

Stephen DeCasien

Ph.D. Candidate in Nautical Archaeology, Department of Anthropology, Texas A&M University
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EDUCATION

2019-Present: Texas A&M University, College of Liberal Arts, College Station, Texas

Doctor of Philosophy in Anthropology, (expected 5/24)

Major: Nautical Archaeology

Dissertation Title: *The Naval Ram: History, Production, and Symbolism in Greek and Roman Cultures*

Chair: Dr. Deborah Carlson

2022: American Academy in Rome, Rome, Italy

Classical Summer School, 2022 (non-degree awarding institution)

2017-19: University of South Florida, College of Arts and Sciences, Tampa, Florida

Master of Arts in History, 5/19

Major: Ancient History

2018: American School of Classical Studies at Athens, Athens, Greece

Summer Session, 2018 (non-degree awarding institution)

2013-16: Stockton University, Arts and Humanities College, Galloway, New Jersey

Bachelor of Arts, 5/16

Major: Historical Studies

Minor: Ancient Greek

Thesis Title: *Tracing the Cultural Origins of Government and Religion in Ptolemaic Egypt*

2012-13: Rowan University, Humanities and Social Sciences College, Glassboro, New Jersey

Attended pre-transfer (no degree awarded), 9/12 – 5/13

Major: History

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Greek and Roman Maritime History and Archaeology; Ancient Naval Warfare, Warships, and Naval Rams; Ship Construction; Ancient Seafaring; Sex and Gender in Antiquity; Experimental Archaeology

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles:

DeCasien, S. "Ancient Roman Naval Rams as Objects of Phallic Power." *Journal of Ancient History* 9, no. 1 (2021): 123-146.

Book Reviews:

Review of T. Vijgen, *The Cultural Parameters of the Graeco-Roman War Discourse* (Brepols Publishers, 2020) in *The Journal of Military History* 85, no. 2 (April 2021): 491-492.

Review of R. Nolan, *Julius Caesar's Invasion of Britain: Solving A 2,000-Year-Old Mystery*. (Frontline Books, 2018) in *The Journal of Military History* 84, no. 4 (October 2020): 1194-1196.

Review of J.P. Delgado, *War at Sea: A Shipwrecked History from Antiquity to the Twentieth Century* (Oxford University Press, 2019) in *Res Militares* 20, no. 1 (April 2020): 6-7.

Popular Articles:

Forthcoming: DeCasien, S, "'Proto-Rams': Piecing Together the Early History of Naval Ram Development." *Ancient Near East Today*

DeCasien, S. "Ancient Naval Ram Casting Project (2021-present)." *CMAC News and Reports* 6, no. 1, Winter 2023.

DeCasien, S. "Knowing the Ropes: A Roman Passenger at Sea," *Ancient History Magazine* 31, December 2020. 36-39.

DeCasien, S. "Besieging Rhodes by Sea - Naval Siege Machinery in Action," *Ancient Warfare Magazine* 14, no. 3, December 2020. 26-33.

Database Collections and Entries:

DeCasien, S. "Naval Ram Collection." *The Nautical Archaeology Digital Library*. Last Updated December 2020.
<https://shiplib.org/index.php/rams-2/>

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Texas A&M University: Anthropology Department, Professional Development Grant	Summer 2023
Texas A&M University: Anthropology Department, Conference Travel Grant	Spring 2023
Association of Ancient Historians: Subvention Committee, Subvention Grant	Spring 2023
American Academy in Rome: Classical Summer School, Imperatrix SPQR Helen Aurora Gulamerian Scholarship	Summer 2022
Texas A&M University: Anthropology Department, Pilot Research Grant	Summer 2022
Texas A&M University: Anthropology Department, Professional Development Grant	Summer 2022
Texas A&M University: Anthropology Department, Dissertation Support Fellowship	Summer 2021
Texas A&M University: Graduate Fellow, Marian M. Cook Fellow in Nautical Archaeology	1/20 – 5/21
Texas A&M University: Anthropology Department, Professional Development Grant	Summer 2020
University of South Florida: Grants Committee, Conference Presentation Grant	Spring 2019
University of South Florida: Grants Committee, Conference Presentation Grant	Spring 2019
University of South Florida: Ancient Studies Center, Turman Scholarship in Ancient Studies	Summer 2018
American School of Classical Studies at Athens: Summer Session, Lawler Fellowship	Summer 2018

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor of Record

Texas A&M University: Peoples and Cultures of the World	Spring 2023
Texas A&M University: Peoples and Cultures of the World	Fall 2021

Teaching Assistant

Texas A&M University: Cultural Diversity and Ethics	Fall 2022
Texas A&M University: Naval Warfare and Warships in Ancient Greece and Rome	Spring 2022
Texas A&M University: Nautical Archaeology	Spring 2022
Texas A&M University: Introduction to Archaeology	Fall 2019
University of South Florida: Greek Warfare	Fall 2018
University of South Florida: Classical Greece	Spring 2018
University of South Florida: Greek Warfare	Fall 2017

Guest Lectures

"Hellenistic Fleets and the First Punic War," Texas A&M University: Classical Seafaring	Fall 2022
"Ancient Lost-Wax Casting," Texas A&M University: Biblical Archaeology	Spring 2022
"Ancient Navies and Shipwrecks," Texas A&M University: Introduction to Anthropology	Fall 2021

Graduate Coursework

Texas A&M University: Teaching Anthropology	Spring 2020
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ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELDWORK

"The Actium Monument Project", Greece Project Advisor: Dr. William M. Murray	Summer 2023
"Publishing the Warship Rams from the Last Battle of the First Punic War" Project, Sicily Project Advisor: Dr. William M. Murray	Summer 2022

RESEARCH PROJECTS

American Academy in Rome

Classical Summer School 2022 Site Report: The Roman Rostra and Roman Sea Power Project Advisor: Dr. Sanjaya Thakur	Summer 2022
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Texas A&M University, Department of Anthropology

Ancient Naval Ram Casting Project - Experimental Archaeology	Fall 2021 – Spring 2023
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Project Advisors: Stephen DeCasien, Dr. Christopher Dostal, and Glenn Grieco

Ramming Description and Translation Project Fall 2020
Project Advisor: Stephen DeCasien

American School of Classical Studies at Athens
Summer Session 2018 Site Reports: Pella Site and Mosaics; Theater of Epidaurus Summer 2018
Project Advisor: Dr. Daniel Levine

University of South Florida, Department of History
3D Actium Ram Socket Project in Geomagic Wrap Spring 2019
Project Advisor: Dr. William M. Murray

Egadi Rams: Damage Report and Mapping Project Fall 2019
Project Advisor: Dr. William M. Murray

3D Actium Ram Metadata Project and Database Construction with USF Library Spring 2018
Project Advisor: Dr. William M. Murray

Stockton University, Department of History
Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church: Archive Creation and Organization Spring 2016
Project Advisor: Dr. Anastasios Papademetriou

Library Exhibition on Iakovos Kambanellis Spring 2015
Project Advisor: Dr. David Roessel

Theater Workshop and Play Translation in Rhodes, Greece Summer 2014
Project Advisor: Dr. David Roessel

UNIVERSITY LEADERSHIP

Texas A&M University
Shipwreck Weekend 2023 (NAP Yearly Event at Texas A&M University), Naval Ram Lecturer/Ship Model Lab Spring 2023
Association of Anthropology Graduate Students (AAGS), Member 9/19 – present
Association of Anthropology Graduate Students (AAGS), Nautical Subfield Representative 9/20 - 5/21
Graduate-Undergraduate Mentorship Program (GUMP), Mentor and Research Advisor 9/20 – 12/21
College of Liberal Arts Graduate Instruction Committee, Graduate Student Body Representative 9/19 - 5/20

University of South Florida
History Department Graduate Student Organization, President 1/19 - 5/19
Phi Alpha Theta Rho Nu Chapter, Secretary and 2nd Financial Officer 1/18 - 5/19
Ancient Studies Center, Student Advisory Council 9/17 - 5/19

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

The Nautical Archaeology Digital Library (NADL), Texas A&M Team Member/Contributor 12/20 - present
Institute of Nautical Archaeology (INA), Graduate Research Assistant 1/20 – 5/21
Institute of Nautical Archaeology (INA), Summer Research Assistant Summer 2020
RPM Nautical Foundation (RPMNF), Communications/Independent Consultant 12/19 - present

PUBLIC OUTREACH

Invited Lectures

“The Battle of the Egadi Islands Project,” with Jim Goold, Institute of Nautical Archaeology (INA), Texas Spring 2023
“Ancient Naval Warfare and Experimental Ram Casting,” Saint Andrew’s School, Florida Spring 2023
“Ancient Naval Warfare, Warships, and Naval Rams,” Nanyang Technological University, Singapore Spring 2023
“The Naval Ram in Antiquity,” The Augustan Society, Florida Spring 2021

Interviews/Media Appearances

“Building an Ancient Naval Ram with Stephen DeCasien,” CIMSEC: Sea Control Podcast Spring 2023
“The History and Development of Naval Rams,” The Study of Antiquity and the Middle Ages (YouTube) Spring 2021

“Rams and Ramming,” Ancient Warfare Magazine: The Podcast	Fall 2020
“The Siege of Rhodes: Classical Antiquity’s Most Insane Battle,” The Ancients Podcast	Summer 2020
“Hellenistic Naval Warfare,” The Hellenistic Age Podcast	Summer 2020
“Naval Warfare and Rams,” The History of Ancient Greece Podcast	Summer 2020

In the News

- Lesley Henton. “Aggie Grad Student Explores Ancient Warfare with Naval Ram Project.” *Texas A&M Today*, March 16, 2023.
- Костянтин Ценцура. Вперше за 1500 років. Як студент із Техасу відродив античну корабельну зброю.” *The New Voice of Ukraine*, February 2, 2023.
- Kyle Mizokami. “How a Grad Student Resurrected an Ancient Naval Weapon Not Seen in 1,500 Years.” *Popular Mechanics Magazine*, January 31, 2023.
- Chiara Lombardi. “Termina la campagna di documentazione dei rostri della Battaglia delle Egadi (241 A.C.)” *Mediterraneo Antico*, June 13, 2022.
- Redazione. “I Rostri della Battaglia delle Egadi oggetto di una missione di studio tra la Soprintendenza del Mare e l’americana RPM Nautical Foundation.” *L’Ora*, May 13, 2022.
- “Recovering An Ancient Battle from the Sea Floor.” *The HUB*, December 9, 2020

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

The Women’s Classical Caucus, Member	2020 - present
Lambda Classical Caucus, Member	2020 - present
The Society for Military History, Member	2019 - present
Association of Ancient Historians, Member	2019 - present
The Society of Ancient Military Historians, Member	2019 - present
Institute of Nautical Archaeology, Member	2019 - present
American School of Classical Studies at Athens, Alumni Association Member	2018 - present
Phi Alpha Theta National History Honor Society, Member	2018 - present
Archaeological Institute of America, Member	2017 - present

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

2023 Meeting of the Association of Ancient Historians, Florida State University, Florida Session: The Materials of Ancient History Paper Title: <i>Ancient Naval Ram Casting Project (2021-Present)</i>	Spring 2023
Texas A&M Anthropology Department Conference, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas Session: Podium Session III Paper Title: <i>Penetration at Sea: Themistocles, Masculinity, and Naval Warfare in 300: Rise of an Empire</i> Co-presenter: Ethan Mock	Spring 2023
Texas A&M History Conference, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas Session: Ancient World and Medieval History Paper Title: <i>Ancient Naval Ram Casting Project</i>	Spring 2023
88 th Annual Meeting of the Society for Military History, Fort Worth, Texas Session: Issues of Governance, War, and Identity from Rome to Vietnam Paper Title: <i>The Syracusan Trireme 413 BCE: Reinterpretation, Technology, and Tactics</i>	Spring 2022
Texas A&M Anthropology Department Conference, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas Session: Greeks, Romans, & Egyptians...Oh My! Paper Title: <i>The Athenian Trireme: A Hermaphroditic Role</i>	Spring 2021
Texas A&M History Conference, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas Session: Reconstructing Ancient Sicilian Society Paper Title: <i>Possibilities and Limitations of Reconstructing the Battle of the Egadi Islands and Other Ancient Naval Battles</i> Award: Best Original Research Paper in the Doctoral Category	Spring 2020
Florida Conference of Historians, New College of Florida, Sarasota, Florida Session: Sources of Historical Knowledge Paper Title: <i>Egadi Rams: Practical Methods for Inscribing a Naval Ram and Epigraphic Categorization</i>	Spring 2019

CERTIFICATES AND SKILLS

Certificates

Conservation of Archaeological Materials Certificate (Texas A&M University – Department of Anthropology):

The Conservation of Archaeological Materials Certificate provides a thorough knowledge of the latest artifact conservation methods and their application. Artifacts recovered from underwater sites are unstable when recovered and immediate conservation is necessary to ensure that the artifact does not deteriorate once out of the water. The certificate consists of formal courses in artifact conservation and practical application of that knowledge. Traditional approaches to artifact conservation are covered in detail as well as methods recently developed.

Skills

Ship Line Drafting/Drawing, 3D Printing (LulzBot TAZ Workhorse), 3D Laser Scanning (Artec Leo, FaroArm), Photogrammetry, Artifact Sketching, Artifact Photography, Artifact Casting Replication and Creation (Epoxy, Silicone, Lost wax), Diving (*Padi in progress*)

LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY

Ancient Greek	Proficient
Latin	Beginner
German	Reading Comprehension
Italian	Reading Comprehension

REFERENCES

Available upon request