
Wrecks Around Sicily and the Long Distance Transport of Building Materials

Pascal Warnking*¹

¹Trier University, LEIZA – Germany

Abstract

The paper, "Wrecks Around Sicily and the Long Distance Transport of Building Materials," examines the impact of maritime routes and transport costs on trade in the ancient Mediterranean. In the first part, results from research at Trier University will be presented, including ship performance data from the *Bissula* sailing trials and the use of weather routing software to model sailing routes and transport costs. In the second part, the adaption of the gravity model of international trade to understand ancient transport will be discussed, applying modern economic theories to historical trade data, using transport costs as a variable. The final part compares the reconstructed sea routes and economic models with shipwrecks around Sicily carrying a cargo of construction material.

Keywords: transport costs, sea routes, trade models, ships, sailing, economic models

*Speaker