

**S. 7. 5. – MODERN TECHNICAL INNOVATION AND ITS RESPONSES**

**Chair: Sam Robinson**

(University of Kent)

## *The maritime business community of Kasos island from the era of sailing ships and to the dawn of steamships (19<sup>th</sup> century)*

**DIMITRA-CHRYSOULA KARDAKARI** (PhD Student, Center of Maritime History, Institute for Mediterranean Studies (IMS-FORTH))

### **Abstract**

The subject of the proposed paper is the study of the maritime communities of the islands of the Aegean Sea through the analysis of the maritime history of Kasos. The relatively unknown small island of Kasos in the southeast Aegean had an important maritime business community, during the “Age of Sail” and one of the very few that later was able to make the transition from sail to steam. Kasos since the end of the 18th century had an economic development equivalent to that of the Aegean islands of Hydra, Spetses or Psara as well as an equal participation in the formation of the Greek Revolutionary Navy during the Greek War of independence in 1821.

However, its non-inclusion in the Greek state in the 19th century obscured the island’s importance in the political and economic history of Greece. The aim of the present paper is to bring out the importance of the maritime history of this small but internationally oriented place. An island that despite its adherence to the political dominion of the Ottoman Empire was part of a wider circle of islands that formed a vital part of the Greek-owned fleet and influenced the economic and shipping activities of the Greek state.

My research focuses on the systematic use of archival material from the Greek General Archives of Syros and Athens, along with archives on Kasiot ship owners from the Archives of the National Bank of Greece and other private archives. My theoretical approach is that of maritime history through the three main disciplines of economic, social history, in conjunction with economic geography.

The aim of the proposed paper is to investigate the operation of the maritime business in the small, but internationally oriented island of Kasos, both during the “Golden Age” of sailing ships and the dawn of steamship technology.

### **Keywords**

Maritime business community, Shipowners, Kasos, Aegean Sea, 19th Century

### **Biography**

Dimitra Kardakarīs was born in Corfu in 1991 and is a graduate of the Department of History at the Ionian University. Her diploma thesis titled “The rise of the Greek-owned shipping in the Eastern Mediterranean and the Black Sea in the 18th century. The action of Greek privateers

under the Russian flag. The case of Ioannis Varvakis “ was awarded by the Academy of Athens -Kaftatzoglio Award-in February 2013.

Since April 2014, she has been a PhD candidate of the department with the thesis “The Kasos ship-owners business group, late 19th - mid 20th century. The evolution of Greek shipping business from local to global “.

She has received a scholarship for the period 2014-2015 from the Fondation Le Cedre, Elias S. Kulukundis and A.S.M Carswell, in 2016-2017, 2017-2018 from the Leventis Foundation and in 2018-2019 from the Institute for Mediterranean Studies-FORTH through the programe which is financed by Niarchos Foundation “ARCHERS”.

*Distortion, illusion and transformation:  
the evolution of Dazzle Painting, a camouflage  
system to protect Allied shipping from Unrestricted  
Submarine Warfare, 1917 – 1918.*

CAMILLA WILKINSON (University of Westminster)

**Abstract**

In October 1917 the War Cabinet was notified in Admiralty Memorandum 2256 ‘Dazzle Scheme of painting ships’<sup>1</sup> that artist Norman Wilkinson’s camouflage proposal to paint the entire external surfaces of vessels in highly contrasting asymmetric patterns would be applied to merchant and some naval vessels with the aim of disrupting the crippling effects on British commerce from Unrestricted Submarine Warfare waged by Germany in January of that year.

The narrative is one of the dogged determination by a team of marine artists that felt compelled to frustrate commercial warfare waged at sea. During the final 18 months of the war 1800 patterns were designed for over 2400 ships. Dazzle Patterns had to be devised at speed and the artists of the Dazzle Section drew on a variety of sources in order to create distortion. The scheme depended on feedback from observation and seamen’s reports. In this way a series of illusory devices were developed both in the United Kingdom and in the United States of America.

Close reading of the surviving archives of design material and documentation concerning the 14-18 War Dazzle camouflage scheme provides a means to re-interpret the visual language of the designs that have been read (or misread) and popularized through contextualization in art history and association with notions of avant-garde spatial practice since 1919. Testing and representing this argument has been achieved through drawing research methodologies as well as textual and archival research.

[vimeo.com/287048415](https://vimeo.com/287048415)

This narrative could be a straightforward story of success, except that one hundred years on, whilst the designs still shock (and delight) the concept for Dazzle Camouflage remains confused and its success as a camouflage scheme unproven.

**Keywords**

Dazzle Camouflage, First World War, Merchant Seamen, Unrestricted Submarine Warfare, Art

**Biography**

Camilla Wilkinson is a Senior Lecturer and Studio Leader in the Department of Architecture at the University of Westminster where she has been a faculty member since 2011 teaching at graduate and undergraduate levels.

Camilla is currently writing a paper on 14 – 18 War camouflage system Dazzle Painting. As well as archive research and academic references, she is using practice-based techniques of drawing and animation as a research tool. Camilla has developed reciprocal areas of research between her architecture Design Studio and subject Dazzle Camouflage with particular emphasis on time and space, concept development, and the values of courage and failure.

[https://issuu.com/clarehamman/docs/more2018\\_digital/70](https://issuu.com/clarehamman/docs/more2018_digital/70)

#### Public Lectures

Wilkinson, C (Keynote, 2018) Dazzle Camouflage: Origin and Development of Visual Distortion and Devices, Study Day Great War, Unknown War, University of Southampton

Wilkinson, C (2017) Dazzle Camouflage: War and Space, 14-18 NOW Dazzle Doughboys and Darin.

## *Sailors and innovation in the 1960's French navy*

JEAN-MARIE KOWALSKI (Ecole navale/Paris-Sorbonne)

### **Abstract**

In the early 60's, French CNO Adm Cabanier asked the Navy and the Naval dockyards to design a new towed array sonar and to test it on board the Duperré destroyer. This was the very beginning of the « Cormoran » French towed sonar program. It was actually a strategic challenge for the Navy to have the ability to investigate a reliable acoustic path in order to improve the sonar capabilities and detection ranges. The Cold war made it necessary to get new reliable anti-submarine assets. In 1965, the Navy decided to turn the Duperre destroyer into an experimental ship until 1971. This paper will address the question of the role played by naval officers and their interactions with civilian and military engineers in a highly innovative program during an era of significant change in the organization of procurement and naval dockyards. Two main sources will help us conduct this research. First, the collection of the reports sent by commanding officers to the Navy headquarters provides us with valuable information about their perception of the program, their propositions, their anticipation of HR issues, new skills and training needs, but also their opinion about the military capacities of their ship. On the other side, the dockyards, corporate and procurement agency archives put into relief the efficiency of the program management processes. The comparison between both sources highlights how the different items of this program were successfully coordinated.

### **Keywords**

Innovation, cold war, science, technology, dockyards, procurement, operations research

### **Biography**

Jean-Marie Kowalski is associate professor at the University of Paris-Sorbonne (ancient history) and at the French Naval Academy (Brest). He is in charge of the department of humanities and conducts research in the field of naval operations. His latest publications are « Histoire des opérations et formation des officiers de Marine », in Hervé Drévilion and Dominique Guillemain, *Histoire des opérations militaires, sources, objets, méthodes*, Service Historique de la Défense, Paris, 2019, p. 77-86 ; « French Naval Operations » (with Pr. Olivier Chaline) in *The American Revolution, a World War*, David K. Allison and Larrie D. Ferreiro (ed.), Smithsonian Books, Washington, 2018, p. 52-66 ; *Images des Américains dans la Grande Guerre*, Rennes, PUR, 2017.