

Curriculum Vitae
Stephen DeCasien
Postdoctoral Research Fellow
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Summary

I am an ancient historian and nautical archaeologist specializing in Mediterranean maritime history and archaeology, with a focus on naval warfare, warships, and naval rams. By integrating disciplines like classics and experimental archaeology, my research offers innovative perspectives on the history, technology, and cultural significance of ancient maritime societies.

Academic Appointments

2025 – present **Postdoctoral Research Fellow**, School of Humanities, Dalian University of Technology, China

Education

2024	PhD , Anthropology (Nautical Archaeology), Texas A&M University Dissertation: <i>The Naval Ram: History, Production, and Symbolism in Ancient Greece and Rome</i> Committee: Deborah Carlson (chair), Cemal Pulak, Shelley Wachsmann, and Christoph Konrad
2022	Classical Summer School, American Academy in Rome (AAR), Rome, Italy Director: Sanjaya Thakur
2019	MA , Ancient History, University of South Florida Advisor: William M. Murray
2018	Summer Session, American School of Classical Studies at Athens (ASCSA), Athens, Greece Director: Daniel Levine
2016	BA , Historical Studies and Ancient Greek, Stockton University Thesis: <i>Tracing the Cultural Origins of Government and Religion in Ptolemaic Egypt</i>

Professional Affiliations

Association of Ancient Historians • The Society of Ancient Military Historians • American School of Classical Studies at Athens (Alumni Association Member) • Archaeological Institute of America

Certificates and Skills

Certificates

2024	Conservation of Archaeological Materials Certificate (Texas A&M University): 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.
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Skills

Ship Line Drafting/Drawing • 3D Printing (LulzBot TAZ Workhorse, Bambu Lab H2S) • 3D Scanning (Artec Leo, FaroArm, Einstar Vega) • Photogrammetry • Artifact Sketching • Artifact Photography • Artifact Casting, Replication, and Creation (Epoxy, Silicone, Lost-wax, Sand)

Language Proficiency

Ancient Greek (Proficient) • Latin (Novice) • German (Reading Comprehension) • Italian (Reading Comprehension)

Publications

Peer-reviewed journal articles

Accepted **DeCasien, S.** “On Naval Rams (*Rostra*) at the Battle of Tauris (47 BCE) in the *Bellum Alexandrinum*.” *Historia: Zeitschrift für Alte Geschichte* (Forthcoming 2027).

2025 Murray, W., and S. **DeCasien**. “Toward a Uniform Terminology for Three-Bladed Waterline Rams.” *International Journal of Nautical Archaeology* (2025): Advance online publication

2025 **DeCasien, S.** “Naval Ram Portrayals in Ancient Greece and Rome.” *Journal of Ancient History and Archaeology* 12, no. 2 (2025): 38-52.

2025 **DeCasien, S.**, C. Dostal, and G. Grieco. “An Experimental Archaeological Project in Recreating an Ancient Bronze Naval Ram.” *Journal of Archaeological Science* 178 (2025): Advance online publication.

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

Book chapters

Under review **DeCasien, S.** “Casting the Past: An Experimental Archaeological Study of Ancient Naval Rams.” In *A Companion to Ancient Military History Methodology*, edited by L. Brice.

Under review **DeCasien, S.** “Odysseus’ Naval Ram?: Exploring Iconography and the Development of Naval Rams in Antiquity.” In *Iconography of War in the Ancient World*, edited by J. C. Ruiz and M. Nicolás-Muelas.

Book reviews

2023 **DeCasien, S.** Review of M.P. Pitassi, *Hellenistic Naval Warfare and Warships 336-30 BC: War at Sea from Alexander to Actium* (Pen & Sword Books, 2023) in the *International Journal of Nautical Archaeology* 52, no. 2 (November 2023): 473-475.

2021 **DeCasien, S.** 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.

2020 **DeCasien, S.** 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.

2020 **DeCasien, S.** 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.

Archaeological and academic reports

Forthcoming Li, L., and S. **DeCasien**. “On Leigh K. Jenco’s ‘Authentic, Accurate, Real: Validity and the Cult of *Qing* 情 (Emotion) in Late Ming Poetic Criticism’” *Chinese Literature and Thought Today*.

Forthcoming Boyle, P., S. **DeCasien**, E. Hitchcock, and M. Thomas. “Liverpool Cove Survey 2024: An Examination of 18CH616 (Log Hulled Bugeye) and the Possible Remains of Bessie Lafayette.” *Medusa, Maryland’s Cultural Resource Information System*.

2023 **DeCasien, S.** “Proto-Rams: Piecing Together the Early History of Naval Ram Development.” *The Ancient Near East Today* 11, no. 5 (May 2023): 1-5.

2023 **DeCasien, S.** “Ancient Naval Ram Casting Project (2021-present).” *CMAC News and Reports* 6, no. 1 (Winter 2023): 4-6.

Popular articles

2025 **DeCasien, S.** “Ancient Ramming Warships: The Greek *τριήρης* and the Chinese 突冒.” *Society for Classical Studies Blog* (December 2025).

2023 **DeCasien, S.** “Beeswax to Bronze: Recreating an Ancient Naval Ram.” *Ancient Warfare Magazine* 16, no. 5 (September 2023): 8-13.

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

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

Conference Presentations, Symposia, and Workshops

2025 Sails, Silk, and Ancient Seas: A Workshop on Bridging Mediterranean and Chinese Maritime Technology and Philosophy (China) – Organizer and contributed talk. “*τριήρης and 突冒: A Cross-cultural Comparison of Classical Greek and Chinese Galleys*”

2025 English Academic Writing and Publication Sharing Symposium (China) – Contributed talk. “*The ‘Write’ Stuff: Crafting Papers that Get Accepted*”

2025 Beyond Boundaries: Forum on Agency, Identity, and Symbiosis in Artificial Intelligence (China) – Discussion panel expert.

2025 International Symposium on Digital Literacy and Educational Innovation (China) – Contributed talk. “*Ancient Artifacts, Modern Algorithms: Navigating AI Ethics in Archaeology*”

2025 War in the Ancient World International Conference (Germany) – Contributed talk. “*Odysseus’ Naval Ram?: Exploring Iconography and the Development of Naval Warfare in Antiquity*”

2025 Meeting of the Association of Ancient Historians (USA) – Contributed talk with William M. Murray (University of South Florida). “*Egadi Ram Database Project*”

2024 Underwater Archaeology: 2024 Research Campaign Battle of Egadi (241 BCE) (Italy) – Contributed talk. “*Naval Rams from the Battle of the Egadi Islands (241 BCE)*”

2023 Save Ancient Studies Alliance (SASA): Opening the Ancient World a Public Academic Virtual Conference (USA) – Contributed talk. “*From Beeswax to Bronze: Recreating an Ancient Naval Ram*”

2023 Meeting of the Association of Ancient Historians (USA) – Contributed talk. “*Ancient Naval Ram Casting Project (2021-Present)*”

2023 Texas A&M Anthropology Department Conference (USA) – Contributed talk with Ethan Mock (Texas A&M University). “*Penetration at Sea: Themistocles, Masculinity, and Naval Warfare in 300: Rise of an Empire*”

2023 Texas A&M History Conference (USA) – Contributed talk. “*Ancient Naval Ram Casting Project*”

2022 88th Annual Meeting of the Society for Military History (USA) – Contributed talk. “*The Syracusean Trireme 413 BCE: Reinterpretation, Technology, and Tactics*”

2021 Texas A&M Anthropology Department Conference (USA) – Contributed talk. “*The Athenian Trireme: A Hermaphroditic Role*”

2020 Texas A&M History Conference (USA) – Contributed talk. “*Possibilities and Limitations of Reconstructing the Battle of the Egadi Islands and Other Ancient Naval Battles*” (Award: Best Original Research Paper in the Doctoral Category)

2019 Florida Conference of Historians (USA) – Contributed talk. “*Egadi Rams: Practical Methods for Inscribing a Naval Ram and Epigraphic Categorization*”

2019 Phi Alpha Theta Regional Conference (USA) – Contributed talk. “*Greek Paideia vs. Roman Virtus: Plutarch’s Subversion and Re-Definition of Masculinity in the Lives of Marius and Pyrrhus*”

Fellowships, Grants, and Scholarships

Individual

2025 *Ancient Worlds, Modern Communities Grant* (Society for Classical Studies)

2023 – 2024 *Mr. & Mrs. Ray H. Siegfried II Fellow in Nautical Archaeology* (Texas A&M University)

2023 *Professional Development Grant* (Texas A&M University)

2023 *Conference Travel Grant* (Texas A&M University)

2023 *Subvention Grant* (Association of Ancient Historians)

2022 *Imperatrix SPQR Helen Aurora Gulamerian Scholarship* (American Academy in Rome)

2022 *Pilot Research Grant* (Texas A&M University)

2022 *Professional Development Grant* (Texas A&M University)

2021 *Dissertation Support Fellowship* (Texas A&M University)

2020 – 2021 *Marian M. Cook Fellow in Nautical Archaeology* (Texas A&M University)

2020 *Professional Development Grant* (Texas A&M University)

2019 *Conference Presentation Grant* (University of South Florida)

2019 *Conference Presentation Grant* (University of South Florida)

2018 *Turman Scholarship in Ancient Studies* (University of South Florida)

2018 *Lawler Fellowship* (American School of Classical Studies at Athens)

Group

2025 *Artificial Intelligence Promotes Philosophy Graduates’ Research Ability and Academic English* (Dalian University of Technology), Grant Team: Peng, Y., G. Chen, S. Lei, and **S. DeCasien**.

2025 *Research on the Ethical Governance Pathways of Synthetic Biology from the Perspective of Responsible Innovation* (Liaoning Provincial Social Science Planning Fund), Grant Team: Zhang, H., Q. Wang, J. Wu, **S. DeCasien**, J. Zhang, X. Jiang, Y. Wang.

Archaeological Fieldwork

2023 – 2024 **The Battle of the Egadi Islands Project**, Sicily
Project advisors: RPM Nautical Foundation

Summer 2024 **Liverpool Cove Survey**, USA
Project advisor: Patrick Boyle; Field director: Stephen DeCasien

Summer 2023	The Actian Monument Project , Greece Project advisor: William M. Murray
Summer 2022	“Publishing the Warship Rams from the Last Battle of the First Punic War” Project , Sicily Project advisor: William M. Murray
2021 – 2023	The Ancient Naval Ram Casting Project - Experimental Archaeology , USA Project advisors: Stephen DeCasien, Christopher Dostal, and Glenn Grieco

Current Research Projects

2022 – present	Egadi Ram Database Project , University of South Florida Project advisors: RPM Nautical Foundation, William M. Murray, and Stephen DeCasien
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Teaching Experience

Instructor

Fall 2025	<i>Introduction to Chinese and Western Cultures</i> (Dalian University of Technology)
Spring 2023	<i>Peoples and Cultures of the World</i> (Texas A&M University)
Fall 2021	<i>Peoples and Cultures of the World</i> (Texas A&M University)

Teaching assistant

Spring 2024	<i>Nautical Archaeology of the Ancient Mediterranean</i> (Texas A&M University)
Spring 2024	<i>Nautical Archaeology</i> (Texas A&M University)
Fall 2022	<i>Cultural Diversity and Ethics</i> (Texas A&M University)
Spring 2022	<i>Naval Warfare and Warships in Ancient Greece and Rome</i> (Texas A&M University)
Spring 2022	<i>Nautical Archaeology</i> (Texas A&M University)
Fall 2019	<i>Introduction to Archaeology</i> (Texas A&M University)
Fall 2018	<i>Greek Warfare</i> (University of South Florida)
Spring 2018	<i>Classical Greece</i> (University of South Florida)
Fall 2017	<i>Greek Warfare</i> (University of South Florida)

Guest lecturer

Spring 2025	“AI and Archaeology” – <i>AI Ethics</i> (Dalian University of Technology)
Spring 2025	“Michel Foucault & Cultural Transformation” – <i>Modern Western Philosophy</i> (Dalian University of Technology)
Spring 2024	“3D Modeling Roman Warship Rams from Egadi to Actium” – <i>Shipwreck Weekend</i> (Texas A&M University)
Spring 2024	“Ancient Sex and Seafaring” – <i>Peoples and Cultures of the World</i> (Texas A&M University)
Summer 2023	“Gender and Sexuality: From Ancient to Modern” – <i>Social and Cultural Anthropology</i> (Texas A&M University)
Spring 2023	“Naval Ram and Ship Model Lab” – <i>Shipwreck Weekend</i> (Texas A&M University)
Fall 2022	“Hellenistic Fleets and the First Punic War” – <i>Classical Seafaring</i> (Texas A&M University)
Spring 2022	“Ancient Lost-Wax Casting” – <i>Biblical Archaeology</i> (Texas A&M University)
Fall 2021	“Ancient Navies and Shipwrecks” – <i>Introduction to Anthropology</i> (Texas A&M University)

Public Outreach

Invited talks

Fall 2025	“Naval Ram Portrayals in Ancient Greece and Rome” – Institute for the History of Ancient Civilizations (China)
Fall 2024	“The Archaeology of Ancient Bronze Naval Rams” – Saskatoon Archaeological Society (Canada)
Spring 2024	“From Beeswax to Bronze: Archaeological Evidence for Ancient Naval Rams” – The Augustan Society (USA)
Spring 2023	“The Battle of the Egadi Islands Project” with Jim Goold – Institute of Nautical Archaeology (USA)
Spring 2023	“Ancient Naval Warfare and Experimental Ram Casting” – Saint Andrew’s School (USA)
Spring 2023	“Ancient Naval Warfare, Warships, and Naval Rams” – Nanyang Technological University (Singapore)
Spring 2021	“The Naval Ram in Antiquity” – The Augustan Society (USA)

Popular media interviews

Fall 2024	“Archaeologist Interview: Dr. Stephen DeCasien Naval Ram Expert” – Nautical Nerd Podcast
Spring 2024	“AW 301-Rams” – Ancient Warfare Magazine: The Podcast
Spring 2023	“Building an Ancient Naval Ram with Stephen DeCasien” – CIMSEC: Sea Control Podcast
Spring 2021	“The History and Development of Naval Rams” – The Study of Antiquity and the Middle Ages (YouTube)
Fall 2020	“AW 115-Rams and Ramming” – Ancient Warfare Magazine: The Podcast
Summer 2020	“The Siege of Rhodes: Classical Antiquity’s Most Insane Battle” – The Ancients Podcast

In the news (selected)

Fall 2025 Erica Couto. “Por primera vez en 1500 años, los investigadores logran reproducir con fidelidad el espolón de una nave de guerra de la antigüedad grecorromana.” *Muy Interesante*, December 4, 2025.

Spring 2025 Taylor Mitchell Brown. “Bronze naval ram from Roman battle recreated using ancient techniques.” *New Scientist*, April 11, 2025.

Spring 2023 Vasilis Kourkoulas. “Το Μνημείο του Αυγούστου “κεντρίζει” το ενδιαφέρον καθηγητών από Πανεπιστήμια της Αμερικής.” *Preveza News*, May 22, 2023.

Spring 2023 Lesley Henton. “Aggie Grad Student Explores Ancient Warfare with Naval Ram Project.” *Texas A&M Today*, March 16, 2023.

Winter 2023 Kostyantyn Cençura. “Вперше за 1500 років. Як студент із Техасу відродив античну корабельну зброю.” *The New Voice of Ukraine*, February 2, 2023.

Winter 2023 Kyle Mizokami. “How a Grad Student Resurrected an Ancient Naval Weapon Not Seen in 1,500 Years.” *Popular Mechanics Magazine*, January 31, 2023.

Summer 2022 Chiara Lombardi. “Termina la campagna di documentazione dei rostri della Battaglia delle Egadi (241 B.C.).” *Mediterraneo Antico*, June 13, 2022.

University Leadership

2020 – 2021 Nautical Subfield Representative, Anthropology Department (Texas A&M University)

2020 – 2021 Undergraduate Mentor and Research Advisor, Anthropology Department (Texas A&M University)

2019 – 2020 Graduate Student Body Representative, College of Liberal Arts, (Texas A&M University)

2019 President, History Department Graduate Student Organization (University of South Florida)

2018 – 2019 Secretary and 2nd Financial Officer, Phi Alpha Theta Rho Nu Chapter (University of South Florida)

2017 – 2019 Student Advisory Council, Ancient Studies Center (University of South Florida)

Professional Service

2023 – 2024 Graduate Research Assistant, Old World Ship Laboratory (Texas A&M University)

Spring 2023 External Reviewer, Oxford Bibliographies in Military History

2020 – 2022 Contributor, The Nautical Archaeology Digital Library (Texas A&M University)

2020 – 2021 Graduate Research Assistant, Institute of Nautical Archaeology (Texas A&M University)

2020 Summer Research Assistant, Institute of Nautical Archaeology (Texas A&M University)

2019 – present Communications, RPM Nautical Foundation

References

Dr. William M. Murray, University of South Florida

Mary and Gus Stathis Endowed Professor of Greek History (*Emeritus*)
Address: 4202 E Fowler Ave, Tampa, FL 33620
Email: murray@usf.edu

Dr. Christopher Dostal, Texas A&M University

Assistant Professor, Frederick R. Mayers Professorship in Nautical Archaeology II
Address: 340 Spence St Suite 234, College Station, TX 77843
Email: dostalc@tamu.edu

David Thomas, Boston College

Senior Digital Scholarship Specialist, O’Neil Library
Address: 140 Commonwealth Ave, Chestnut Hill, MA 02467
Email: thomaei@bc.edu