

Ancient Greek Maritime Networks: Past, Present, Future

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Ancient sailing routes in the Aegean (traced on the basis of accounts of ancient authors).

This project encompasses an analysis of the islands of Levitha and Delos in order to posit and further discover the influence of ancient Greek maritime networks of the sailing routes of the Aegean Sea on present and future discussions on networks, settlements and cities. This research is relevant not only as a result of its uncovering of a portion of historical and archaeological research but also as a result of its future implications regarding the source of, and agents involved with, ancient Greek maritime networks.

Part 1:

I began by focusing on maritime networks in the Aegean Sea in order to study how analyses of past settlements and economic and social networks inform present discussions and notions of modern networks and settlements. Investigating these links between past conceptions of maritime networks and settlements and their influence on modern networks and settlements, I homed in on the maritime world of Delos and its significance of the ancient world in the Delos Symposia in the 1960s and 70s.

Part 2:

The Delos Symposia ran from 1963-75 and underscore the significance of maritime networks of the past as interweaving with contemporary networks and discussions on the future of cities. With particular interest in architect-planner Constantinos Doxiadis, the creator of the Symposia surrounding the 'science' of human settlements and planning, I reviewed papers from the forthcoming book *Doxiadis and the Delos Symposia (1963-75): History and Legacy* to bridge connections with the past, the 1960s-70s, and the present in terms of discussions of networks, climate change, and ecology. (This notion of future cities is particularly interesting in the context of Philadelphia; in "The visionary in the marsh: Doxiadis and the dream of Eastwick," Harrison Blackman conceptualizes Doxiadis's dream to revitalize a neighborhood of Philadelphia with a development model that did not account for racial prejudices of future inhabitants of the city.)



View of the 1963 Delos Symposion on Delos (walking through the theatre district towards the theatre).

Part 3:

Delos possessed a series of networks—trade, economic, social, maritime—which rendered it a center of an international community allowing for connection to various Greek and Roman cultures. Discussions in Delos in the 1960s and 1970s revolved around a network of people interested in this network of antiquity with the goal of hosting discussions about the future of the city. Thus, the ancient maritime connections of Delos facilitated a unique site to discuss the future of the cities and the networks which connect people, places, economic and social lives, and questions regarding the future of cities. Rather than serving as a standard conference in which members gathered around a table while a speaker presented her findings, the Symposia took place along the Aegean Sea with the goal of conforming to ancient practices of hospitality associated with the traditions of Greek banquets.



The cover page of Doxiadis's Ekistics journal, showing the route the participants took during the Symposium (1965).

Part 4:

Justin Leidwanger's recent texts *Roman seas: a maritime archaeology of eastern Mediterranean economies* and *Maritime Networks in the Ancient Mediterranean World* reference the significance of maritime networks in connection to economic, social, and cultural structures of antiquity and build upon the notions of connectivity and mobility in the transportation of resources and goods across coastal topographies. These detailed network approaches informed my understanding of the maritime networks of Levitha and Delos in particular and allowed me to focus on the Delos Symposia as a bridging of the ancient world with the construction, development, and maintenance of future networks, settlements and cities.

Significance:

Analysis of maritime settlements and their influence on modern cities through networks permitted a study of the congealing of connectivity with mobility and social change in ancient settlements. Such an analysis of Levitha and Delos reveals the merging of institutional memory with environmental concerns raised in the Delos Symposia of the 1960s-70s. These urgent questions of climate change and ecological concerns have re-emerged today, and the study of maritime networks explores such considerations in terms of settlements with the far-reaching influence of antiquity.