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**Author:** Roussos, K.
**Title:** Reconstructing the settled landscape of the Cyclades: the islands of Paros and Naxos during the late antique and early Byzantine centuries
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PROPPOSITIONS

1. In Late Antiquity, the Cyclades formed a diverse and dynamic sub-zone of socioeconomic and cultural interaction within the wider Mediterranean world.

2. The small but highly interactive microcosms of the Cyclades developed complex settlement patterns and functioned well as integral links in the chain of the unified Late Antique economy.

3. The evidence from Naxos in the Byzantine Early Middle Ages contradicts the almost blank rural landscapes of other insular regions of the Aegean.

4. In the case of Paros, it is obvious that any change in trade patterns and sea routes may have had a strong impact on the island’s role in this network as well as on its economic situation and daily life.

5. The diversity of the islands makes clear that these geographical entities can be approached as different case studies, and can subsequently be integrated in wider contexts. Viewing islands as distinct units does not preclude from identifying them as nodes of broader networks.

6. The geographical parameter can be used as the main interpretive tool whilst the assessment of micro-geographical backgrounds of settlement territories permits a better understanding of their economic potential.

7. Spatial analysis offered by the application of new technologies in archaeological research (GIS) can enlighten the relationships between the site and the surrounding landscapes, seascapes, islands and other settlements.

8. Byzantine landscape archaeology, as a newly established discipline, began to deal with the turbulent period of the Dark Ages approaching the landscape as a continuously changing cultural product of the human-environmental relationship.

9. In my opinion, the pattern of total abandonment of coastal zones and the retreat of habitation only in the hinterland needs re-evaluation, since the archaeological gap which occurs in the Aegean landscape between the middle 7th and the early 9th centuries, to an extent, is a result of a research gap rather than a real absence of material culture and human activity.

10. The specific natural features of local landscapes can play an important role in the historical trajectories of the islands supporting the view that each island can tell a unique story.

11. The Cyclades should be considered as places of interaction with the external world rather than as places of isolation that suffered from Arab raids.

12. All types of Cycladic landscapes, coastal and mountainous, continued to be settled, cultivated and in other ways modified by humans between the 7th and early 9th centuries.