

The Sea and Me. A Humanities-based festival

**Saturday 22 November 2014
10am–6pm**

**University of Southampton
Avenue Campus**

<http://beinghumanfestival.org/event/sea>

The Sea and Me is in partnership with SeaCity
Museum and Southampton City Council



University of Southampton

Humanities Festival: The Sea and Me

Saturday 22 November 2014 | 9.30am–5pm

A one-day festival about the Sea bringing together researchers, local cultural institutions and the public for talks, workshops, hands-on activities and more.

Main Programme

09.45	Exhibition opens	
10.00-10.45	Philosophers and the Sea Professor Chris Janaway	Living with Environmental Change Dr Fraser Sturt
11.00-11.45	Our relationship with the Sea Philip Hoare	
12.00-12.45	Los Niños: Child exiles of the Spanish Civil War Padmini Broomfield and Alicia Pozo-Gutierrez	Bubbles, sound and the sea Professor Tim Leighton
13.00-13.45	Café open and exhibition	
14.00-14.45	Shakespeare's Pirates Professor Claire Jowitt	Building backwater boats: mud, sewing and other stories Dr Jesse Ransley
15.00-15.45	Open Voices and OpenLIVES: Clara Sanabras and Harvey Brough A short performance and singing workshop	
16.00-16.45	Shipwrecks of the Solent Dr Julian Whitewright	Britain and the Sea in the Age of Sail Dr John McAleer
17.00	Exhibition closes	

Children's activities

12.00-15.00	Maritime Archaeology Trust hands-on activities
	Nuffield Theatre story-telling activity
	Confucius Institute - paper folding and calligraphy
	Being a female Oceanographer film (DIMES project)

Philosophers and the Sea (10.00-10.45)

10.00-10.45

Professor Chris Janaway, Philosophy

A talk introducing some ways in which philosophers have used the sea to illustrate some of their most challenging ideas. The sea can be a metaphor for a vastness in which the solitary individual is located, or for wide-open possibilities of change. But it can also be an example that introduces concepts such as relativity (Is the sea's water healthy or harmful?) or unconscious perception (In the sea's roar are we hearing the sound of every single wave without knowing it?) The talk begins with the ancient philosopher Heraclitus, and ends with Nietzsche.

Living with Environmental Change (10.00-10.45)

Dr Fraser Sturt, Archaeology

A talk on submerged prehistory and what this dynamic archaeological research area can tell us about the impact of both gradual and sudden environmental change on past societies.

Our relationship with the Sea (11.00-11.45)

Philip Hoare

The sea surrounds us. It gives us life, provides us with the air we breathe and the food we eat. It is where we came from, and what we are made of; it represents home and migration, ceaseless change and constant presence. It covers two-thirds of our planet, yet caught up in our everyday lives, we seem to ignore it, and what it might mean.

In his keynote speech, *The Sea and Me*, and drawing on his two most recent books, *Leviathan or, The Whale* and *The Sea Inside*, Philip Hoare sets out to rediscover a personal relationship with the sea, its islands, birds and beasts – and the way we see them. From Southampton Water and the south coast where he grew up, with the sense of escape – and seclusion - offered by the sea – yet paradoxically afraid of it - he travels to the other side of the world in search of the uncertain meeting of human and natural history – incarnate, for him, in the weighty, freighted shape of the whale.

Philip Hoare's books include *Wilde's Last Stand*, *England's Lost Eden*, and *Spike Island: The Memory of a Military Hospital*. *Leviathan or, The Whale* won the Samuel Johnson Prize for 2009. *The Sea Inside*, his latest book, was published in 2013 and acclaimed as 'A profound and lyrical love affair', by the *Observer*, 'A collage of memoir, cultural history and travelogue... glorious stuff', by the *Guardian*, and as 'A magnificent book' by the *Financial Times*. He is professor of creative writing at the University of Southampton, and co-curator of the *Moby-Dick Big Read*: www.mobydickbigread.com. www.philiphoare.co.uk Twitter: @philipwhale

Los Niños: Child exiles of the Spanish Civil War (12.00-12.45)

Padmini Broomfield and Alicia Pozo-Gutierrez, Modern Languages

In 1937 the city of Southampton offered a safe haven for thousands of children from the Basque region of Spain who were evacuated after the bombing of Guernika during the Spanish Civil War. Around 250 children stayed on and made Britain their home. Thanks to a University project, the stories of the last surviving refugees have been preserved and shared with a new generation of children. <http://60.southampton.ac.uk/preserving-the-stories-of-basque-refugees/42> The project, which was supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund, was perhaps the last opportunity to record the memories of those involved in this unique event - the first mass evacuation of child refugees to Britain following the first ever mass bombings of a civilian population. Referred to as Los Niños (the little ones), the children were sent to England to escape attacks by fascist forces in the Basque region. They thought it would be only for three months. Dr Alicia Pozo-Gutierrez and oral historian Padmini Broomfield interviewed the survivors and recorded their life histories. These testimonies became part of the archive for *Los Niños* and is part of the University's special collections that can be accessed by students and researchers. Professor Chris Woolgar, Head of Special Collections at the University at the time, acknowledged the importance of this project in engaging today's children in understanding how conflict and migration have an impact on everyday life.

Bubbles, sound and the sea (12.00-12.45)

Professor Tim Leighton, Institute of Sound and Vibration Research

When waves break in the sea, the air bubbles they trap ring like a chorus of billions of tiny bubbles. We can use that sound to tell us how the planet is responding to climate change. But when dolphins project sound beams underwater to attempt to 'see' through echolocation, these clouds of bubbles scatter that sound, akin to fog droplets scattering the headlamp beams of a car. We explore how dolphins cope with, and even exploit, this scatter, as the 'hunt' in this bubble 'fog'. These, and other aspects of the acoustical effects bubbles in the sea, will be explored in this lecture.

Shakespeare's Pirates (14.00-14.45)

Professor Claire Jowitt, English

A talk on the ways Shakespeare's plays demonstrate a developing interest in the ways unorthodox and unruly, but charismatic and compelling, pirate figures might be used to debate key Renaissance cultural and political issues including overseas expansion, changing models of masculinity, and leadership styles and policies.

Building backwater boats: mud, sewing and other stories (14.00-14.45)

Dr Jesse Ransley, Archaeology

A talk on ethnographies of boat building and seafaring in the Keralan backwaters of south-west India.

Open Voices and OpenLIVES (15.00-15.45)

Clara Sanabras, Harvey Brough and University of Southampton Voices

Clara Sanabras, the internationally renowned singer/songwriter, will perform some of her own songs inspired by material from a project called OpenLIVES, which was a piece of Modern Languages research on the experiences of child exiles who came to Southampton during the Spanish Civil War. Following the performance, there will be a singing workshop led by Turner Sims Professor of Music, Harvey Brough, together with some members of the University of Southampton Voices, the university's community choir.

To find out more about Clara, Harvey and the Southampton Voices, please visit <http://clarasanabras.co.uk/>, <http://www.harveybrough.com/>, and http://www.southampton.ac.uk/lifelonglearning/music/community_choir.page

Shipwrecks of the Solent (16.00-16.45)

Dr Julian Whitewright, Archaeology

The waters and shorelines of the Solent contain an extremely diverse set of maritime archaeological remains. This talk focuses on the archaeological remains of three shipwrecks within the region that perfectly illustrate the key role of the sea in the 19th century as central to maritime activity at a number of levels. The 'Fenna' (1862-1881) shows us the potential for preservation in stunning detail of cargoes, when the hull remains are long since lost. In contrast the 'Flower of Ugie' (1838-1852) retains none of its original cargo, but provides an archaeological gateway into the understanding of many key mid-19th century developments seen through the lens of a single ship – from the Anglo Chinese wars of the 1840s to the development of industrial shipbuilding materials. Finally, the 'Ocean' (1821-1865) focuses our attention on the local, small-scale connectivity that underpins much larger maritime endeavours. In doing so we discover a story of shipwreck, the saving of life at sea and unexpected rediscovery.

Britain and the Sea in the Age of Sail (16.00-16.45)

Dr John McAleer, History

Britain's history has been shaped by its relationship with the sea. The possibilities and profits offered by maritime trade were particularly important in defining the country's development as a global power in the Age of Sail. This richly illustrated talk will explore how overseas trade laid the foundations of Britain's global empire.

The Exhibition

From 9.30 until 5pm

Los Niños: Child exiles of the Spanish Civil War
Meet the Experts – The Shipwrecks and submerged worlds MOOC
CSI: Shipwrecks activity
Being a Female Oceanographer (DIMES project)
Maritime Archaeology Trust hands-on activities
Confucius Institute activities
Mission Employable
Sea floor posters
Photography competition launch

Refreshments

Avenue Café

The campus café will be open serving hot and cold drinks and a selection of sandwiches and snacks.