



## Session: Movements across and along water within landmasses

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**Organisers: Ms Claire Anderson (National Museum of Ireland); Dr Ingelise Stuijts (Discovery Programme); Dr Andrea Vianello (Intute, University of Oxford).**

Water moves continuously as do humans. People travel on water and seek out resources in its environs. This session aims to explore the intriguing relationship between water and the movement of people in antiquity. In particular it will focus on the movements of humans within all types of inland and coastal watery environments, with the exception of journeys across open seas. Rivers, lakes, bogs, mires, estuaries and flooded areas offered opportunities to explore, exchange and access natural resources and to colonise new areas. Inlets and outlets of rivers were often gathering places. Rivers provided the challenges and opportunities of accessing new regions and environments as well as pursuing the horizon to the sea and beyond. But why did people choose to undertake such travel on water or access (often inhabitable) watery environments? What were the technological, physical, social, religious, and economic challenges they faced in doing so?

This session will consider rivers, lakes and wetlands as areas that offered opportunities for the exploitation of natural resources (marine saltworks, peatlands, estuarine etc.) in addition to social and economic advantages. How did ancient people perceive watery environments? And how important were wetlands to the economies of ancient societies?

The chronological boundaries for this session include all European and Mediterranean societies up to and including the Iron Age, but case-studies centred outside the region and applicable to general issues may be acceptable. Contributors should focus on fluvial systems (including lakes); periodically flooded areas (e.g. marine saltworks, estuaries, areas periodically flooded by rivers such as the Nile); natural wetland (e.g. river estuaries, lagoons), areas connected to communication and exchange networks structured around rivers; and bogs.

**We welcome contributions from specialists in all disciplines; each presenter will have 20 minutes time including questions.**

**For further information or to propose a paper, please contact:**

Ms Claire Anderson [canderson@museum.ie](mailto:canderson@museum.ie)  
Dr Ingelise Stuijts [Ingelise@discoveryprogramme.ie](mailto:Ingelise@discoveryprogramme.ie)  
Dr Andrea Vianello [a\\_vianello@hotmail.com](mailto:a_vianello@hotmail.com)