

# 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**

Heather Jones (University College London), 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

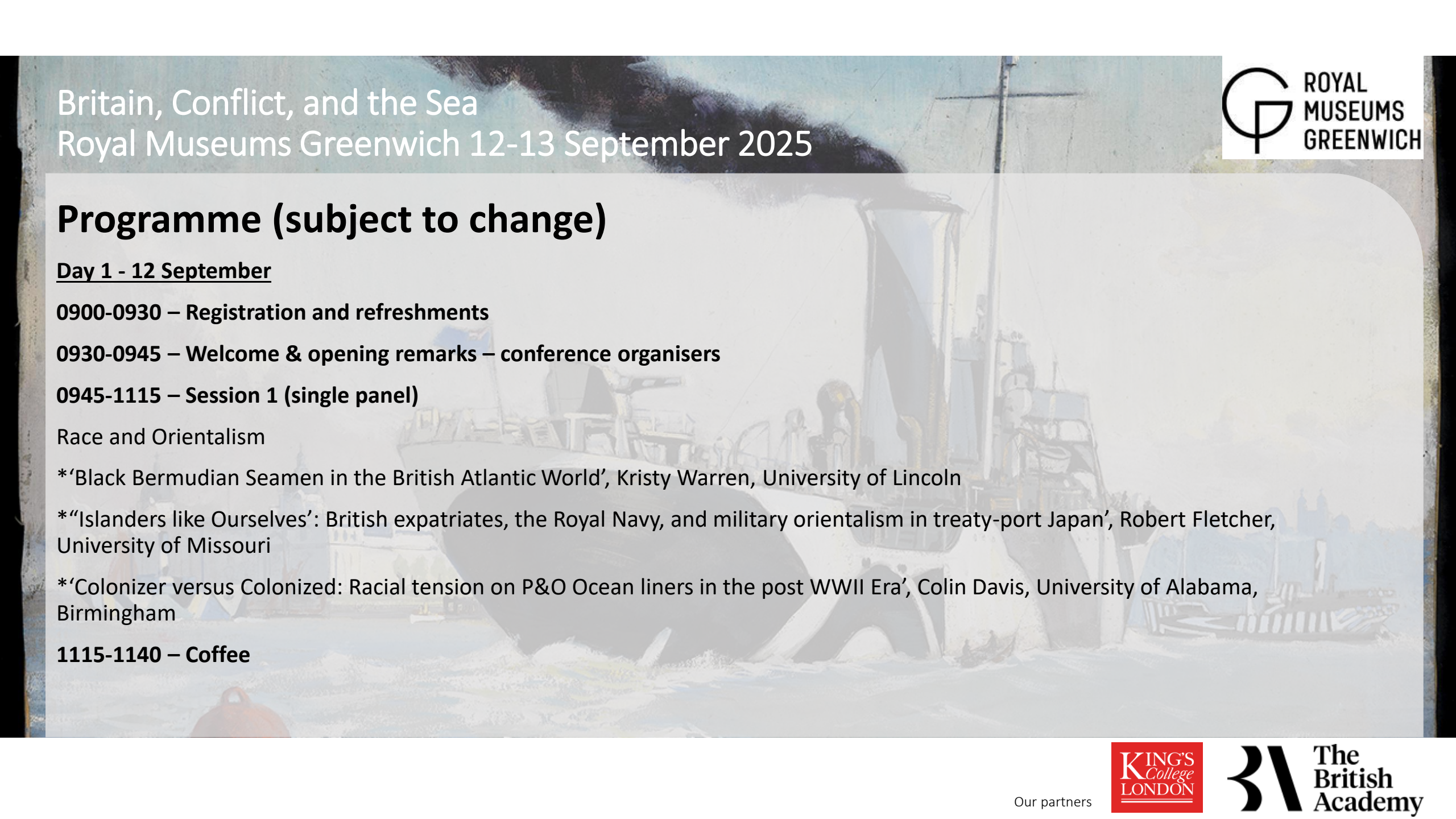
\*'Great Britain, the Immunity of Private Property at Sea, and the Identity of Seapower, 1899-1907', Gabriela Frei, University of Oxford

\*'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

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