

Prof. John P Cooper

B.A., M.A., M.A., Ph.D., FHEA, FNAS, FRAS

Underwood
Kenn
Devon
EX6 7UQ, United Kingdom

Work Email: j.p.cooper@exeter.ac.uk
Home Email: johncoopermail@googlemail.com
Mobile: +44 (0)7930 491 628
Work: +44 (0)1392 72 4036

SUMMARY

I am Associate Professor of Maritime Archaeology and Arabic at the University of Exeter's Institute of Arab & Islamic Studies. I lecture in maritime and Islamic archaeology, Arabic language, literature, and linguistics, and the maritime cultures of the Arab and Islamic worlds. I research the maritime past of the Arab-Islamic worlds, examined through archaeology, ethnography and text. My core areas of interest are the Nile and western Indian Ocean, and particularly boat-building traditions, maritime landscapes, ports and harbours and navigation, and I have published extensively on these subjects. I am a fellow of the Nautical Archaeology Society and the Higher Education Academy. A previous career in business intelligence makes me a skilled communicator and editor with a broad intellectual and knowledge base.

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Archaeology, University of Southampton 2005–2008

Thesis title: 'The Medieval Nile: Route, navigation and landscape in Islamic Egypt'

External examiner, Prof. Hugh Kennedy. AHRC funded

M.A., Maritime Archaeology, University of Southampton 2004–2005

Thesis title: 'The Nile-Red Sea Canal in Antiquity'. With Distinction. Self-funded

M.A., Linguistics, School of Oriental & African Studies. 1992–1993

Thesis title: 'The Case of the Missing Glides: Licensing Inheritance and the Licensing of Glides in

Palestinian Arabic'. With Distinction. British Academy funded

B.A., Arabic with Middle Eastern & Islamic Studies, Durham University 1988–1992

Starred First Class (Distinction in Spoken Arabic)

'A'-Level Mathematics, Physics and Biology 1980–1987

St. Thomas More R.C. Comprehensive School, Blaydon, U.K.

Languages: English (native); Arabic (advanced); Italian and French (intermediate);

EMPLOYMENT

University of Exeter, Institute of Arab & Islamic Studies

- **Associate Professor**, Maritime Archaeology & Arabic Nov 2021–Present
- **Senior Lecturer**, Arabic Studies & Islamic Material Culture May 2016–Nov 2021
- **Lecturer**, Arabic Studies & Islamic Material Culture Sep 2012–May 2016
- **Post-Doctoral Research Associate**, the MARES Project Oct 2008–Jan 2012

Argus Media Group, London

Oct 1996–Sep 2004

- **Editor and Leader-writer**
Editor of the Weekly Petroleum Argus newsletter, covering global energy issues

Middle East Economic Digest, London

Aug 1994–Oct 1996

- **Reporter**
Covering the economies of Gulf

Gulf Centre For Strategic Studies, London

Oct 1993–Aug 1994

- **Researcher and Conference Organiser**

The Project Trust

Sep 1987–Sep 1989

- **Gap-year volunteer**, Special Education Centre, al-Fuhais, Jordan.

TRAINING

University Of Exeter

- Fellow of the Higher Education Academy 2016
- Courses completed in Recruitment & Selection, Data Protection, Doctoral Supervision, Environmental Sustainability, Equality & Diversity, Health & Safety, and Fire Safety

Professional Association of Diving Instructors

- **PADI Rescue Diver** 2010
- PADI Nitrox Diver 2010
- Emergency First Responder 2010

Royal Yachting Association

- **Part 2** 2006
- Part 1 2005

POSITIONS HELD

Nautical Archaeology Society

- **Chair**, Publications Subcommittee 2006–2019
- **Trustee** 2006–2009 & 2017–2019

Journal of Arabian Studies

- **Associate Editor/Reviews Editor** 2010–2014

AWARDS, PRIZES & COMMENDATIONS

Research & Scholarship

- Global Challenges Research Fund—Bahari Yetu, Urithi Wetu* maritime heritage project, Tanzania (£50,000) 2019–21
- British Academy* – Small Grant (£9,690) for the Boat Builders and Users of Zanzibar project 2018
- Seven Pillars of Wisdom Trust* – (£1,000) for the Boatbuilders of the Sudanese Nile project 2017
- Institut Français d'Archéologie* – Research grant (€3,000) for multi-spectral satellite imagery of Lake Manzala, Egypt (with A. Gascoigne, Southampton) 2014
- University of Exeter* – Institute of Arab & Islamic Studies seed fund for Egyptian Delta Archaeology project 2014
- Qatar Museums* – Research Award (£109,000) 3D laser-scanning of traditional watercraft 2013
- University of Exeter* – Outward Mobility Research Allowance for Kerala scoping visit 2013
- British Academy* – Small Grant (£6,400) for the Tinnis Islamic Maritime Port Project (with A. Gascoigne, Southampton) 2011
- Egypt Exploration Society* – Centenary Award for the Suez Ancient Port Project (not taken up) 2008
- Arts & Humanities Research Council* – PhD scholarship, University of Southampton 2006
- British Academy* – M.A. scholarship, School of Oriental & African Studies 1992

Teaching & Collegiality

University of Exeter:

- Deputy Vice Chancellor's commendation letter for "contribution to teaching excellence" 2016
- University "Gold Award" (£3,500 prize) for "outstanding performance and behaviour" 2015
- University "Impact Award" nomination for "outstanding impact in arts & culture" 2013
- Student Guild Teaching Award nominations 2014–16

PUBLICATIONS

Monographs

Gascoigne A.L., 'Arafa A.-S.A., Cooper J.P., Fenwick H., Harrison M.J., Al-Husayni T.I., Pennington B.T., Pyke G., Al-Shinnawi A., Stephens C., Strutt, K., and Warner, N., 2020. *The Island City of Tinnīs: a Postmortem*. Cairo, Institut Français d'Archéologie Orientale.

Cooper, J.P., 2014, *The Medieval Nile: Route, Navigation and Landscape in Islamic Egypt*, Cairo: American University of Cairo Press.

Edited Volumes

Agius, D.A., Cooper, J.P., Trakadas, A. and Zazzaro, C. (eds), 2012. *Navigated Spaces, Connected Places Proceedings of Red Sea Project V held at the University of Exeter, September 2010*. British Archaeological Reports S2346, British Foundation for the Study of Arabia Monographs 12. Oxford: Archaeopress.

Blue, L.K., Cooper, J.P., Thomas, R. and Whitewright, J. (eds), 2008. *Connected Hinterlands: Proceedings of Red Sea Project IV held at the University of Southampton, September 2008*. British Archaeological Reports S2052, Society for Arabian Studies Monographs 8. Oxford: Archaeopress.

Chapters

Cooper, J.P., (Submitted), 'Harbouring doubts: A reflection on waterfront infrastructure on the Egyptian Nile'. Egyptian Riverine Harbours.

Egypt and empire: Religious identities from Roman to modern times, Leuven: Peeters.

Cooper, J.P. and Blue, L.K., (Submitted) 'The Hūrīs of Yemen: Innovation on the Margins', In L.K. Blue (ed.) *The Hūrī: logboat of the Indian Ocean*.

Blue, L.K., Whitewright, R.J., Agius, D.A., Cooper, J.P., Zazzaro, C., Semaan, L., (Submitted), 'Huris of the Southern Red Sea'. In L.K. Blue (ed.) *The Hūrī: logboat of the Indian Ocean*.

Cooper J.P. 2022. 'We desire to know which is the true religion': Inter-communal rivalry and the verdict of Nile in an episode from the History of the Patriarchs of Alexandria. In O'Connell ER (ed.),

Cooper J.P., 2011. 'No easy option: Nile versus Red Sea in ancient and medieval north-south navigation', In W.V. Harris and K. Iara (eds), *Maritime Technology in the Ancient Economy: Ship-Design and Navigation*. Journal of Roman Archaeology Supplementary Series 84. pp. 189–209.

Gascoigne A, & Cooper, J.P., 2019, 'Tinkers, tailors, soldiers and sailors: the city of Tinnīs in the 11th–13th centuries', In M. Eychenne, S. Pradines, A. Zouache (eds), *Guerre et paix au Proche-Orient médiéval, vol. II: Histoire. Archéologie. Anthropologie*. Cairo: Institut Français d'Archéologie Orientale.

Journal Articles

Cooper, J.P. and Ghidoni, A., 2022, 'Ship graffiti at the Zanzibar Gereza (Old Fort), Stone Town, Unguja, Tanzania' *Azania*.

Cooper, J.P., Blue, L.K., Ghidoni, A., and Ichumbaki, E.B. 2022 'Contemporary wooden watercraft of the Zanzibar Channel, Tanzania: type and technologies, innovation and change'. *International Journal of Nautical Archaeology*.

Ichumbaki, E.B., Cooper, J.P., Maligisu, P.C.M., Robinson, S., Blue, L.K., Biginagwa, T.J. 2022 'Building a ngalawa double-outrigger dugout in Bagamoyo, Tanzania: a craftsman at his work'. *International Journal of Nautical Archaeology*.

Cooper J.P., Zazzaro C., Ghidoni A., Ombrato L., 2020, 'Sewn boats in the Qatar Museums collection, Doha: baggāras and kettuvallams as records of a Western Indian Ocean technological tradition'. *International Journal of Nautical Archaeology* 49.2: 37–405.

Cooper, J.P., Wetherelt, A. and Zazzaro, C., 2018, 'From Boatyard to Museum: 3D laser scanning and digital modelling of the Qatar Museums watercraft collection, Doha, Qatar', *International Journal of Nautical Archaeology* 47.2: 419–442.

Cooper, J.P., Caira, G., Opdebeeck, J., Papadopoulou, C., & Tsiairis, V., 2017, 'A Saxon Fish Weir and Undated Fish Trap Frames Near Ashlett Creek, Hampshire, UK: Static Structures on a Dynamic Foreshore', *Journal of Maritime Archaeology* 12.1: 33–69.

Agius, D.A., Cooper, J.P., Semaan, L., Zazzaro, C., & Carter, R., 2016, 'Remembering the Sea: Personal and Communal Remembrances of Maritime Life in Jizan and the Farasan Islands, Saudi Arabia', *Journal of Maritime Archaeology* 11.2: 127–177.

Zazzaro, C., Cooper, J.P. and Wetherelt, A., 2015. 'Approcci High Tech E Low Tech Nella Documentazione di Imbarcazioni tradizionali del Mar Rosso e del Golfo' Newsletter di Archeologia CISA 6: 131–142

- Cooper, J.P. & Zazzaro, C., 2014. 'The Farasan Islands, Saudi Arabia: Towards a Chronology of Settlement'. *Arabian Archaeology & Epigraphy* 25.2: 147–174.
- Cooper, J.P. & Zazzaro, C., 2012, 'A stone anchor from the Farasan Islands, Saudi Arabia', *International Journal of Nautical Archaeology* 41.2: 407–411.
- Cooper, J.P., 2012, "‘Fear God, fear the Bogaze’": the Nile mouths and the navigational landscape of the Nile Delta, Egypt,' *al-Masaq* 24.1: 53–73.
- Cooper, J.P., 2011, 'Humbler craft: Rafts of the Egyptian Nile, 17th-20th Centuries AD.' *International Journal of Nautical Archaeology* 40.2: 344–360.

Conference Proceedings

- Blue, L., Whitewright, J., and Cooper J.P., 2017, 'The Ubiquitous Hūrī: Maritime Ethnography, Archaeology and History in the western Indian Ocean'. In: J. Gawronksy, A. Van Holk, & J. Schokkenbroek (eds), *Ships and Maritime Landscapes: Proceedings of the thirteenth international symposium on boat and ship archaeology*. Eelde: Barkhuis Publishing. pp. 185–192
- Cooper, J.P., Agius, D.A., Collie, T., al-Naimi, F.A., 2015, 'Boat and ship engravings at Al Zubarah, Qatar: the *dāw* exposed?' *Proceedings of the Seminar for Arabian Studies* 45: 35–48.
- Agius, D.A., Cooper, J.P. & Zazzaro, C., 2014, 'The maritime heritage of Yemen: a focus on traditional 'dhows'', In D.A. Agius, T. Gambin, and H. Nash (eds), *Ships, Saints and Sealore: Maritime Ethnography of the Mediterranean and the Red Sea*. Oxford: Archaeopress. pp. 143–157.
- Wetherelt, A. Cooper, J.P. & Zazzaro, C., 2014, '3D Laser Scanning and Modelling of the Dhow Heritage for the Qatar National Museum,' *Proceedings of Spie*, 9229. doi:10.1117/12.2066377
- Agius, D., Cooper J.P., Jansen van Rensburg, J., & Zazzaro, C., 2010, 'The dhow's last redoubt? Vestiges of wooden boatbuilding traditions in Yemen'. *Proceedings of the Seminar for Arabian Studies* 40: 71–84.
- Cooper, J.P., 2009. 'Egypt's Nile-Red Sea canals: chronology, location, seasonality and function'. In L.K. Blue, J.P. Cooper, R. Thomas, L. Whitewright (eds), *Connected Hinterlands: Proceedings of Red Sea Project IV* held at the University of Southampton, September 2008. British Archaeological Reports S2052, Society for Arabian Studies Monographs 8. Oxford: Archaeopress. pp. 195–209.

Encyclopaedia Entries

- Bunbury, J., Cooper, J., Hoath, R., Ikram, S., Johnston, C., and Schneider, T., (Submitted) 'The Nile: Human Transformation of an Ancient River'. *River Culture*.
- Cooper, J.P., 2018, 'Damietta', In K. Fleet, G. Krämer, D. Matringe, J. Nawas, and E. Rowson (eds), *Encyclopaedia of Islam* (Third Edition). Leiden: E.J. Brill. pp. 25–27.
- Cooper, J.P., 2014, 'Islamic and Maritime Archaeology'. In C. Smith, (ed), *Encyclopaedia of Global Archaeology*. New York: Springer. pp. 4055–4063.

Reviews

- Cooper, J.P., 2020, 'A Maritime Lexicon: Arabic Nautical Terminology in the Indian Ocean, by Abdulrahman Al-Salimi and Eric Staples', *international Journal of Maritime History* 32.3: 762–763.
- Cooper, J.P., 2015, 'Review Essay: *The Principles of Arab Navigation*, Anthony R. Constable and William Facey (eds)', *The BFSA Bulletin*, 20: 70-71.
- Cooper, J.P., 2012, 'Book Review: Fatah al-Khair: Oman's Last Ghanjah', *International Journal of Nautical Archaeology*, 41.2: 471–472.
- Cooper, J.P., 2011, 'Book Review: Yacoub Yusuf al-Hijji, *Kuwait and the Sea*', *Journal of Arabian Studies*, 1: 121–123.
- Cooper, J.P., 2011, "Book Review: Alan Villiers, *Sons of Sindbad*", *International Journal of Nautical Archaeology* 40.2: 468–469
- Cooper, J.P. 2010. 'Book Review: Indo-Roman Trade, From Pots to Pepper, by Roberta Tomber', *Bulletin of the Society for Arabian Studies* 15: 54–55.
- Cooper, J.P., (Submitted), 'Babylon of Egypt: The Archaeology of Old Cairo and Origins of the City (Revised Edition), by Peter Sheehan', *International Journal of Nautical Archaeology*.

Outreach publications

- Cooper, J.P., 2012, 'Linking Med to Red', *Saudi Aramco World*, 63.2: 32–39.

- Cooper, J.P., 'Letters: Time for Britain to Face Its Imperial Demons'. *The Guardian*, 12 June 2020.
- Cooper J.P., 2010, 'The Red Sea's Disappearing Dhows', *Nautical Archaeology*, Spring 2010: 3–4.
- Cooper, J.P., 2009, 'The Ancient Canal and Port of Suez'. *Egyptian Archaeology* 35: 37–40.
- Cooper, J., 2007, 'Yemen: A Hunt for the Huri', *Nautical Archaeology* 2007.3: 7.
- Cooper, J., 2005, 'Fish Weir Structures Found in Southampton Water', *Nautical Archaeology*, 2005.3: 4–8.

FIELDWORK

<i>Bahrain Pearling Project, Al Sayah, Bahrain</i>	Jan-Feb 2022
Investigating a pearling site near al-Muharraq	
<i>Bahari Yetu, Urithi Wetu (Our Ocean, Our Heritage)</i>	Jun 2019–Dec 2021
- Investigating the maritime heritage of Bagamoyo, Tanzania	
<i>Qatar Museums Sewn-Boats Project</i>	April 2019
- Recording sewn boats in the Qatar Museums collection	
<i>British Academy Boat Builders & Users of Zanzibar Project</i>	Jul–Aug 2018
- Survey of boatbuilding traditions on Unguja, Zanzibar, Tanzania.	
<i>Boatbuilders of the Sudanese Nile Project</i>	Dec 2016–Jan 2017
- Survey of shell-first boatbuilding traditions on the Nile, Sudan.	
<i>Abu Dhabi Tourism & Culture Authority Boats and Ancient Harbours Project</i>	May 2015
- Consultancy project to survey traditional watercraft around Abu Dhabi city	
<i>Qatar Museums 3D laser scanning of traditional watercraft</i>	Feb–Mar 2013
- Project to scan 14 watercraft in the Qatar National Museum collection	
<i>Tinnis Survey Project, Egypt, University of Southampton</i>	Jun 2012
- Topographic and geophysical survey of Tinnis. British Academy funded.	
<i>Red Sea Wreck Survey, British Museum, Universities of So'ton/ Alexandria.</i>	Jul 2011
- Underwater reconnaissance of ancient wreck sites in southern Egypt.	
<i>MARES Eritrea Survey, University of Exeter.</i>	Feb 2011
- Ethnographic survey of current wooden boatbuilding practices in Eritrea.	
<i>MARES Farasan Islands Survey, University of Exeter.</i>	Jan & May 2010
- Ethnographic survey of boatbuilding and pearling practices and archaeological survey on the Farasan Islands and Jizan, Saudi Arabia.	
<i>MARES Djibouti Survey, University of Exeter</i>	Oct 2009
- Ethnographic survey of current wooden boatbuilding practices in Djibouti.	
<i>Tinnis Survey Project, Egypt, University of Southampton</i>	Apr 2009
- Geophysical survey of the island using magnetometry and GPR	
<i>MARES Yemen Survey, University of Exeter</i>	Feb 2009
- Ethnographic survey of current wooden boatbuilding practices in Yemen.	
<i>Mareotis Survey Project, University of Southampton</i>	May/Aug 2007; Aug 2008
- Survey of lakeside sites around Lake Mareotis, Egypt.	
<i>Yemen Huri Survey, University of Southampton</i>	Apr 2007
- Two-week ethnographic survey of small fishing boats in Yemen.	
<i>Stourhead Lake Survey, Wiltshire, Nautical Archaeology Society</i>	Jul 2005
- Underwater survey of submerged architectural and landscape features.	
<i>Axemouth Boat Project, University of Southampton</i>	May 2005
- Underwater excavation of a 14 th century ship in an estuarine context.	
<i>Ashlett Fisheries Survey, University of Southampton</i>	Mar–May 2005
- Survey of fish-weir structures in Southampton Water.	April 2016