusk shell assemblages as indicators of past agricultural practices, environmental change and resource acquisition among prehistoric and later societies. He is especially interested in ecological interactions and paleoeconomy of coastal and island communities, and in perceptions of environmental change.

Mirre van der Velden is a graduate of the Bachelor's programme in Archaeology at Saxion University of Applied Sciences in Deventer, the Netherlands. Her research interests include island archaeology, zooarchaeology, paleontology, taphonomy, and taxonomy, with a particular interest in animal remains and the interactions between humans, animals, and their environments. Her thesis-research (2026) focused on the Pleistocene faunal assemblage of Liko Cave, Crete, investigating the evidence for possible human activity and the processes that shaped the assemblage.

Nerea Ruanova Álvarez holds a PhD from the University of Vigo and is a researcher of the Grupo de Estudos de Arqueoloxía, Antigüidade e Territorio (GEAT). Specialized in Roman pottery, epigraphy, and potters' marks on *terra sigillata*, she has carried out extensive work in archaeological excavations and research projects throughout Galicia. Since 2019, she has participated as a technical archaeologist in the Cibdá de Armea (Allariz) project, and since 2021 she has collaborated on various archaeological projects conducted within the Maritime-Terrestrial National Park of the Atlantic Islands of Galicia (PNMTIAG).

Patricia Valle Abad holds a PhD in Archaeology and is a researcher of the Grupo de Estudos de Arqueoloxía, Antigüidade e Territorio (GEAT). She specialized in Roman and Late Roman funerary customs, as well as in the digitization and virtual reconstruction of cultural heritage. Since 2016, she has directed several archaeological excavations, including those at Adro Vello (2022–2026) and the Castle of Allariz (2024–2026), and has also led the fieldworks of project SENTINELA, which focuses on the monitoring and protection of coastal endangered heritage. She has participated in several international projects, including LECHAION (ASCSA–University of California), MAROCO (University of Vigo), and the excavations at Ephesus (ÖAI).

Ruth Blankenfeldt is an archaeologist at LEIZA (Leibniz Zentrum für Archäologie) in Schleswig (formerly: ZBSA (Centre for Baltic and Scandinavian Archaeology) Schleswig). Ruth studied Pre and Protohistoric Archaeology and European Ethnology and Geology in Münster and Kiel. Her research interests include Northern Europe, First Millennium AD, Landscape Archaeology, Wetland and Underwater Archaeology, Fieldwork, Ritual & Conflict, Germanic Art, Material Culture, and Metal Detecting Archaeology. Ruth is currently working in the Wadden Sea Project (DFG Forschungsgruppe 'Times of Rise and Failure' [TORF]).