

Britain, Conflict, and the Sea

Royal Museums Greenwich 12-13 September 2025



Programme (subject to change)

Day 1 - 12 September

0900-0930 – Registration and refreshments

0930-0945 – Welcome & opening remarks – conference organisers

0945-1115 – Session 1 (single panel)

Race and Orientalism

*‘Black Bermudian Seamen in the British Atlantic World’, Kristy Warren, University of Lincoln

*‘Islanders like Ourselves’: British expatriates, the Royal Navy, and military orientalism in treaty-port Japan’, Robert Fletcher, University of Missouri

*‘Colonizer versus Colonized: Racial tension on P&O Ocean liners in the post WWII Era’, Colin Davis, University of Alabama, Birmingham

1115-1140 – Coffee

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1140-1320 – Session 2 (parallel panels)

Panel A: 'Death, memorialisation, and contested commemoration'

- *'Family Commemoration in the First World War', Ann-Marie Foster, Robert Gordon University
- *'The Exclusion of African and Caribbean Troops from 1919 Metropolitan Peace Day Celebrations', Jacqueline Jenkinson, University of Stirling
- *'The Contested Terrain of Remembrance: Local and National Commemoration of the Great War in Portsmouth', Laura Rowe, University of Exeter
- *'Naval Pageantry, Heritage, and Commemoration in Interwar Britain', Rowan Thompson, Northumbria University

Panel B: 'Warship afterlives, naval pageantry, and British culture'

- *'Conflicting Legacies: Meaning, Memory, and the Afterlives of Nelson's Fleet', Anna McKay, University of Liverpool
- *'Warship Weeks and Royal Navy Ship Adoptions: Civic Culture and Naval Pageantry during the Second World War', Jayne Friend, University of Portsmouth
- *'HMS Belfast: A totem of 'Britishness' during the mid twentieth Century', Robert Rumble, Imperial War Museums
- *'A (Navy) League of its Own: Channel 5's *Warship: Life at Sea*', Jonathan Rayner, University of Sheffield

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1320-1415 – Lunch

1415-1545 – Session 3 (parallel panels)

Panel A: 'The Russian Challenge at Sea: Britain, Russia, and Assessments of Threat'

- *'Charting the Course: Understanding intelligence requirements of the British Royal Navy', Neveen Abdalla, Brunel University of London
- *'The Whale's view of the Bear: British Assessments of the Tsarist Navy in the Run-Up to the First World War', Matthew Seligmann, Brunel University of London
- *'Fogbound, Anchoring and All at Sea: UK Naval Intelligence Division Appreciations of the Soviet Navy 1955-1965', Philip Davies, Brunel University of London

Panel B: 'Navy and nation: recruitment and manning'

- *'Navy, Nation, and Newhaven: Rediscovering the Sea Fencibles of the French Revolutionary Wars', Cathryn Pearce, University of Portsmouth
- *'Manning the Navy: the Royal Navy Coast Volunteers (1853-73) and Britain's search for a naval reserve', Paul Huddie, Independent Researcher
- *'Stokers Required' - Royal Navy recruitment and British identity in the age of steam', Zara Money, University of Exeter



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1545-1615 – Coffee

1615-1745 – Roundtable discussion: the First World War and Britain's 'maritime' orientation

Laura Rowe (University of Exeter), Alex Mayhew (London School of Economics), Jacqueline Jenkinson (University of Stirling)

Chair: David Morgan-Owen

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Day 2 - 13 September

0900-0930 – Doors open; refreshments

0930-1100 – Session 4 (parallel panels)

Panel A: Maritime Mirrors of British Imperialism: Rethinking the Visual Narratives of Eighteenth and Nineteenth Century Maritime Paintings (virtual)

*'Empire on the Waves: Interrogating the 'Britishness' through Amitav Ghosh and Pandey Kapil', Rumela Saha, Raniganj Girls' College, India

*'Politics of the *Obvious* Sea and the *Implied*: A Dialogue between JMW Turner and the Picturesque Paintings of British Officials of India', Samiran Bera, Independent Researcher

*'Maritime Discourse on Native Soil: Investigating the 'Other' Side of the Imperialist Britain', Sayan Parial, Kazi Nazrul University, India

Panel B: 'International Law and Identity in the Era of British Maritime Hegemony'

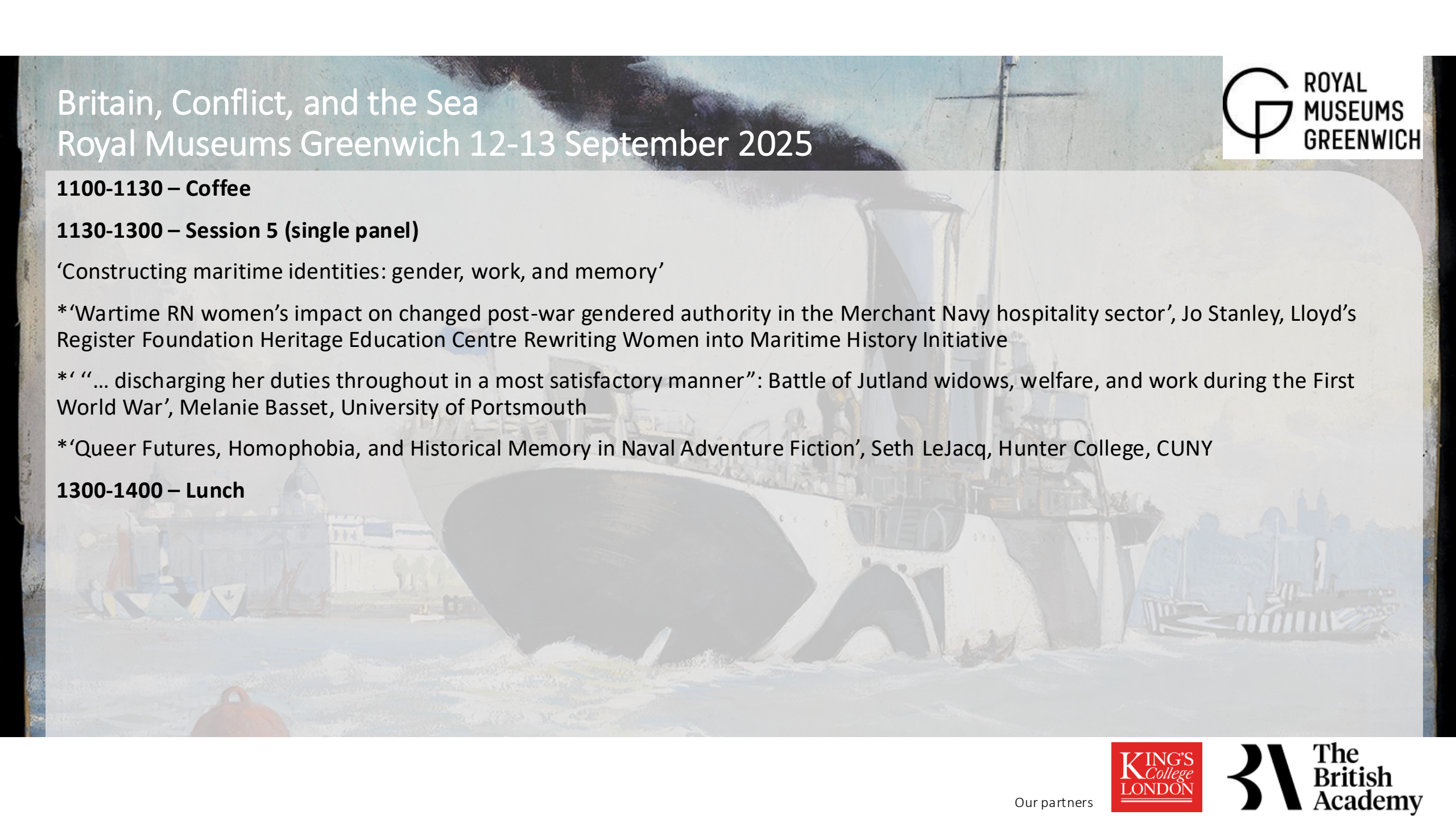
*'Palaces Out of Paragraphs: Creating Anti-slave trade Courts and Humanitarian Identity from British Prize Law', Anna Brinkman, University of Lincoln

*'Great Britain, the Immunity of Private Property at Sea, and the Identity of Seapower, 1899-1907', Gabriela Frei, University of Oxford

*'The Freedom of the Seas and British Liberal Identities, 1914-1919', Louis Halewood, University of Lincoln

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1100-1130 – Coffee

1130-1300 – Session 5 (single panel)

‘Constructing maritime identities: gender, work, and memory’

*‘Wartime RN women’s impact on changed post-war gendered authority in the Merchant Navy hospitality sector’, Jo Stanley, Lloyd’s Register Foundation Heritage Education Centre Rewriting Women into Maritime History Initiative

*‘ “... discharging her duties throughout in a most satisfactory manner”: Battle of Jutland widows, welfare, and work during the First World War’, Melanie Basset, University of Portsmouth

*‘Queer Futures, Homophobia, and Historical Memory in Naval Adventure Fiction’, Seth LeJacq, Hunter College, CUNY

1300-1400 – Lunch

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1400-1530 – Session 6 (parallel panels)

Panel A: 'Maritime networks: family, identity and nation'

- *'A Maritime Family: Elite Naval Service, the Suppression of the Slave Trade, and the Aclands of Killerton in the Early Nineteenth Century', Molly Groake, University of Cambridge
- *'Social Networks of Maritime Communities: the development of Shared Identities and Nationality, 1750-1800', Ben Weddell, University of Reading/National Maritime Museum
- *'A transatlantic nation? Intercepted letters from the American Revolution, 1770-1782', Graham Moore, The National Archives

Panel B: Slavery, hegemony and resistance

- *'Prize Warfare and the Suppression of the Slave Trade', Jake Subryan Richards, London School of Economics
- *'Imperial Currents: British Naval Hegemony, Indigenous Resistance, and the Contestation of Maritime Sovereignty in the Indian Ocean', Asheeka Haider Ali, University of Delhi
- *'HMS *Trincomalee*: Made in Britain Bombay', Clare Hunt, National Museum of the Royal Navy

1530 – Closing remarks and departure