

CAIRD LIBRARY RESEARCH SEMINARS PROGRAMME 2017

PLEASE NOTE

Seminars are now on Mondays.
There will be no seminars in January and August.

TIME

All seminars will be held between 15.30 and 16.30.

LOCATION

The Caird Library, Sammy Ofer Wing,
National Maritime Museum,
Greenwich, London SE10 9NF

ATTENDANCE WELCOME

Members of the Museum, adult learners, independent researchers, academic and university students and members of the public are welcome to attend the seminars. No booking is necessary!

For further information please contact the Research Administrator on 020 8312 6716 or email: research@rmg.co.uk

CONVENOR

Martin Salmon



CAIRD LIBRARY RESEARCH SEMINARS PROGRAMME 2017

A series of seminars convened by the Greenwich Maritime Centre and the National Maritime Museum



27 FEBRUARY

Katherine Gazzard,
*Collaborative Doctoral
Partnership PhD student*

SELLING 'SHADES' BY THE SEA SHORE: PORTRAITURE IN 18TH-CENTURY NAVAL PORTS

From grandiose oil paintings by Joshua Reynolds to rapid cut-paper silhouettes and intricate miniatures, a diverse variety of portraits were produced in naval ports over the course of the 18th century. This seminar will explore examples of these artworks and the businesses of their producers, revealing how naval officers used portraiture to negotiate the emotional demands of their profession while on duty and when preparing to sail.

27 MARCH

Anna McKay,
*Collaborative Doctoral
Partnership PhD student*

THE HISTORY OF BRITISH PRISON HULKS, 1776–1864

The history of British prison hulks has been largely overlooked, despite the fact that they housed two types of inmate; prisoners of war and convicts. Furthermore, their image as 'hell on water' has undermined our understanding of these floating prisons as lived experiences. With reference to NMM collections, this paper will examine regime, defiance and productivity on board the hulks, ultimately restoring the lives of prisoners to their complex history.

24 APRIL

Dirk Siebels,
*Doctoral Student,
Greenwich Maritime
Centre*

PIRACY OFF THE GULF OF GUINEA: AN AFRICAN PROBLEM WITH AN AFRICAN SOLUTION?

This seminar looks at the issues surrounding modern-day piracy off the African coast, and whether or not the West's interventions are more of a hindrance than a help. The talk comes out of the extended research undertaken as part of a PhD on issues surrounding piracy off the African coast in the 21st century.

22 MAY

Sarah Wood,
*Exhibitions Interpretation
Curator*

'SEA THINGS': AN EPIC JOURNEY BEHIND THE SCENES INTO THE DEVELOPMENT OF A NEW GALLERY.

How do you develop an engaging and quirky gallery working with 50 curators, over 600 objects, no set narrative and limited space? Discover how we are putting together the 'Sea Things' gallery for opening in 2018, working with co-curators from local communities, championing little-known gems from across the NMM collections and presenting maritime stories from new perspectives, including a group of busts and figurines in conversation.

26 JUNE

Dr Caroline Withall,
*Caird Senior Research
Fellow*

'AND SINCE THAT TIME HAS NEVER BEEN HEARD OF': THE FORGOTTEN SEA APPRENTICES

The Marine Society's role in supplying the Navy is well known: the research here investigates a lesser-known aspect, the recruitment of boys for the merchant service. It develops not only a missing piece of maritime history but also sheds light on social and economic issues such as trade routes, the supply and demand of the sector, ports participating, ages boys were sent to sea, survival rates, apprenticeship outcomes and social mobility.

31 JULY

Jeremy Michell,
*Historic Photographs and
Ships Plans Manager,* and
Claire Warrior,
*Senior Exhibitions
Interpretation Curator*

SKIDOOS, SNOWSHOES AND CLIMATE CHANGE: CURATING 'POLAR WORLDS'

The NMM has outstanding collections relating to the historic exploration of the Arctic and Antarctic. Both regions have been represented as blank, isolated spaces, removed from the rest of the world. But in the 21st century, the connectedness of the polar regions has become explicit. We will discuss the ways in which we will be using historic collections to rethink the ways in which the poles are represented.

25 SEPTEMBER

Richard Coltman,
*Doctoral Student,
Greenwich Maritime
Centre*

TITANIC: MEMORIALIZATION AND MEMORY

This seminar looks at the memorialization of probably the most famous merchant-ship loss, RMS *Titanic*. However, the research undertaken for the speaker's PhD shows that differing groups were remembered at different times, some with public support, others only after private initiatives. This session highlights not just who we choose to remember but also how and when.

30 OCTOBER

Callum Easton,
*Collaborative Doctoral
Partnership PhD student*

SYMBOLISM, THEATRE, AND APPROPRIATION DURING THE 1797 SPITHEAD AND NORE MUTINIES

The mutinies in the home fleets of the Royal Navy in spring 1797 posed a grave threat to Britain's survival in the war against Revolutionary France. This talk will explore the rituals and symbols employed and subverted by the mutinous seamen in order to legitimize their actions, and place these in the context of collective resistance to authority in 18th-century Britain.

27 NOVEMBER

Camilla Ravani,
Research Intern

DRESSED TO HELP: QUEEN ALEXANDRA'S ROYAL NAVAL NURSING SERVICE

Founded in 1884, the QARNNS was the first Royal Naval nursing service and, from the beginning, uniforms played a major role in defining it. This seminar explores the themes of women's rights and individuality through the prism of nurses' uniforms, to illustrate how the surviving uniforms can tell us a great deal about women's clothing, medical care, the Navy and society from the late 19th to mid-20th century.

18 DECEMBER

Kaori Nagai,
Caird Short Term Fellow

COSMOPOLITAN RATS: RATS AS SEAFARERS IN THE AGE OF BRITISH IMPERIALISM

This paper will discuss the figure of rats as sea voyagers in the 18th and 19th centuries. In this period, their worldwide spread via sea routes closely followed the trajectory of European colonial expansion. By examining their figuration as vermin, vectors, invasive species and fellow passengers, it will consider rats' importance as an integral part of maritime life, and will characterize the British Empire as an interspecies network.