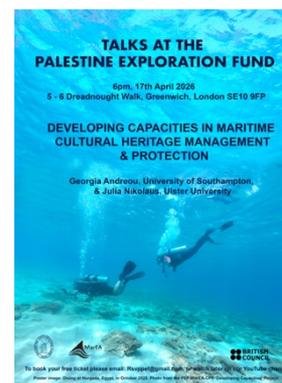


PEF EVENT

Friday 17th April 2026, 6pm

DEVELOPING CAPACITIES IN MARINE CULTURAL HERITAGE MANAGEMENT AND PROTECTION

- Georgia Andreou, University of Southampton, & Julia Nikolaus, Ulster University.
- PEF, 5-6 Dreadnought Walk, Greenwich, London SE10 9FP
- Free, please email rsvppef@gmail.com to reserve your ticket/s



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Summary

This talk presents the outcomes of the project *Developing Capacities in Marine Cultural Heritage Management and Protection*, delivered in partnership with the Palestine Exploration Fund and supported by the Cultural Protection Fund. The project addressed the acute vulnerability of Palestine's maritime and coastal heritage, particularly in Gaza, where conflict, displacement, and large-scale destruction have severely impacted cultural heritage. At the same time, it situated Palestinian capacity building within a wider regional framework of collaboration with Libya and Egypt.

Central to the project was the development of locally led capacity for maritime and coastal heritage documentation in Palestine and Libya. Training in GIS, coastal and underwater survey, first aid, and documentation methodologies equipped heritage professionals and archaeology students to respond rapidly to maritime heritage loss. This approach has been especially critical in Gaza, where underwater and coastal archaeological sites represent some of the few intact links to the past amid widespread destruction on land.

Parallel training and fieldwork in Libya fostered regional knowledge exchange and strengthened professional networks across borders. Beyond technical training, the project supported planning for a Palestine-based maritime archaeology unit, foregrounding heritage as cultural continuity and resistance to erasure.

About the Speaker

Georgia Andreou is Lecturer in Archaeology and Sustainability at the University of Southampton, and an Associate Lecturer in Near Eastern Archaeology at University College London, Institute of Archaeology. She is also co-director of the Kalavassos and Maroni Built Environment Project which focusses on two Late Bronze Age sites in Cyprus, and a research associate at the Maritime Endangered Archaeology Project (MarEA), which was established to rapidly and comprehensively document and assess endangered maritime sites. Her research interests include the impact of climate and conflict on maritime cultural heritage, and the processes through which cultural perceptions of the ancient environment shape our methodologies in archaeology and history. She has a specific project to establish a baseline for the study of maritime cultural heritage in the Gaza strip through a combination of remote sensing and in-situ documentation of vulnerable sites ranging from the Neolithic to the Iron Age.

Julia Nikolaus is a Research Fellow at the University of Ulster, an Honorary Fellow at the University of Leicester, and a Research associate with the MarEA project. Her focus is on the archaeology and landscapes of North Africa, with a particular interest in remote sensing and heritage projection, and the use of aerial photography to document changes to the landscape over time. Other interests include complex funerary landscapes and the impact of colonialism and imperialism on North African art and architecture.

HOW TO FIND US

The PEF is situated on the south bank of the River Thames, a short walk away from Greenwich train and DLR station and Greenwich Pier (Riverbus). Cutty Sark DLR station is currently closed until Spring 2026.

