Contact
Haureh Hussein
DFG-Project: Family Business: Creating a ‘Maritime Contact Zone’ in the Colonial Anglo-World, 1790-1840
FB III – International History
Trier University

If you intend to participate in person or online in the Workshop, please send an email to Haureh Hussein, hussein@uni-trier.de

Event location
Trier University | Room A 8
Universitätsring 15
D-54296 Trier
Germany
www.uni-trier.de

Supported by

Cover: “Islands Seen by Ship Nauticon” 1848–53 – Susan Veeder (1816–97), Ms. 220 log 347
Courtesy of the Nantucket Historical Association.
Maritime Labour Practices

Starting with Marcus Rediker’s and Peter Linebaugh’s Many headed Hydra (2000), the past decades have brought a number of scholarships and disciplines to analyze the diverse maritime working conditions across Time, Oceans, and Globe. The emerging field of Global and Maritime History demonstrated the mobility and importance of those, who, crucially, filled the ships.

Depending on the purpose of the voyage, working and living circumstances at sea changed and differed dramatically. The diverse purposes of voyages influenced the socialization and consistency of the crew, as they were isolated from mainland systems of society, government, work, and leisure.

For several years, a pelagic-whaling ship, which required frequent stopovers, had different necessities as a trade ship. Both the composition of a crew and the hierarchies of a Convict ship might have been different, compared to a Royal Navy Ship. These different circumstances mirrored in the wage-system too. Facing a several-year absence from home and family, whalers needed a payment in advance to sustain their families. Ships on the American continent became places of hope for slaves who were escaping.

The purpose of this workshop is to highlight and reveal these different conditions and to bring together scholars from diverse disciplines and areas to engage in a dialogue about the results of their research.

Friday, 19 May

15.30 Opening
Greetings and Introduction

15.45 Keynote 1
Chair: Haureh Hussein (Trier University)
Valerie Burton (Memorial University of Newfoundland)
Working Towards Inclusion in the Historical Understanding of British/Imperial Maritime Labour Records

16.45 Coffee Break

17.00 Panel 1: Labour and Migration – Ships as Maritime Infrastructures of Empires
Chair: Eva Bischoff (Trier University)
Lena Moser (University of Tübingen)
“The master is supposed to be master of the subject”: The division of labour between commissioned officers and masters in the eighteenth-century Royal Navy
Louise Thatcher (University of Potsdam)
Who Pays the Fines? Chinese Intermediaries in the Prevention and Facilitation of Desertion to Australia
Simon Karstens (Trier University)

Commentary
Questions and Discussion

19.15 Dinner

Saturday, 20 May

9.00 Morning coffee and tea

9.30 Panel 2: From Ports and Seas – Maritime Economies and Societies
Chair: Louise Thatcher (University of Potsdam)
Jared Davidson (Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington)
From crew to the chain gang: seamen-as-prison labourers in nineteenth century New Zealand
Felix Schürmann (MIASA – University of Ghana)
Commentary
Questions and Discussion

10.20 Coffee Break

10.40 Keynote 2
Chair: Eva Bischoff (Trier University)
Ravi Ahuja (Georg-August University Göttingen)
Industrial “cyclopes” and “native” stokers: British steam shipping and the attractions of “racial management” (c. 1880-1930)

11.55 Lunch

13.45 Panel 3: Conditions of Maritime Labour
Chair: Lena Moser (University of Tübingen)
Christiaan van Bachove (Utrecht University)
Ton van Velzen (Dutch National Archives (retired))
The Dutch East India Company and financial innovation: Developing a credit instrument for seafarers
Haureh Hussein (Trier University)
Kidnapping whalers and destroying grogshops – The transoceanic whaling industry in Aotearoa/New Zealand in the 1830s
Eva Bischoff (Trier University)

Commentary
Questions and Discussion

14.50 Final Discussion and Feedback