

# FLINDERS INVESTIGATORS

PUBLIC LECTURE SERIES

## DEEP HISTORY OF SEA COUNTRY: SUBMERGED PALAEOLANDSCAPES & WORLD ARCHAEOLOGY

*Nearly one-third of Australia's landmass was drowned after the last ice age and generations of people were displaced by sea-level change. Information from drowned contexts will help address critical debates in Australian archaeology relating to past sea-level rise, population resilience, mobility, and diet. The DHSC project evaluates 'the known' by studying submerged material from the Baltic Sea (Denmark) in order to consider the unknown: the shelf of modern Australia.*

**Wednesday 18 October, 5.30-6.45pm**

**Flinders University, 182 Victoria Square, Lecture Theatre 1 (Level 1)**

**Register online: [flinders.edu.au/flindersinvestigators](http://flinders.edu.au/flindersinvestigators)**

### **DEEP HISTORY OF SEA COUNTRY: SUBMERGED PALAEOLANDSCAPES & WORLD ARCHAEOLOGY**

Nearly one-third of Australia's landmass was drowned after the last ice age and generations of people would have been impacted by sea-level changes. The Deep History of Sea Country project (ARC Discovery Project DP170100812) represents a new, multi-disciplinary study of submerged landscape archaeology. Information from drowned contexts will help address critical debates in Australian and World Archaeology relating to past sea-level rise, population resilience, mobility, and diet. DHSC aims to integrate cultural and environmental studies and contribute a unique southern hemisphere insight into world prehistory. Further, an adaptation of method from the world's only confirmed submarine middens, in the Baltic Sea of modern Denmark, will inform broader questions of site submergence and preservation as well as cultural response to rising sea levels and shifting shorelines. A suite of marine and aerial survey techniques will be developed in order to establish a long-term research strategy to systematically investigate our continental shelves and study the archaeology of submerged landscapes. DHSC is undertaken in partnership by Flinders University, University of Western Australia, James Cook University, Curtin University, Airborne Research Australia, University of York (UK) and Aarhus University and Moesgaard Museum (Denmark).

[www.deephistoryofseacountry.org](http://www.deephistoryofseacountry.org)

### **SPEAKER – DR JONATHAN BENJAMIN**



Dr Jonathan Benjamin is a specialist in early prehistory, underwater archaeology and the archaeology of submerged landscapes. His research interests include the inundation of terrestrial sites and resulting impacts on hunter-gatherer and early agricultural societies, Pleistocene-Holocene transitions, early human and cultural migrations and applied methodology in maritime and underwater archaeology. Jonathan has undertaken various aspects of terrestrial, aerial and underwater archaeological research across a wide temporal spectrum from prehistoric to classical and historical periods in Britain, Slovenia, Croatia, Cyprus, Israel, Denmark, the USA and Australia. He is an accomplished scientific diver and expert in diver-based photographic and photogrammetric recording of underwater archaeological sites. As a member of the European Cooperation in Science and Technology (COST) Action 'SPLASHCOS' Jonathan represented the UK as an Early Stage Researcher (2009 - 2013) and was lead editor of 'Submerged Prehistory' (Oxbow Books 2011). Jonathan was a joint recipient of the European Union's Europa Nostra Award for Heritage for his role as Principal Investigator of project SAMPHIRE while at Wessex Archaeology and later as Co-I at Flinders University (awarded 2017). He joined Flinders in January of 2014 where he is currently Senior Lecturer in Maritime Archaeology and Co-Chair of the UNESCO UNITWIN Network for Underwater Archaeology (2015 – 2018). Jonathan is the Lead CI of 'Deep History of Sea Country: Climate Sea Level and Culture' (Discovery Project DP170100812; 2017 - 2020).