



HELSINGIN YLIOPISTO
HELSINGFORS UNIVERSITET
UNIVERSITY OF HELSINKI



TALLINN UNIVERSITY



Claude Monet, *Impression soleil levant*, 1872, Musée Marmottan Monet, Paris

THE THIRD PIM₀ ANNUAL CONFERENCE

EUROPEAN SEA SPACES AND HISTORIES OF KNOWLEDGE

Helsinki and Tallinn, 22 – 23 June 2022

Organized within the framework of COST Action 18140 PIMO – *People in Motion: Entangled Histories of Displacement across the Mediterranean (1492-1923)*

In partnership with the University of Helsinki and the University of Tallinn



HELSINGIN YLIOPISTO
HELSINGFORS UNIVERSITET
UNIVERSITY OF HELSINKI



OUTLINE

Long before the recent turn towards environmental history, writing of the seas has encouraged temporal, spatial and analytical flexibility among historians. Fernand Braudel famously went far back and forth in time, from his main focus on the sixteenth-century Mediterranean, inspiring historians to sketch global histories of capitalism with the sea as their canvas. The maritime lens enabled scholars, writers, and thinkers to situate local histories in a broader regional, and ultimately global or planetary, framework.

The tendency to dissolve established disciplinary and epochal categories, often accompanied by the blurring of boundaries between social, human, natural, and material histories, owes much to the specific place occupied by the sea as a metaphor for the unbounded and the limitless. Sea spaces have been overdetermined since antiquity: The regional and local, often combined with specialized, intimate knowledge of geographical conditions, always already connotes the non-space and the world ocean, the inaccessible and the endlessly accessible, hybridity and separation, boredom and danger, the pragmatic and the sublime, the space that is divinely prohibited and the space that grants freedom to all. As a legal space, the sea is a patchwork of multiple regimes of regulation, from private to international laws, decreed by multiple actors. As a space of transfers, the sea has not only been marked by transports of material goods but also of ideas, which have always crossed the sea spaces of the world, at least the more accessible ones. Yet in the era of late modern nation-states, coinciding with improvements in land-based communications, the notion of the sea as limit and boundary has become ever more accentuated, so much so that it threatened to eclipse the significance of the maritime in historical discourse, and despite numerous efforts to reverse this effect, the dominance of land-based perspectives remains acute. Competing ways of framing maritime history were nourished by geopolitical tension.

This conference highlights the uneven chronologies and modalities that frame the historiographies of the Mediterranean, the Baltic, the Black Sea, and the North Sea, the inland or epeiric seas of Europe. Much weight has historically been placed, especially in intellectual as well as economic history, on the interconnections generated by the Atlantic space, both in Anglophone and Latin American histories. Comparatively, the epeiric seas have been relegated, for the early and late modern periods, to secondary status. From a maritime perspective, Eurocentrism has arguably been an Atlanto-centrism with a clear preference for the Atlantic Empires of Western Europe. Global historical work, seeking to shift the focus away from Eurocentric perspectives, has in recent years proposed to right this one-sidedness by highlighting histories of the Indian Ocean, in particular. In this situation, it may well also be appropriate, with a view to the global connections and the revision of Atlanto-centrism, to also revisit the inland seas of the European continental space.

As part of this work, it seems important to take stock of the broad variety of ideational and emotional attributes attached to the sea in these four maritime regions; and on how the diverse sea histories can and have been brought into dialogue.



HELSINGIN YLIOPISTO
HELSINGFORS UNIVERSITET
UNIVERSITY OF HELSINKI



Program

22 June: University of Tallinn (morning session on the ferry)

9:15 Welcome / Introduction

9:30 – 11 Luc Wodzicki (Freie Universität Berlin): Sea of the Virtuous. The Role of Shared Ethics in Early Modern Italian-Ottoman Political Communication

Viorel Panaite (University of Bucharest): Freedom of Navigation in Islamic-Ottoman Law of the Sea around 1600

14:00 – 15:30 Natividad Planas (Clermont Auvergne University): Letters and Books from the Depths of Algeria at the Beginning of the Seventeenth Century

Ann Thomson (European University Institute): The conquest of Algiers and French thinking on the Mediterranean

16:00 – 17:00 Keynote lecture by Maria Fusaro (University of Exeter): European Sea Spaces and Global History: Connectivity and Jurisdiction

23 June: Helsinki Collegium for Advanced Studies

9:30 – 10:30 Keynote lecture by Konstantina Zanou (Columbia University): National Poets Stammering the Nation: A trans-Adriatic story

10:45 – 12:15 Henning Trüper (ZfL Berlin): Sea spaces of humanitarianism around 1800

Jonathan Stafford (ZfL Berlin): Representing technological change at Sea: J.M.W. Turner and the steamship 'revolution'

13:45 – 15:15 Giulia Iannuzzi (University of Florence / University of Trieste): Second sights across northern waters. An early-18th century supernatural philosopher between Scotland and Lapland

Luisa Simonutti (CNR Milan): Women translators and travellers in Europe and the Mediterranean Basin in XVII and XVIII century

15:30 – 17:00 Konstantinos Giakoumis (LOGOS University College, Tirana): Imagining Seas and Seafarers in Christian and Muslim Sacred Spaces (images)

Constantin Ardeleanu (University of Galați): Steamship Connectivity in the Black Sea (1830s–1850s)

17:00 – 17:45 Mikko Huhtamies (University of Helsinki): A narrow sea of myths and reality. The Gulf of Finland between Helsinki and Tallin (1200-1955)



HELSINGIN YLIOPISTO
HELSINGFORS UNIVERSITET
UNIVERSITY OF HELSINKI



Organizing Committee:

Tommaso Giordani, University of Tallinn

Stefan Nygård, University of Helsinki

Luisa Simonutti, CNR, PIMo WG2 Leader

Giovanni Tarantino, University of Florence, PIMo Action Chair

Henning Trüper, Leibniz Center for Literary and Cultural Research, Berlin

Conference sponsored by

COST Action 18140 – People in Motion: Entangled Histories of Displacement across the Mediterranean – WG2 Ideas in Motion

The University of Helsinki, Department of Philosophy, History and Art Studies & Helsinki Collegium for Advanced Studies

The University of Tallinn, Institute of Humanities