Since prehistory, the Adriatic Sea has had a crucial role in the communication between Mediterranean and European regions, as a path connecting Northern Europe and the Mediterranean while also connecting the Apennine peninsula and the Eastern Adriatic coast. Because of its rich maritime history and highly developed shipbuilding practices, the Adriatic contains ample evidence of maritime activities. Until now, the maritime heritage of the Adriatic has not been studied systematically, due to a lack of technological resources combined with insufficient methodological principles of the nautical archaeology discipline. AdriaS – Archaeology of Adriatic Shipbuilding and Seafaring is a four-year project supported by the Croatian Science Foundation (HRZZ IP-2014-09-8211). The project aims to apply a systematic interdisciplinary approach to the study of historical and archaeological records of maritime activities in the Adriatic. A dynamic network of international researchers is actively working on research methodologies and interpretation of different case studies, starting from Prehistorical ships of Illyrian and Liburnian ethnic groups, to the ships of Classical Antiquity, and finally, Early Modern Ships. By developing research techniques, the project aims to build the foundations and define the principles of the nautical archaeology discipline in Croatia. The talk will present chosen case studies - Roman ships in Caska Bay, medieval ships condura croatica and sixteenth century Gnalić shipwreck, discussing different aspects and giving an overview of the current state of research.

Katarina Batur is a Research Assistant at the Department of Archaeology, University of Zadar and team member of the project AdriaS. Her PhD study concentrates on the Archaeology of the Eastern Adriatic at the University of Zadar, where her research interests include the development of shipbuilding and seafaring in the Adriatic, particularly the application of archaeometry and 3D modelling in the recording, analyses and interpretation of artifacts recovered from underwater sites. She is currently conducting doctoral research at the Conservation and Restoration Department of the University of Amsterdam with Erasmus + funding. Her research in Amsterdam is focused on the production, trade and transport of Renaissance colouring materials, based on the recovered cargo of the Venetian merchant ship Gagliana Grossa, which sunk in 1583 off the Adriatic coast on its way from Venice to Constantinople, carrying a rich cargo of amongst other artists’ materials.

Jerzy Gawronski, Amsterdam Archaeological Centre (AAC), is professor of Maritime and Urban Archaeology of the Late Middle Ages and the Early Modern Period, particularly Amsterdam. Gawronski is also head of the Archaeology department of the municipal Office of Monuments and Archaeology (Bureau Monumenten en Archeologie). His scholarly attention is focused on the archaeology of shipping and the Dutch maritime expansion, and the archaeology of cities and urban culture after 1500. Amsterdam is a key theme within these areas of investigation.