

**The Sea and Me** – 22 November 2014 (as part of AHRC/British Academy Being Human Festival)

- 150 people attended the event running at both Avenue Campus and Sea City museum [http://www.southampton.ac.uk/humanities/news/events/2014/11/22\\_the\\_sea\\_and\\_me.page](http://www.southampton.ac.uk/humanities/news/events/2014/11/22_the_sea_and_me.page)
- Many local people, and a mixed family audience and regular Lifelong learning study day audience (which is typically lay people, Shipwrecks MOOC “attendees” and others interested in the field). Some visitors travelled from Essex, Gloucs and Cork!
- Humanities-focused event, with many contributions from the faculty, but others from the wider university and from outside the university:
  - Humanities staff: Chris Janaway, Fraser Sturt, Philip Hoare, Alicia Pozo-Gutierrez, Claire Jowitt, Jesse Ransley, Julian Whitewright, John McAleer
  - Other University and External contributors: Tim Leighton (ISVR), Padmini Broomfield, Clara Sanabras and Harvey Brough, members of the Southampton voices choir, Maritime Archaeology Trust, Nuffield Theatre, Xueyi Zhu (Confucius Institute), Nicola Milsom (Lifelong Learning), Charlotte Medland (Mission Employable) and October Books.
- A local radio piece was also done to promote the event on Radio Solent, during the Drive time show on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November at 17.20 for approximately 4 minutes.
- We featured on the Being Human Festival website and on the daily blog site that was maintained throughout the festival - <http://beinghumanfestival.org/human-daily-8/>
- ILIAD produced a video for the event <https://coursecast.soton.ac.uk/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=3cb6c8e3-146b-499c-9210-4a5930be54d9>
- The day was led at Avenue campus by Zena Hilton, with Ali Dickens from LLAS/ML at Sea City, Kate Borthwick LLAS/ML helping on the day (especially with Clara and Harvey), Marie Weaver LLAS/ML in the lead up to the day, and Dani Newman, a PhD student in Archaeology helping on the day too, and also with social media input.
- Feedback was great to receive, especially since it was the first year. The combination of talks and exhibition went down well and a lovely atmosphere was gained, especially during the couple of hours when the family-friendly activities were taking place. People said the talks were accessible and varied, but also had feedback that perhaps there were too many talks for one day. Feedback data is available.

**Participant Feedback** (indicative selection):

**Did the talks and/or exhibition change your understanding and attitude towards the topic for the day?**

The talks were very varied, which introduced me to new areas of understanding the sea. Some talks confirmed things I already knew but others were completely new. Because they were delivered in a very accessible way, they were useful and easy to engage with.

Yes. the sessions by the lecturers on the "shipwrecks and Submerged Landscapes" course reinforced my learning from the course and gave me a chance to thank them in person for the excellent course. Philip Hoare's session and the session on the oral history of the Spanish evacuees introduced me to new topics (whales and the evacuees) with which I was unfamiliar and have made me think about expanding my intellectual horizons as I embark on retirement.

Yes. A metaphor of the sea may be understood differently by those who have seen the sea and those who have no experience of the sea.

we did not attend any of the talks as we arrived after lunch. But we thought the children activities and the exhibitions were good.

Not really, but I did learn some interesting new things.

Absolutely. I have very little background in philosophy, and the first talk on philosophers and the sea was really accessible understanding-wise.

It didn't change it; it allowed me to engage a bit more face to face as a follow up to the recent Shipwrecks and Submerged Landscapes MOOC.

Definitely - especially on the subject of whales!

Yes, Philip Hoare's talk on Cetaceans behaviour was particularly good

**Are you likely to use any of the ideas that you heard about on the day?**

I think I've found a new favourite author in Philip Hoare and discovered a renewed interest in social studies.

I am more likely to use bubble cleaning if it becomes available.

Philip and Chris' talk will definitely have an influence on my writing going forward.

One thing I picked was the number of WW1 wrecks in the Solent and this is something I will probably explore more.

Yes, the Basque children in exile project has inspired further research.

I will be volunteering for maritime trust

Yes, Tim Leightons talk on the cleaning potential of 'buubles' interested me as an industrial chemical engineer