

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

Keynote speakers



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).



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.



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.