

Travellers of the Sea – Conference on Maritime History, Marine Archeology and Ethnology

Keynote speakers



Floating Fables: Nonhuman Animals as Shipborne Travellers

Dr Kaori Nagai is a Senior Lecturer in Victorian Literature at the University of Kent, and the author of two monographs, *Empire of Analogies: Kipling, India and Ireland* (Cork UP, 2006) and *Imperial Beast Fables: Animals, Cosmopolitanism, and the British Empire* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2020). She has worked on the topic of seafaring rats at the National Maritime Museum, London, and is the editor of ‘*Animals at Sea*’, a special issue of *Journal for Maritime Research* (vol.22, nos. 1-2, 2020) and *Maritime Animals: Ships, Species, Stories* (Penn State University Press, 2023).



Moving matter. Dislocated objects and transformative sea experiences

Dr Mirja Arnshav is an archaeologist who specialises in blue heritage and human relationships with the sea. In 2020, she defended her thesis on Baltic refugee boat remains in Sweden. Currently, she works as a research coordinator at the Maritime Museum in Stockholm.



Beyond the Oceans: The Wider Mediterranean and Mass Maritime Mobility in the Age of Steam

Matteo Barbano earned his PhD in History from the University of Genoa in 2016. From 2018 to 2023, he was a postdoctoral researcher at the Institute of Mediterranean Studies in Rethymno, contributing to two ERC Starting Grant projects (*SeaLiT* and *JaNeT*). His research primarily focuses on the economic, social, cultural, and political dimensions of the transition from sail to steam navigation in the Mediterranean.

Since January 2024, he has been a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellow at the University of Genoa, where he is carrying out *Mediterranean Mass Mobilities and Displacements in the Age of Steam* (MedMaD), a project that examines the development of maritime mass mobilities across the "wider Mediterranean," including the Black Sea and the Red Sea, between 1869 and 1914.