Reconstructing wooden sailing ships from archaeological remains

ABSTRACT
Ships have always been among the most important instruments of economic development and cultural dissemination, as they carry people, merchandises, and ideas. Like the space shuttles of our days, they were among the most sophisticated machines of their time. The Nautical Archaeology Program at Texas A&M University studies the history of wooden shipbuilding through time and tries to reconstruct ancient vessels from their truncated archaeological remains. This talk addresses the methodologies used in the reconstructions, and the contribution of engineering and computer graphics, which help us test the plausibility of our reconstructions.

BIO
Filipe Castro is professor of Anthropology at Texas A&M University, Frederick R. Mayer Fellow, and Director of the Ship Reconstructing Laboratory. His main research interest is the study of early modern European seafaring, and the first age of globalization.