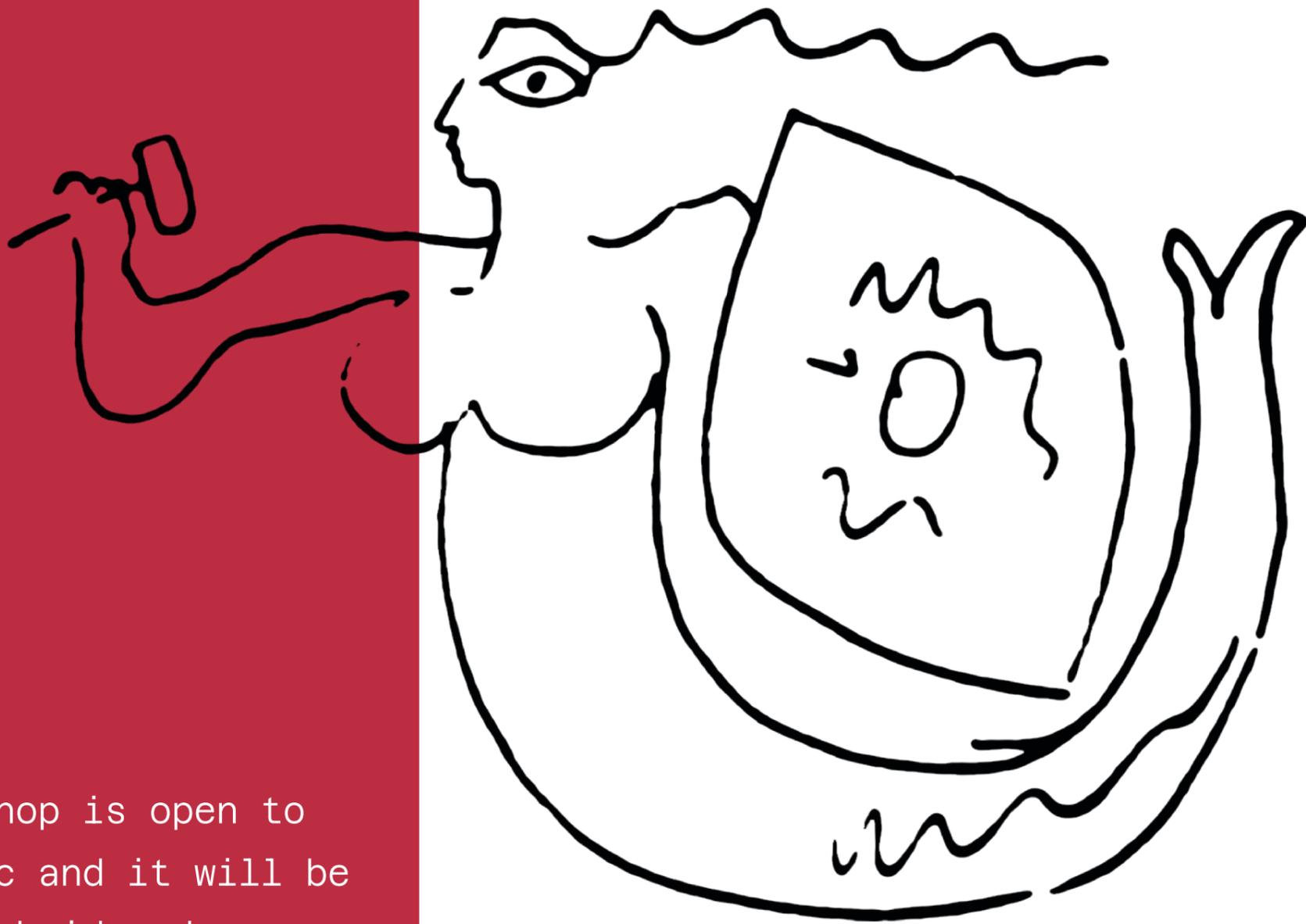


International Hybrid Workshop

WOMEN OF THE WATERFRONT

Gendering Ports , Careers ,
Relations and (Everyday) Life
Trajectories in Modern Times



ROME

6-7 December 2023

Casa Internazionale delle Donne
Sala Simonetta Tosi | Via Lungara 19

Organized by:



The workshop is open to
the public and it will be
held in hybrid mode.

For info and registration
to attend the workshop on
line, please contact:

Erica Mezzoli

(NextGenerationEu Project Ondine
– University of Rome Tor Vergata)

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Under the patronage of:



Funding agencies:



The workshop is organised in the framework of the NextGenerationEU Project 'Ondine. Women's Labour and Everyday Life on the Upper and Eastern Adriatic Waterfronts, mid-19th century-mid-20th century' (Funded by EU; CUP E53C22002420001) hosted by the Department of History, Humanities and Society of the Tor Vergata University of Rome. | image: Picasso, Syrenka, 1948

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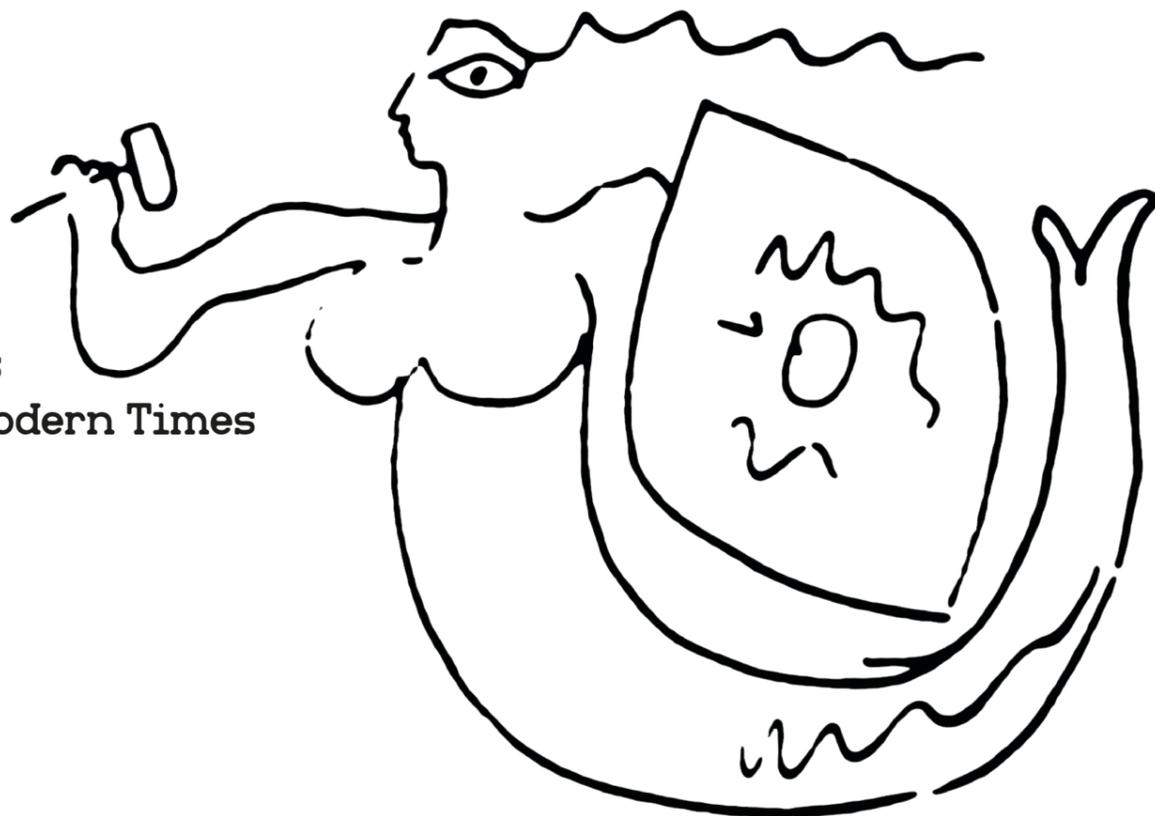
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PROGRAMME

6 December 2023

02:15 p.m. CET – **OPENING ADDRESSES**

Lucia Ceci (Head of the Department of History, Humanities and Society, Tor Vergata University of Rome – Italy)

Erica Mezzoli (NextGenerationEu Project 'Ondine'-Tor Vergata University of Rome – Italy)

02:30 p.m. CET – **KEYNOTE LECTURE**

Valerie Burton (Memorial University of Newfoundland – Canada)

Puzzling Amongst the Pieces: A Keynote Presentation for 'Women of the Waterfront'

DISCUSSION

03:30 p.m. CET – Coffee break

4:00 p.m. CET – **1st SESSION**

La donna è mobile: Female Mobility, Labour, Sexuality and Coercion in a Global Perspective

Chair: **Erica Mezzoli** (NextGenerationEU Project 'Ondine'-Tor Vergata University of Rome – Italy)

Sagarika Naik (Independent Researcher – India)

Gendering Communities: Trans-national Networks in Yangon (Rangoon, Myanmar), 1840–1937

Müge Özbek (Kadir Has University, Istanbul – Turkey)

The Everyday Mobility of Women in the Istanbul Ports at the Turn of the 19th Century

Livinus Ikwuako Okeke (Imo State University, Owerri – Nigeria)

'Women of the Waterfront' at Calabar (Nigeria) and Bata (Equatorial Guinea): the Female Side of Igbo Migrant Labour, 1928–76

Letonde Hermine Gbedo (Comitato per i Diritti Civili delle

Prostitute aps, Trieste – Italy) and **Veronica Saba** (Comitato per i Diritti Civili delle Prostitute aps, Trieste – Italy)

Trafficking in Women at The Italian North-Eastern Border: Patterns of Women's Agency and Mobility from the Perspective of a 20 Years Long Anti-Trafficking Project

DISCUSSION

7 December 2023

9:15 a.m. CET – **2nd SESSION**

Working Out Maritimty: Gender, Labour and the Port Fact

Chair: **John Odin Jensen** (University of West Florida – USA)

Matthew Ylitalo (University of St Andrews – Scotland, UK)

A Sisterhood of Knives: Women, Casual Labour and Translocality in the Arctic Trade, 1900–1912

Alexei Kraikovski (University of Genova – Italy)

Ladies on the Coast. The Female Dimension of Maritimty in Imperial St. Petersburg (Russia)

Ariana Domínguez García (University of the Balearic Islands – Spain) and **Daniel J. Albero Santacreu** (University of the Balearic

Islands – Spain)

Gendering the Port: Reinterpreting the Landscape of the Fishing Community of the Port of Palma (1940–2023)

DISCUSSION

10:30 a.m. CET – Coffee break

11:00 a.m. CET – **3rd SESSION**

Women Who Mind Their Own Business: Female Maritime Entrepreneurship between Europe and North America

Chair: **Maura E. Hametz** (James Madison University – USA)

Luisa Muñoz Abeledo (Santiago de Compostela University – Spain)

Business Occupations for Women in North-West Spanish Port Cities (1880–1915)

John Odin Jensen (University of West Florida – USA)

Female Maritime Entrepreneurs and the Marketing of Women's Domestic Labor on Canadian and American Great Lakes Vessels 1865–1910

Paola Avallone (Istituto di storia dell'Europa mediterranea-CNR – Italy) and **Raffaella Salvemini** (Istituto di storia dell'Europa mediterranea-CNR – Italy)

Women of the Sea. Some Examples of Female Entrepreneurs in the Maritime Universe of Nineteenth-Century Southern Italy

DISCUSSION

12:15 p.m. CET – LIGHT LUNCH

02:15 p.m. CET – **4th SESSION**

Souls at Work: Women and Men Navigating 'Home-Ports'

Chair: **Karen Belmore** (University of West Florida – USA)

Kristof Looockx (University of Antwerp – Belgium)

Identities, Experiences and Life Trajectories: The Women of Antwerp's and Boston's Sailortowns, 1880–1900

Maura E. Hametz (James Madison University – USA)

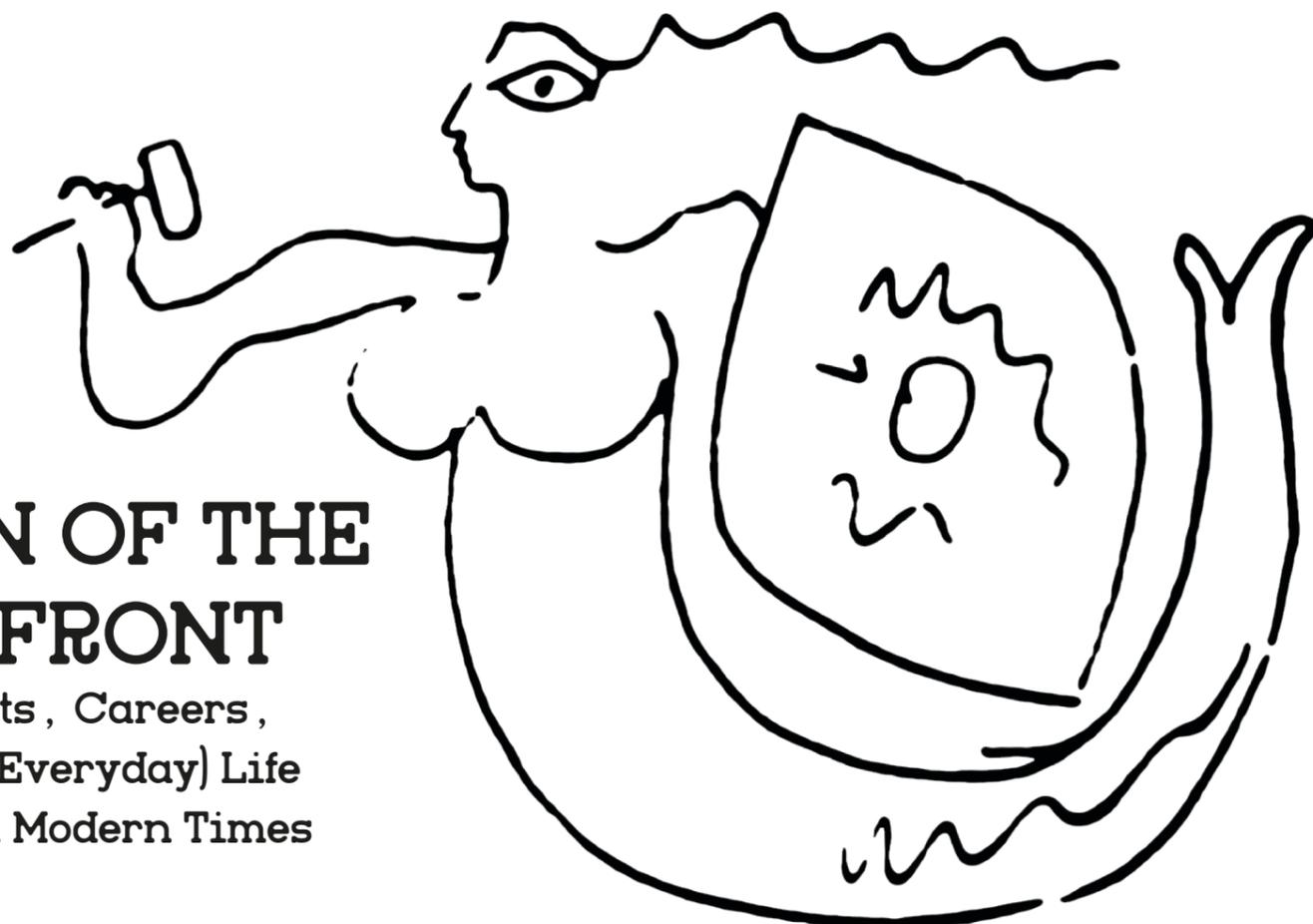
Women Working Overseas: Alma Morpurgo's Maritime Migrations

Erica Mezzoli (NextGenerationEu Project 'Ondine'-Tor Vergata University of Rome – Italy)

[We]Men in Love and [Wo]Men in Port. 'Aleksandrovanje' Couples Dealing with Multiple Dislocations

DISCUSSION

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ABSTRACTS

KEYNOTE LECTURE

Valerie Burton (Memorial University of Newfoundland – Canada)
*Puzzling Amongst the Pieces: A Keynote Presentation for
'Women of the Waterfront'*

It is all of four decades since feminists set about profiling the power geometry of gender that crossed oceans and was articulated on the 19th and early 20th century waterfront. No lack of ambition accompanied the moves by which we foregrounded women's paid and unpaid work in the port and highlighted the significance of household management strategies that made a difference to the daily economic survival of the generations that experienced the changes in shipping and trade effected by capital and empire. Had the importance of this work been attended to in maritime history's mainstream participants in this conference might now be setting out without need of this reminder: we work in a field where a concern with and for women necessitates keen challenges to the gender-essentializing and naturalizing premises of dominant political economies/ecologies whether those are mobilized under liberal, neo-liberal or left-wing frameworks.

'Puzzling amongst the pieces' thus reflects on a sobering history of ontological displacement, epistemological misrecognition and theoretical denial in respect of the female subjects of maritime history. In this keynote I practise historiography as an act in the present on behalf of the future, and by means of personal and professional reflection on three pivotal areas of seafaring and merchant port history I suggest new prospects for our studies of women's work, relations and (everyday) life trajectories.

Taking issue with quotidian boundaries of maritime time and space in *Separate spheres* I reference the continued conceptualization of the merchant vessel as the venue of ‘men apart’. By rendering women as the categorical rather than relational absence in men’s working lives the totalization of the ship has furthered that separation of production and reproduction that makes the discounting of women’s activities and claims to resources possible. *Sailortown women* considers how the forgetfulness by ‘post-feminist’ historians of the significance of the perniciousness of dual-standard sexual morality in port towns has ill-served perspectives on the tendentious and prejudicial character of the lines drawn between legitimate and illegitimate economic activity. Particular reference is made to the devaluing of women’s personal service and care work outside and inside the home. In *Making fish* I profile eco-feminist claims that the long history of the commodification of women’s labour in fish-processing requires our closer attention to the capitalist and patriarchal appropriation of natural resources. I concentrate on what fishing communities in crisis are coming to understand: the significance of sourcing an historical record that might dispel the binary closures that stand in the way of reconstructing economic and social relations for gender equity at local, trans-local, and global levels.

‘Puzzling amongst the pieces’ recognizes the claims of ontologies than are connected, dispersed, indebted and relational in a reconceptualization of the maritime economy as non-essentialist and situated. It invites delegates to consider how their own work might remain within the struggle against the disempowerment that stems from the modelling of men as at the centre and women as peripheral and centripetal in the post-1800 maritime world whilst not reproducing the multiple exclusions that have historically characterized that model.

1st SESSION

La donna è mobile: Female Mobility, Labour, Sexuality and Coercion in a Global Perspective

Sagarika Naik (Independent Researcher – India)

Gendering communities: Trans-national Networks in Yangon (Rangoon, Myanmar), 1840–1937

The Japanese prostitutes (*Karayuki-san*) for instance, served only to their Japanese clients. Oriya hotels in Rangoon port provided the comforts to thousands of Uriyas that they pass through. Some Tamil brothels in Rangoon were open only to Chettiars. A Cantonese of prostitute who located in the Rangoon Port put it quite simply in her testimony to a Singapore court, my customers are of various nationalists, including Tamil.

E.J.L. Andrew, *Indian Labour in Rangoon*, 1934

To fully grasp the processes regarding gendering communities and socio-economic activities in colonial European/Atlantic port cities, one must

consider the distinctive Asian experience. Besides setting aside the pre-existing idea that women alone could not travel and could not cross the sea, we need a micro-historical method to comprehend the gender dynamics while analysing the Asian port towns, their networks and connections patterns, where women were able to gain and maintain distinctive socio-economic positions. My paper will focus on the city port of Yangon (Rangoon, Myanmar) from the mid-19th century to the early 20th century. Over that period, when the development of commerce and industry also corresponded to the increase in the city's population, Yangon became a labour-migration hotspot for people primarily from India, China, Ceylon (Sri Lanka), and Malaya (Malaysia). I will also emphasise the challenges and hardships women faced on their voyages and illustrate how multiculturalism intersects in the Burmese port city.

Müge Özbek (Kadir Has University, Istanbul – Turkey)

*The Everyday Mobility of Women in the Istanbul Ports at the Turn of the 19th century**

This paper explores the everyday mobility of women in Istanbul ports at the turn of the 19th century through a 'mobility studies' perspective, considering it as a complex process influenced by factors like social demographics, class, age, race, family structures, and local transportation infrastructure. As the Ottoman Empire rapidly integrated into the global capitalist system from the mid-19th century onwards, Istanbul underwent significant physical expansion and infrastructural transformation. This aligns with a broader global trend, where port cities adopted infrastructure projects to enhance mobility, allowing people to cover greater distances in shorter timeframes. Harvey's concept of 'space-time compression' underscores the necessity for swift movement in both time and space, in tandem with the spread of capital. This compression was most keenly felt in Istanbul's ports, where spatial and temporal dynamics began to shift. Women unexpectedly make frequent appearances in this scene. Mobility studies emphasize the intimate connection between mobility and power dynamics. Doreen Massey extends Harvey's concept, introducing the idea of the 'power geometry of space-time compression.' She points out that increased mobility and accessibility do not uniformly benefit all social groups. Mobility is influenced by power relations, leading experiences and representations of movement to vary along lines of class, identity, nationality, religion, physical attributes, and gender. By focusing on everyday mobility of women, this paper aims to provide a new historical understanding into the 19th-century transformations of Istanbul and its ports with an intersectional gender perspective, highlighting the relationship between mobility and the social structures, inequalities, and power relations.

*This research is supported by Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TÜBİTAK) 3501 Project, *Everyday Mobility in Late 19th Century and Early 20th Century Istanbul*, Start Date: 03/15/2023- End date:03/15/2023, Kadir Has University, Istanbul.

Livinus Ikwuako Okeke (Imo State University, Owerri – Nigeria)

‘Women of the Waterfront’ at Calabar (Nigeria) and Bata (Equatorial Guinea): the Female Side of Igbo Migrant Labour, 1928–76

Ports in colonial Nigeria were full of patriarchal activities in tandem with the British colonial government’s parochialism. Port Calabar in Southern Nigeria served as the point of exit for migrant labour from Igboland to Port Bata in Equatorial Guinea, where Spanish plantation owners recruited labourers to be employed in the plantations of Fernando Pó (Bioko) and Río Muni. While few scholarly works on some aspect of migrant labour regarding women joining their migrant labourers’ husbands in Equatorial Guinea exist (Mbah, 2022), attention has not been given yet to women only and how they contributed to the West African port economy, i.e., acting as middlemen in the recruiting agency as well as in trade activities, including sex. Therefore, the paper aims to fill this scholarly gap by focusing on women of the waterfronts that facilitated the migration of able men to Equatorial Guinea from the Nigerian port of Calabar. Relying on primary qualitative sources from the National Archives of Enugu, Calabar and Ibadan in Nigeria, the paper will show how local women indeed altered the patriarchal character of colonial Igboland and, as a result, also that of Calabar and Bata waterfronts, providing enormous contributions to colonial Nigeria economy.

Letonde Hermine Gbedo (Comitato per i Diritti Civili delle Prostitute aps, Trieste – Italy) and **Veronica Saba** (Comitato per i Diritti Civili delle Prostitute aps, Trieste – Italy)

Trafficking in Women at The Italian North-Eastern Border: Patterns of Women’s Agency and Mobility from the Perspective of a 20 Years Long Anti-Trafficking Project

The Italian North-Eastern border has always been crisscrossed by migratory routes, which are constantly changing. However, it is only since 2015 that the boom in arrivals from the Balkan Route has given media visibility to this border. The mainstream narrative of the phenomenon as well as, to some extent, the gaze of practitioners have made the aspect of arrivals of men and young boys predominant. Although this is statistically a fact of the phenomenon, women crossing this border have always been there, albeit less visible and mappable than men. Beginning with this historical-contextual framework, the paper offers a discussion of the evolutions of female migration in this border area, tracing its main profiles with particular attention to those who have been trafficked. The paper aims to reason about both the vulnerabilities and mobility strategies of migrant women in the current scenario. While in fact on the one hand, vulnerabilities are a consequence of contextual conditions in which people on the move find themselves entangled, on the other hand, the aid system, in perpetual distress, does not always manage to meet the expectations of self-determination of women, who beyond projects and labels keep alive their survival strategies.

2nd SESSION

Working Out Maritimity: Gender, Labour and the Port Fact

Matthew Ylitalo (University of St Andrews, Scotland – UK)

A Sisterhood of Knives: Women, Casual Labour and Translocality in the Arctic Trade, 1900–1912

Throughout the history of Arctic whaling, women participated as active, albeit historically marginalised figures within the trade. As early as the 1830s, the purchase receipts of knives point to Scottish women cleaning putrid whale bone in the company yards. This practice persisted throughout the nineteenth century, however, towards the end of the century, the industry diminished to the point that whaling alone was no longer financially viable. To adapt, Scottish enterprises, most based out of Dundee, turned to hiring Inuit and local Dundee women, both as a cost-saving measure and as a means for expanding industrial production of more natural resources. Inuit women in Baffin were sought for their expertise in using *uluit*, traditional crescent-shaped knives, to prepare polar bear, walrus and fox skins for export and sale. They also quarried mica and hauled it to the quay for shipment back to Scotland. In Dundee, girls and young women used knives to separate the mica laminae from quarried rock and process it for future industrial use. This talk, therefore, shows that women in the Arctic and Scotland were active participants in this maritime trade, and crucially, I argue that their specialized, cheap, temporal labour enabled the industry to evolve and survive well into the twentieth century. On a wider scale, these women make an important case study that engages theoretical discussions about how we ‘do transnational history’. Are historical figures and groups such as these transnational figures? How can scholars frame those limited by social status, temporal employment, cultural expectations or geographical and financial immobility as important historical actors? Here, I maintain that the labour of a translocal sisterhood of knives not only affected their own immediate and connected experiences, but their outputs and the industry’s operating practices to which they were intricately included extended to a global scale.

Alexei Kraikovski (University of Genova – Italy)

Ladies on the Coast. The Female Dimension of Maritimity in Imperial St. Petersburg (Russia).

Thinking of the 18th and 19th century St. Petersburg (Russia) as a center of what Rolf Strootman described as a maritime empire, i.e., an urban-centered space of intensive and heterogeneous maritime connections, we see inter alia a number of functions performed by women from different social layers. In my presentation I will discuss the place of female actors in the complex process of emergence of Modern Empire which claimed for the position of a dominant Baltic maritime power in many spheres. I will discuss the place of female herring sellers in the streets of St. Petersburg, and opportunities of female participation in the shipping commerce, and finally the introduction of water mobility technologies into the habitual routine life of the elite of St. Petersburg, including court ladies and the representatives of the ruling

family. Eventually, I will place this story into the general context of maritime development of St. Petersburg as a maritime metropolis, materialization of a dream about new, westernized and maritime Russia, demonstrating that the female population of the capital had its own agency and voice in this story.

Ariana Domínguez García (University of the Balearic Islands – Spain) and **Daniel J. Albero Santacreu** (University of the Balearic Islands – Spain)

Gendering the Port: Reinterpreting the Landscape of the Fishing Community of the Port of Palma (1940–2023)

Women from the fishing community of the port of Palma (Spain) have carried out a wide range of tasks related to the sea (e.g., fishing, fish sale and fishing equipment). However, their social and economic importance has been barely addressed by research carried out in the Balearic Islands, which has mainly considered those activities intrinsically linked to the sea. This gender bias has promoted a conceptualization and interpretation of the fishing landscape, both in its terrestrial and maritime dimensions, as an eminently masculinized space. In this presentation we will develop an alternative viewpoint by reinterpreting from a gender perspective the role that certain key spaces have had in the fishing port. In this sense, we will analyse how the spaces involved in women's activities (e.g., dock, fish market) have been also crucial in the symbolic construction of the fishing landscape. In addition, we will address how female participation in certain religious festivities that take place in the fishing port have been also essential in the identity construction of the community (e.g., Sant Pere procession). By means of a multiproxy methodology based on spatial analysis, oral memory, documentary research and participant observation, we will study how certain spaces become 'points of articulation' of the communal identity and the social organization of these communities both, in a quotidian and extraordinary basis. Furthermore, we will approach how the different regulatory and legal frameworks implemented by the European Union have promoted significant changes in these 'meeting places' since 1980's, thus affecting the role that women have had in the landscape construction of these fishing communities. In short, we seek to apply an intersectional perspective that takes into account the many relationships that exist between landscape, people, gender and material culture.

3rd SESSION

**Women Who Mind Their Own Business:
Female Maritime Entrepreneurship between
Europe and North America**

Luisa Muñoz Abeledo (Santiago de Compostela University – Spain)

Business Occupations for Women in North-West Spanish Port Cities (1880–1915)

This contribution analyzes women's participation on business and commerce in some principal North Western Spanish fishing and commercial ports. The

study uses different and varied sources: trade directories, newspaper advertisements, industrial and commerce taxes to know the kind of business women did in different Spanish Atlantic ports (Vigo, La Coruña). The paper links those sources with demographic sources (nominative population census) commercial letters from different corporations to discover how important was female business participation in local economies, in which economic sectors were located, and if there was social mobility in their professional lives. The study reveals the activities of lower middle-class women in business, especially in commercial enterprise. Women entrepreneurs contribute to economic modernization and urban growth in those Spanish Ports creating employment through their participation on different local companies.

John Odin Jensen (University of West Florida – USA)

Female Maritime Entrepreneurs and the Marketing of Women's Domestic Labor on Canadian and American Great Lakes Vessels 1865–1910

Building on the chapter ‘The Labors of Lydia Dale: Domestic Labor on Ships and on Shore’ in the forthcoming MERMAIDS volume, this paper is a prosopography of women who became brokers of maritime domestic labor in large Great Lakes port cities. Operating ‘intelligence offices,’ women such as Ellen Easton of Buffalo, Elizabeth Honey, and Isabella Ross supplied domestic labor for businesses, middle-class homes, and, most notably, for Great Lakes commercial vessels. These women's involvement in the maritime economy, geographic location near ports and commercial districts, and interactions with a ‘maritime’ clientele made these women's businesses distinct among the larger pool of urban domestic employment brokers. Like the domestic servants who secured shipboard employment, these entrepreneurial women's choice to conduct business within the overwhelmingly masculine maritime domain provided them with enhanced personal and economic agency but could, in many instances, also place them on the social margins of urban and maritime life. Mostly born in Canada or the United Kingdom, these women combined their individual life experiences, social connections, specific national and cultural identities, and knowledge of the overlapping domestic and maritime economies and languages to become nodal figures in a complex international labor network. Pulling together fragmentary records from newspapers, vital records, and other sources, this paper presents a profile of female maritime entrepreneurship on the North American Great Lakes – a distinct region of the greater Northern European/Atlantic Maritime World.

Paola Avallone (Istituto di storia dell'Europa mediterranea-CNR – Italy) and **Raffaella Salvemini** (Istituto di storia dell'Europa mediterranea-CNR – Italy)

Women of the Sea. Some Examples of Female Entrepreneurs in the Maritime Universe of Nineteenth-Century Southern Italy

In 1788 the Procida priest and martyr of 1799 Marcello Eusebio Scotto in his Nautical Catechism focused on the extraordinary qualities of Procida women, ready to replace men in the management of the family but also in the management of 'family finances'. Scotti died tragically and did not have the opportunity to see those 5 women who, approximately 50 years after its publication in 1834, became part of the long list of shipowners on the island. This was not a prerogative of the island. Other women shipowners and owners of ships can also be found in Sorrento, Gaeta and Torre del Greco. We do not know whether they managed or at least had an active part in the administration and economic choices of these companies. The impression up to this moment is that they were more owners of ship's carats, brought as dowry, than owners of ships. However, new research has brought to light women from Procida capable of managing the ship company. This paper is aimed at this type of involvement where we will try to reconstruct not only the profile of these women, but also the economic dimensions of their business. The objective is to create a profile on women and economic power in a typically male sector, that of the sea.

4rd SESSION

Souls at Work: Women and Men Navigating 'Home-Ports'

Kristof Loockx (University of Antwerp – Belgium)

Identities, Experiences and Life Trajectories: The Women of Antwerp's and Boston's Sailortowns, 1880–1900

During the second half of the nineteenth century, the growth of trade and increasing migration created bustling neighbourhoods near the port, or so-called sailortowns. Both contemporaries and historians have long portrayed these waterfront districts as catering areas for seafarers looking for temporary shelter and entertainment. From a gender perspective, the literature has therefore generally examined (transient) women in the context of lodging houses and brothels. However, this focus explains why we know little about the identities, experiences and life trajectories of women who belonged to local sailortown communities. Based on a close examination of population registers and census records, this paper aims to explore age structures, geographical and social backgrounds, marital status, and occupations of women who officially resided in the sailortowns of Antwerp and Boston at the end of the nineteenth century. Moreover, apart from investigating group characteristics, the paper will also substantiate findings with individual life courses of women in order to better understand their experiences, decisions and actions. In sum, by studying the women of sailortown both individually and collectively this research aims to paint a more comprehensive and layered picture of female roles at the Atlantic waterfront during the second half of the nineteenth century.

Maura E. Hametz (James Madison University – USA)

Women Working Overseas: Alma Morpurgo's Maritime Migrations

Through the lens of the experiences of Alma Morpurgo, a polyglot who worked as a secretary and translator for the international insurance conglomerate *Assicurazioni Generali* in Trieste and *Nestlé* in Valparaiso and Santiago, Chile, the paper proposes to explore women engaged in corporate commercial relations in maritime societies. The research uncovers women's contributions in roles that required high level administrative skills, education, and literacy in multiple languages, but whose jobs were largely invisible in the corporate hierarchy. Women occupying gendered 'secretarial' positions 'below the corporate radar' performed vital tasks that complemented work done on quays, piers, and in port and maritime industrial facilities that have generally been the subject of studies of women in port culture. In addition, international contacts and practical skills including multi-lingualism afforded women opportunities for migration and helped them to reframe their lives as emigrants in waterfront communities around the world. Dismissed from the *Generali* in 1938 with the passage of the racial laws in Italy, Morpurgo sought work in the port communities in Fiume/Rijeka and Rome and attempted clandestine immigration to British Palestine before migrating to Valparaiso, Chile. The paper engages the literature of Jewish maritime migration and the 'victim diaspora' of the late 1930s and 1940s, and also, through Morpurgo's experience in Trieste as a Central European port, it highlights women's part in supporting and promoting social welfare and assistance for refugees in port cities where agencies like HIAS and the Jewish Joint Distribution Committee were headquartered. Finally, the paper examines the family and family units affected by the fluency of port and waterfront culture, and the lives of like Morpurgo who continually refashioned their lives and challenged gender norms and expectations as they moved, voluntarily or by necessity, to take advantage of economic opportunities in the maritime commercial world.

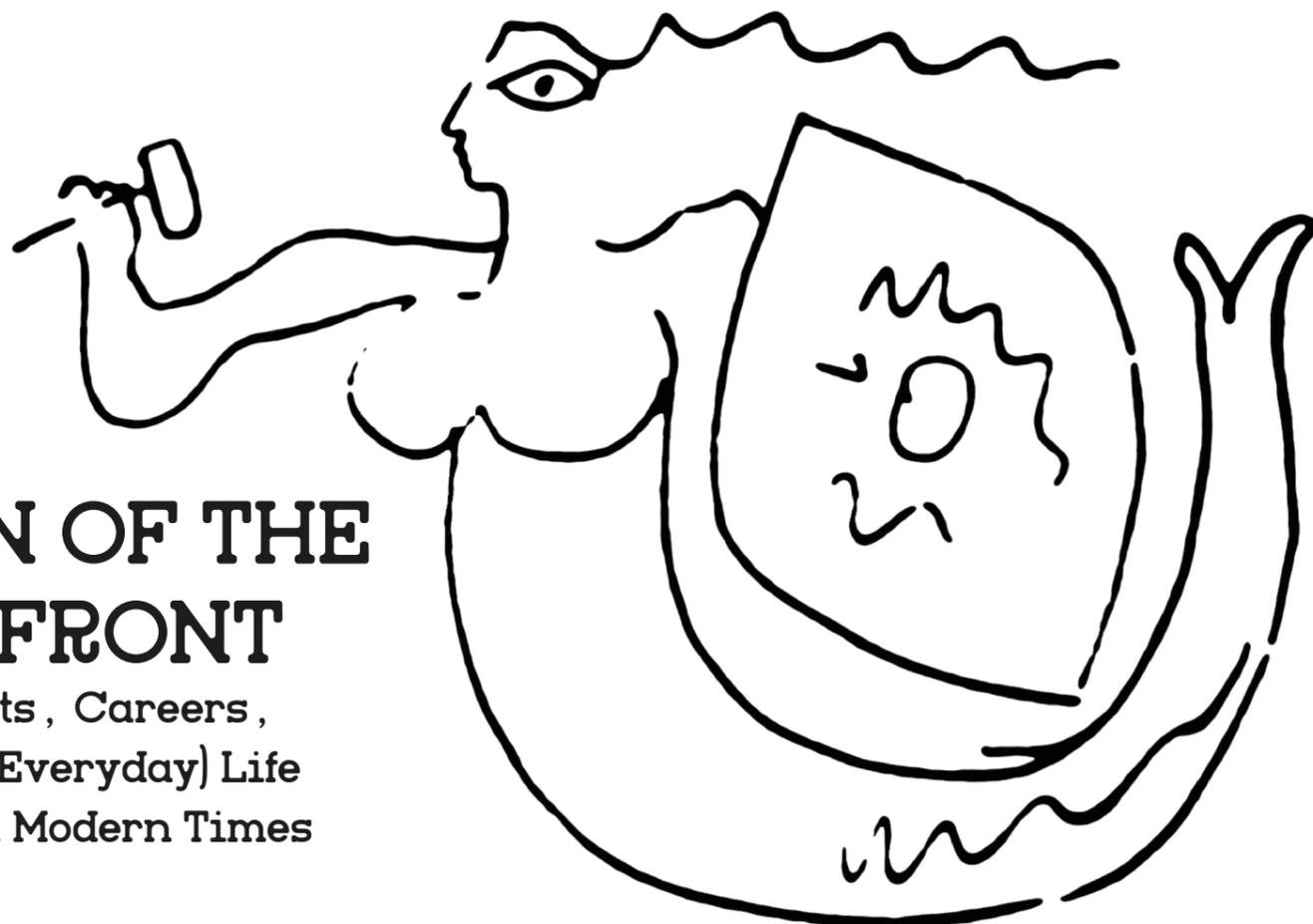
Erica Mezzoli (NextGenerationEu Project 'Ondine'-Tor Vergata University of Rome – Italy)

[We]Men in Love and [Wo]Men in Port. 'Aleksandrovanje' Couples Dealing with Multiple Dislocations

Nobody more than the 'women of the waterfront' live in a 'men's world'. Their emotional realm, normative framework, and working environment are shaped by men and, more generally, by the standardizing paradigms that patriarchy has managed to impose. However, being able to undermine the 'male breadwinner' notion, the 'women of the waterfront' were/are often able to question the traditional 'gender role' (i.e., the 'women in love and men at sea/work' paradigm) and class systems. In this framework, as Tadeo Pignol (2001) observed, the issue is not simply reduced to the mere acquirement of the dominant position within the couple's dynamics, but it regards also the appropriation of the symbols of modernity. The well-known case of *Aleksandrinke* – i.e., the maids, nannies, and governesses who migrated especially from the rural surroundings of Gorizia-Gorica to

Alexandria of Egypt in the decades straddling the 20th century – is exemplary. However, their fiancés and/or husbands – men whose circumstances made ‘househusbands’ before scholarly knowledge coined the term – lived in the same ‘men’s’ (i.e., patriarchal) world as well. In this regard, we have to keep in mind that those ‘husbands of’ had constantly to negotiate the dominant gender ideologies (i.e., the hegemonic notions of femininity and masculinity) of their milieu, the ‘reversed’ domestic economic power relations and also, more or less implicitly, struggle with their self-representation as men. Through the analysis of two male (a fiancé and a husband) love narratives recently published (2022), the communication aims to highlight the often ‘unhappy’ trans-‘gender roles’, transclass, and transnational negotiations that *Aleksandrinke*’s male partners had to make in order to ‘cope with’ their situation.

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SPEAKERS' BIO PROFILES

Daniel Albero Santacreu is member of the Department of Historical Sciences and Arts Theory (University of the Balearic Islands, Spain) and lecturer in “Maritime Heritage: Ethnography and Archaeology” since 2014 (Master in Cultural Heritage: Research and Management). He is member of the research team of the ERC project “Ocean Crime Narratives: A polyhedral assessment of hegemonic discourse on environmental crime and harm at sea (1982-present)” and the project “The fishing communities of Menorca in contemporary times: a gender study from oral memory and photographic heritage” (Institut Menorquí d'Estudis - Consell Insular de Menorca). He has recently contributed to a special issue on Multiple Dimensions of Sustainability in Rural Europe published in the journal *Sociologia Ruralis* with the paper “Unsustainable Practices Among Contemporary Maritime Fishing Communities of Mallorca (Balearic Islands, Spain): A Socio-Ecological and Historical Approach”. Some of the research lines developed by Dr. Albero are: island studies, maritime anthropology, maritime connectivity in past and present societies, future seascapes, heritage management and studies on material culture.

Paola Avallone holds a PhD in Economic History and is Director of Research of the National Research Council of Italy (CNR) at the Institute of History of Mediterranean Europe (ISEM). She served as Director ad interim from 2013 to 2015 and from 2019 to 2020 at the Institute of Studies on the Mediterranean (ISMED). She carries out teaching activities in Economic History of the Department of Economic Sciences and Statistics and the Higher Education Course in Ethical Finance of the Federico II University.

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Valerie Burton has pursued a career as researcher, teacher and public historian on two sides of the North Atlantic, latterly and for the longest time at Memorial University of Newfoundland, Canada. There she was a Professor of Maritime History and Chair of the Maritime Studies Research Unit. The massive collection of nineteenth-century British imperial merchant seafarers’ papers held on the University’s campus is her major research resource inspiring, in 2011, an initiative in outreach pedagogy which can be viewed at ‘More than a List of Crew’ <https://mha.mun.ca/mha/mlc/>. ‘Spanning Sea and Shore’ is the method and approach that has organized her work over the past four decades, gender providing its most important element. Valerie commends to the conference’s attention the historiographical article published in the *International Journal of Maritime History* <https://doi.org/10.1177/0843871419832300>, particularly when read as context for the new maritime scholarship as represented in the articles contributed to this special forum by her students.

Ariana Domínguez García holds a BA degree in Humanities by the Pompeu Fabra University (Barcelona, 2016) and MA degree in Cultural Heritage: Research and Management by the University of the Balearic Islands (2020). She is member of the research project ERC *Ocean Crime Narratives: A polyhedral assessment of hegemonic discourse on environmental crime and harm at sea (1982-present)*. She is currently conducting her PhD in the History, Art History and Geography doctoral program of the University of the Balearic Islands. Her PhD thesis fully addresses women's significance and agency among local fishing communities and the way gender roles are approached by silent maritime heritage. These topics have been developed internationally with a research stay at the Scottish Fisheries Museum (United Kingdom), where she actively participated in the FishNet Digitization Project (2022). In addition, she has been PI of two research projects focused on the role of women in the contemporary fishing communities in the Balearic Island (Spain). Also, she has participated in several national and international congresses on fishing communities, and she is currently working on several publications centred on the anthropology of fishing communities and gender relationships. She has also worked as a researcher for the Maritime Museum of Mallorca (2021) and has recently been awarded for her study of the fishmongers of Palma de Mallorca. Ariana's main research interests are: Gender Studies, Maritime Anthropology, Oral History, Visual Anthropology and Maritime Heritage Management.

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Maura Hametz is a Professor of History at James Madison University in Virginia, USA, specializing in the history of Italy and the northern Adriatic provinces empire since the late nineteenth century. Her research explores the intersections of politics, culture, gender, law, and religion, focusing on the port community of Trieste. She is the author of *In the Name of Italy* (Fordham U. Press, 2012) and *Making Trieste Italian, 1918 -1954* (Boydell and Brewer [Royal Historical Association new series], 2005) and co-editor of *Jewish Intellectual Women in Central Europe, 1860-2000* (Mellen, 2012), and *Sissi's World: The Empress Elisabeth in Myth and Memory* (Bloomsbury Press, 2018). In addition to work on women, gender, monuments and social welfare in Trieste, she is currently working on projects that explore the contours of citizenship in the northern Adriatic post-Habsburg states, violence, intimidation, and justice in Fascist Italy articulated in the context of the Special Tribunal for the Defense of the State, and the history and memory of the Risiera di San Sabba.

John Odin Jensen has studied North American maritime frontier shipwrecks from the Grand Banks of Newfoundland to the edges of the Bering Sea. Born into a Norwegian -American seafaring family in Alaska, he began his maritime career working alongside his father and brother in the commercial fisheries in the 1970s, a time and place where shipwreck and death at sea were an accepted part of life. As a former crab boat captain and shipwreck survivor, Jensen brings deep professional experience and personal sympathy to the study of the North American mariners, ships and shipwrecks. In addition to his early sea-going education, Jensen earned a B.A. history from Lawrence University, a M.A. in maritime history and underwater archaeology from East Carolina University, and M.S. and Ph.D. degree in history from Carnegie Mellon University. He currently resides in Pensacola, Florida and is associate professor of history at University of West Florida. This paper is an outgrowth of the research for his book *Stories from the Wreckage: A Great Lakes Maritime History Inspired by Shipwrecks* published by the Wisconsin Historical Society in 2019.

Alexei Kraikovski moved to Italy in 2020 to foster a global career after spending years in the Russian academia studying various aspects of Eurasian maritime history. His scholarly expertise includes work in the big international research programs covering many areas and aspects of Oceans Past. He published intensively on the history of marine harvesting in the Arctic and Baltic seas, history and heritage of urban maritime life in St. Petersburg. Eventually he summarized his research work in the manuscript *Another Amsterdam: St. Petersburg and the Romanovs Maritime Project*, which is now under review for Cambridge Oceanic Histories. Now he is working on a new book developing the concept of Romanov's Baltic, inspired by the ideas of Habsburg Mediterranean.

Kristof Loockx is a postdoctoral researcher in the Centre for Urban History at the University of Antwerp. His scholarly work focuses on the intersections of social, maritime, and urban histories in the 19th and 20th centuries. He currently examines the impact of urban and maritime transformations processes on the sailortowns of Antwerp in Belgium and Boston, Massachusetts, in the United States between 1850 and 1930. He has recently published on stewardesses and the creation of a formal female labour market in Antwerp during the second half of the nineteenth century in the *Yearbook of Women's History*.

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Sagarika Naik is currently an independent researcher. Previously, she was a senior research fellow at University College London (UCL) and a research associate at Princeton University. Her research interests include gender, refugees, migration and labour crisis in South and South-East Asia. Currently, she is developing a project entitled *Pan-Asianism, Violence and Global South*. She has presented and participated in many international conferences in New York, Oxford and Cambridge. She published for Sage and Lexington; two of her most recent articles are under review for the *Journal of International Migration and Integration*.

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Veronica Saba has worked in the Trieste anti-trafficking project since 2021 as a contact person for the social and labor inclusion area. She is co-editor, with Roberta Altin, of the volume *Stella Polare. 20 anni di rotta e di rete anti-tratta* (Trieste: EUT, 2023). She gained her PhD in anthropology with a thesis on violence against migrant women in the cross-border area. A specialist social worker, she is an activist on issues of feminism, combating gender-based violence, human rights and anti-racism.

Raffaella Salvemini is Director of Research of the National Research Council of Italy (CNR) at the Institute of History of Mediterranean Europe (ISEM). He deals with the economic history of Southern Italy with reference to assistance, education, ports and maritime healthcare. She is a member of various scientific societies. Responsible for national and international projects and conferences. She is responsible of Maritime History Meetings now in their eleventh edition. She is part of scientific group of Naples Shipping Week. Vice president of the Friends of the Sea Museum of Naples association; scientific consultant for the Civic Museum of Procida “Sebastiano Tusa”; scientific advisor for Procida Italian Capital of Culture 2022. Among the recent publications on the sea theme: R. Salvemini, C. Fogu (a cura), *Procida, orizzonte mare: storia marinara di un'isola*, Roma, Nutrimenti, 2022; R. Salvemini, *Epidemie e sanità marittima nel Mezzogiorno pre-unitario (XVIII-XIX secolo)*, in “Glocale. Rivista molisana di storia e scienze sociali”, n. 16-17, 2021; R. Salvemini, *Napoli e il controllo della frontiera marittima al tempo del colera*, in “Pandemia e Territorio, Studi e Ricerche socio-territoriali”, Napoli, 11, 2021; P. Avallone, R. Salvemini, *Gente di mare. Capitale umano e finanziario a Procida nell'Ottocento*, in S. Capasso, G. Corona, W. Palmieri (a cura di), *Il Mediterraneo come risorsa. Prospettive dall'Italia*, Il Mulino, Bologna, 2021.

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