**Delineating Probable Sea Routes**

**Between Cyprus and its Surrounding Coastal Areas**

**at the Start of the Holocene: A Simulation Approach**



**Project objectives, methods, and results**

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11:00 am, May 18, 2022

Room Lemesos, Andreas Themistocleous Bldg.

Cyprus University of Technology

Project SaRoCy, implemented under the “Excellence Hubs” administered by the Research and Innovation Foundation (RIF) of Cyprus, seeks to offer novel insights into the possible prehistoric maritime pathways between Cyprus and other Eastern Mediterranean coastal regions at the onset of the Holocene (circa ~12,000 years before present), a critical period for understanding the origins of the early visitors in Cyprus in connection with the spread of the Neolithic. To this end, project SaRoCy employs physics-based modelling of ocean circulation dynamics coupled with particle tracking simulations for modelling drift-induced and purposeful sea-borne movement, based on data and assumptions about prevailing past meteorological conditions and vessel characteristics. The simulations are used to delineate probable sea routes, estimate the degree of connectivity between locations on Cyprus’s coastline and locations on its neighboring mainlands, and identify areas on both coastlines where landing/departure might be most favorable. The simulation results, when contextualised with the relevant archaeological record, are inform answers regarding the origin of Cyprus’s first inhabitants, the technological and possibly cognitive abilities related to successful seagoing, as well as the emergent preferred sea routes.

**Zoom link for online participation:**

(passcode in case required: 702299)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87328983645?pwd=CoQAtFXgF9PVFYn6y1TsrIP-tIT-gL.1>