Anglo-Turkish Society online lecture, 1 December 2026, 6.00 pm (UK time)

Speaker: Prof. Justin Leidwanger

Title: 'Revisiting Yassıada: Recent Research on an Early Byzantine Shipwreck and Its Maritime World'

The ship that wrecked at Yassıada off the southwest Turkish coast near Bodrum has, since its excavation in the early 1960s, offered key evidence for the pivotal changes that gripped the Mediterranean at the end of the Roman Empire. Even following its comprehensive 1982 publication, this rich assemblage has remained a focus of research, bridging old questions and new approaches to continually challenge how we see the roles of seafaring, economy, and interaction in this period. This presentation explores our shifting understanding of both the wreck and its historical era, underscoring that scholarly interpretation of any one site is never static, but rather evolves with expanding knowledge and new methods of analysis.

Booking essential: https://justin-leidwanger-presentation.eventbrite.co.uk

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Justin Leidwanger is Associate Professor of Archaeology in the Classics Department and, by courtesy, in the Oceans Department at Stanford University, where he also serves as Director of the Archaeology Center and of its Maritime Archaeology & Digital Heritage Lab (MEDLab). He has directed a variety of collaborative fieldwork projects focusing on interaction, mobility, and coastal life in Türkiye, Cyprus, Sicily, and most recently in Sardinia and Croatia. He is the author of Roman Seas*, and editor of various other volumes on topics ranging from port networks and transport amphoras to seafaring modeling and coastal heritage management.*

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