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INTERNATIONAL MARITIME HISTORY ASSOCIATION

Newsletter December 2020



HMS Endeavour photographed from *Queen Mary 2*

Welcome to the third and final newsletter for 2020.

This has been a year that we won't forget. Covid-19 has swept the world transforming all our lives, possibly for ever. We've been forced to become familiar with new terms such as 'social distancing' and 'lock-downs'. Conferences including our own ICMH8 have been cancelled or forced online. Fortunately, there are strong candidates for a vaccine which offers hope for a return to normality or at least a 'new normal' in 2021.

I thank the members of the Executive and the IJMH editorial team, led by David Starkey, for their valuable contributions during the year. My thanks also go to Dr Ian Chambers for his voluntary help with producing this newsletter.

Just a reminder that membership fees will be due in January 2021 and you can renew via our website <https://imha.info/>.

I wish you all a merry Christmas and a happy and safe 2021.

From the President
Professor Malcolm Tull

4-OCEANS – 10.5 million euro awarded to maritime history and archaeology

A team of maritime historians and archaeologists have been awarded €10.5 million by the European Research Council (ERC) to assess the importance of marine life to human societies during the last two millennia, with a focus on understanding the consequences of marine resource exploitation for societal development. The 4-OCEANS team is comprised of principal investigators,

Poul Holm, Professor of Environmental History, and Francis Ludlow, Assistant Professor of Medieval Environmental History, from Trinity College Dublin, Ireland; James H Barrett, Reader in Medieval Archaeology and Deputy Director of the McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research at the University of Cambridge, UK; and Cristina Brito, Assistant Professor, Faculty of Social and Human Sciences and the Deputy Director of CHAM – Centre for the Humanities, at NOVA University Lisbon, Portugal.

From the vast remains of shell mounds in Brazil to records of big hunts that decimated whale populations for the sake of lighting the streets of Europe, there is ample evidence that human societies depended on the oceans. However, while the role of minerals like gold and silver in driving global trade and population movements is well studied and documented, the exact role that the harvest of marine resources played in shaping global history remains poorly understood. The 4-OCEANS project aims to assess the importance of marine life for human societies during the last two millennia, from 100 BCE to 1860 CE. In doing so, the project will traverse key moments in global environmental, demographic and societal development, from the empires of the early Christian era to the industrialisation brought about by the steam engine.

The investigators will examine when and where marine exploitation was of significance to human society; how selected major socio-economic, cultural, and environmental forces constrained or enabled marine exploitation; and identify the consequences of marine resource exploitation for societal development. Answering these questions will significantly enhance ocean literacy – an understanding of the roles played by ocean resources in human societies, and unlock avenues for future research and policy. One of the outputs will be the creation of the first online World Atlas of Historical Marine Exploitation.

The project, 4-OCEANS, has been funded via an ERC Synergy Grant. These highly prestigious grants support transformative work that addresses major research challenges that can only be tackled by collaborative approaches spanning multiple disciplines. The project will bring together leaders with expertise in marine environmental history, climate history, natural history, geography, historical ecology and zooarchaeology, nurturing a unique collaboration and integration of researchers from the humanities, natural sciences and social sciences.

The project will kick off in July 2021 and last six years.



Poul Holm
Trinity College Dublin
Ireland



James H. Barrett
University of Cambridge
UK



Cristina Brito
NOVA University Lisbon
Portugal



Francis Ludlow
Trinity College Dublin,
Ireland

Queensland Maritime Museum to close

Ms Di Muzio, CEO of the Queensland Maritime Museum (QMM), has announce that to avoid becoming insolvent, it will close on 31 December 2020.

The Covid-19 lockdown reduced the Museum's income from visitor entrance fees to zero for seven months and after reopening in mid-September visitor numbers reached only about 30% of their previous level. The pandemic severely affected the volunteer base, as about 40 of the 150 volunteers are COVID-19 "vulnerable" citizens, who not could be on-site. Facing insolvency, the museum closed in November and will permanently close at the end of 2020.

QMM has a large collection of artefacts that have been developed since its inception in 1971. These include the Royal Australian Navy's decommissioned World War II frigate *HMAS Diamantina* and Jessica Watson's *Ella's Pink Lady*, in which she did a solo world navigation from 2009 to 2010. At 16 years old she was then the youngest person to circumnavigate the globe unassisted.

The closure is especially sad as in 2021 the WMM would have celebrated its 50th anniversary. For more information see <https://maritimemuseum.com.au/>.



The HMAS *Diamantina* exhibit at the Queensland Maritime Museum.



Ella's Pink Lady - Jessica Watson's boat from her solo round the world journey.



Perth's new \$400m WA museum Boola Bardip opened to the public on Saturday 21st November 2020

The new Aboriginal name, Boola Bardip, means 'many stories' in Noongar language and recognises the significant role of Aboriginal people in WA's cultural heritage.

The new building, designed by international architectural consortium Hassell + OMA, incorporates five distinct heritage structures, with the oldest the Perth Gaol, dating back to 1855. It is three times the size of the old museum and includes eight permanent galleries, a 1,000 square metre temporary exhibition gallery, a shop and a cafe.

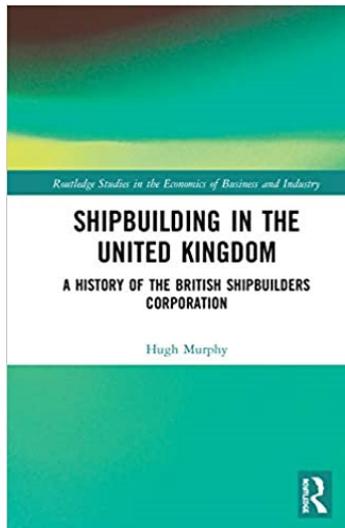
A centrepiece of the new museum is a skeleton of a giant blue whale that washed up on the Western Australian coastline in 1897 and has been in storage for the last 17 years. The museum includes a special exhibition of the Indigenous Dreaming story of the Seven Sisters. The Songlines: Tracking the Seven Sisters exhibition features more than 300 paintings and objects, as well as songs, dances, photography and multimedia.

WA Museum CEO Alec Coles says that more than 50,000 people from across WA contributed to the development of Boola Bardip's exhibitions, programs and stories.

The Museum is free to visit for the next 18 months. For more information see <https://museum.wa.gov.au/>.

Source: ABC News <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-11-21/wa-museum-boola-bardip-opens-to-public-after-four-years/12907274>.

New Books



Shipbuilding in the United Kingdom provides a systematic historical account of the British Shipbuilders Corporation, first looking at this major industry under private enterprise, then under state control, and finally back in private hands.

The chapters trace the evolution of public policy regarding shipbuilding, ship repair, and large marine engine building through the tenures of radically different Labour and Conservative governments, and through the response of the board of the British Shipbuilders Corporation, trade unions, and local management also. The book benefits from comprehensive archival research and interviews from the 1990s with leading players in the industry, as well as politicians, shipbuilders, trade union leaders, and senior civil servants.

This authoritative monograph is a valuable resource for advanced students and researchers across the fields of business history, economic history, industrial history, labour history, maritime history, and British history.

E-book version available on 29 December. Hardback version in 2021.

Professor Hugh Murphy, MA, PhD, FSNR, Visiting Reader in Maritime History, National Maritime Museum, Greenwich. Professor of Business History, Department of Social and Political Sciences, University of Glasgow, Series Editor, Research in Maritime History, Liverpool University Press

Following my series of maritime programmes THIS ISLAND NATION - a new programme - MARITIME IRELAND - will be launched on November 30 and broadcast on Podcast services - Apple, Spotify, Mixcloud, Soundcloud - and Community Stations around Ireland. There will be a new website for the programme and this regular note to listeners about the fortnightly editions of the programme will be replaced with a MailChimp newsletter which will be circulated initially to our existing list and will provide for you to continue to receive the newsletter or to opt out. The new Email address for the programme will be:

maritimeirelandradioshow@gmail.com

More details in the first MailChimp Newsletter on Monday, November 30.

I hope you will be a listener on Podcast or via the radio stations.

Thank you for your support and interest in the maritime sphere.

Regards,

Tom MacSweeney.

New Books



African Seaports and Maritime Economics in Historical Perspective

Olukoju, Ayodeji, Castillo Hidalgo, Daniel (Eds.), 2020

Palgrave Studies on Maritime Economics, Palgrave

This book updates African maritime economic history to analyse the influence of seaports and seaborne trade, processes of urbanization and development, and the impact of globalization on port evolution within the different regions of Africa. It succeeds the seminal collection edited by Hoyle & Hilling which was conceived during a phase of sustained economic growth on the African continent, and builds on a similar trend where African economies have experienced processes of economic growth and the relative improvement of welfare conditions. It provides valuable insights on port evolution and the way the maritime sector has impacted the hinterland and the regional economic structures of the affected countries, including the several and varied agents involved in these activities.

African Seaports and Maritime Economics in Historical Perspective will be useful for economists, historians, and geographers interested in African and maritime issues, as well as policy makers interested in path-dependence and long-term analysis.

For more information, contents and contributors, visit the [publisher's website](#)

New Books



Sea Tamagotchi

In February 2020 Manchán Magan set out along the coast roads of Mayo, Donegal and Sligo seeking out sea words, maritime terms & coastal customs. In autumn 2020 he continued his search in Connemara & Inishmore.

A selection of the words he encountered are gathered on these pages.

“**Sea Tamagotchi: *Foclóir Farraise*** has been made possible by Galway2020 and the fishermen and folklorists who generously shared their wisdom. The following pages have recordings of over 200 words. Short films are being made of some, and a little book too.”

See [www. http://.manchan.com/](http://.manchan.com/)

New 'Åland Accord' – A Statement of Code of Ethics for Maritime Museums

The [Maritime Archaeology Committee](#) presented a new version of the Code of Ethics to the 19th ICMM Congress in 2019. The Code was duly approved at the ICMM General Assembly in Mariehamn, Åland Islands on 19 September 2019, and is therefore named the 'Åland Accord'.

The Åland Accord – Statement of Code of Ethics for Maritime Museums:

WE, THE MEMBERS of the INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF MARITIME MUSEUMS, in accordance with the collections policies of our individual institutions, resolve that we will abide by the following code of ethics regarding the archaeological recovery of maritime cultural heritage:

1. We will not knowingly encourage the illegal, unprofessional or unethical recovery of cultural material by:

A. Purchasing or accepting as gifts objects recovered in such a manner

B. Exhibiting objects recovered in such a manner

C. Collaborating with external partners engaged in the illegal, unprofessional or unethical recovery of cultural heritage.

2. We will exercise due diligence in assessing the ethical credentials of prospective collaborators or partners involved with the recovery, management, curation or exhibition of cultural material.

3. We will act as repositories for the curation and preservation of objects recovered in a legal, professional and ethical manner.

4. We will act as repositories for the archive of excavation data and other information generated by archaeological projects carried out in a professional and ethical manner.

5. We will only act to preserve material, including associated archival documentation, after recovery has occurred in an illegal, unprofessional or unethical manner, if the material is culturally significant and at serious risk of destruction, damage or irretrievable dispersal, or where we are required to do so by national or local law. Where this is required, we will act in consultation with and at the behest of duly constituted cultural authorities and insofar as it is possible, in accordance with the [ICOM Code of Ethics for Museums](#) and the [UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage](#) (2001, including its Annex).

6. We will appoint an [Archaeological Committee](#) of professionals active in both maritime archaeology and museums to review cases submitted to it by member museums and make recommendations to the [Executive Council](#).

7. We will, in all other respects, follow the principles established in the [ICOM Code of Ethics for Museums](#) and the [UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage](#) (2001, including its Annex)

For further information on the **Åland Accord**, please email the Honorary Secretary-General Sally Archer on sarcher@rmg.co.uk

International Conference on The Fishing Community of Guet Ndar in Saint Louis du Sénégal: between singularity and universality
March 15-17, 2021 at the CRDS in Saint-Louis du Sénégal (Senegal)

CALL FOR PAPERS

The Fishing Community of Guet Ndar in Saint Louis du Senegal: between singularity and universality

Framework and Rationale

At the beginning of February 2020, as the signing of the fishing agreements between Senegal and Mauritania was suspended and the fishing licenses, expected from this neighbouring nation, were not issued, the community of Guet Ndar exploded in anger in Saint-Louis, on the Island and the Langue de Barbarie. As a result, skirmishes occurred between demonstrators and law enforcement, and buildings were ransacked during the day and in the early evening of February 4, 2020. In addition, on Tuesday, April 7, 2020, clashes between fishermen from the village of Hann and fishermen from Grande Côte (Saint Louis and Fass Boye) broke out in the Yarakh district of the *commune* of Hann-Bel Air in Dakar. A pirogue and several nets belonging to the fishermen from Grande Côte were burned.

The entire community of the Bay of Hann stood up to condemn the recent events and violent clashes. This community advocates for dialogue and the preservation of “positive bridges between seafarers who all share the same difficulties, fears and will to live off the fruits of their labor, everywhere”. It is this state of mind that animates the people of Guet Ndar and that has allowed them to forge matrimonial ties in the area over several generations.

Similar unfortunate incidents opposing various fishing communities are frequent on the Great West Atlantic Coast. Very often the protagonists are the fishermen from Saint-Louis, who have always migrated according to the seasons and the movements of fish schools, and who compete against the natives.

The occurrence of such problems challenges researchers and decision-makers to analyze these costly conflicts, to dialogue with the fishing community of Guet Ndar, and to try to find solutions to this crisis.

The conference will seek to place the crisis in the economic and political history of the Saint-Louis region of Senegal, in the evolution of fishing in this country and in globalization, since fishing agreements are co-signed by several nations. However, the conference will mainly focus on the analysis of the roles played by the local actors, namely, the seafarers of Guet Ndar; it will also assess the changes and continuities in the evolution of the fishing resource and the labor market.

Preliminary lines of thought

Established on the Langue de Barbarie around the 10th century, according to tradition, that is to say before the long-lasting establishment of European trading posts on the island near the mouth of the Senegal River, the inhabitants of this strip of land wedged between the river and the Atlantic Ocean migrated from the northern regions of Ganar, from Walo in the lower river valley, from Toubé in the east, and from Gandiolais in the south.

Fishing emerged as a real economic activity and responded to a market that took shape around the Island of Saint Louis in the middle of the 19th century; it is at first a river fishing, which extended throughout the delta on perimeters allotted by families. It reached its climax with the

conflict between the *caxal tubab*¹ and the fishermen of the river’s mouth area, a conflict that was terminated by the Saint Louis magistrate’s court (1908).

The history of the Guet ndarian community can also be understood in relation to its environment. On this incongruous stretch of land, the community of Guet Ndar has built a local society that commands respect and consideration; the sea has forged the strong character that we recognize in it. Indeed, according to historian Abdoulaye Ly, it is undoubtedly also in the daily fight against the sea that Guet ndarians, removed from the industrial society and bathing in a tradition coming from Saint-Louis,

have acquired a personality full of tenacity².

It is clear, that the explanations that put forward the bellicose nature of the Guet Ndarians or their perpetual bad luck are insufficient to explain the past and present conflicts they are involved in.

In fact, the Mauritanian-Senegalese historian and writer Abderahmane Ngaidé *drew* up a portrait of the inhabitants of Guet Ndar that is in complete opposition with what is said to have been peddled behind the scene **in** the Administration to describe the Guet Ndarians³. A neighborhood distinct from the rest of the city of Saint-Louis du Sénégal, Guet Ndar proudly displays its “identity”. Life there resembles a social chaos with its high population density, its intertwined alleys, its colorful and multigenerational houses. This society is diverse and open to dialogue.

Guet Ndar is a safe haven, a refuge and a home where one finds security, food and solidarity in times of hardship, and where religion and work have shaped the community’s culture. Thanks to this culture, forged in the principles of Islam and a strong sense of patriotism, Guet Ndar stood up to the colonial onslaught.

Identity and profession are so intertwined that unemployment is not tolerated in the community; home, sea, mosque and mbâr⁴ punctuate the fisherman’s daily life; any other place is perceived as a place of debauchery, perdition and escape. Local culture is defined in opposition to European culture, but spaces of negotiation and bridges to modernity were opened with the participation of the first elected Guet Ndarian leaders in the Major Council of the city of Saint-Louis in the XIXth century and the establishment of public school in Guet Ndar in 1948. Regattas on the river and hand-to-hand wrestling are traditional games in this community. The values honored in collective social relations are hard work, solidarity, hospitality and dignity.

For Guet ndarians fishing is an exclusive line of work: they are workers of the sea only, hence their propensity to migrate all along the central-eastern Atlantic coast, from Mauritania to Guinea Conakry, up to Angola. Maritime fishing on pirogues has become a lot more diversified and a process of social and economic transformation is underway, leading to divisions within the community. This is evidenced by the different types of fishing and their professional organizations.

1 Caxal tubab (beach seine), an efficient tool for fish catches, introduced in the first phase of colonization, will clash with other fishing techniques. This conflict will be resolved by a Saint-Louisian court. This is the first known conflict in the history of fishing in Senegal.

2 Fall, B. et al, 2001, *Dialogue avec Abdoulaye LY, Historien et Homme politique Sénégalais*, Dakar, IFAN Ch. A. Diop, ENS & Sud FM, p.125

3 Ngaidé, A., 2010, *Le BIVOUC Suivi de FRESQUES D’EXIL*, Dakar, L’Harmattan, p.83

4 Le *mbâr* is a location for socialization, endowed with a shelter where palaver takes place at various times of the day, depending on the generations involved.

Sea fishing has benefited from the navigation technology of river trade and ventured along the coast in the Saint Louis - Rufisque - Gunjur - Ziguinchor-Conakry axis. After WW II, with the decline of the colonial economy, it turned into a migratory sea fishing that gradually moved towards the ocean. The sites of Kayar, Joal and Mbour took to fishing with the opening of motor roads that facilitated access to urban markets⁵ and the sale of fish products there. Those itineraries enabled the fishermen from Guet Ndar to disseminate their knowledge in Senegal and in the West African region.

In the 1950s, pirogues with sails were supplanted by motorized pirogues; maritime pirogue fishing took off and fulfilled the national demand for fish. The production tools began diversifying, as demand increased for specific products.

This evolution of sea fishing, which raised the status of the artisanal sector to such a point that it can now compete honorably with the industrial sector, bears unquestionably the mark of the fishermen of Guet Ndar. They have demonstrated their mastery of the purse seine nets (for maximal fish catches) and motorized their pirogues in order to gain more autonomy for themselves, and cross more easily the bar at the mouth of the Senegal river. They are pioneers in matters of fishing.

However, this fishing community is faced with the scarcity of the fishing resource, and the constraints imposed by the regulations of marine waters that match the contours of the neighboring countries' maritime borders: Mauritania, Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Guinea and Cape Verde. In addition, the effects of the 2003 opening of the breach at the mouth of the river, which include the erosion of habitats, the disruption of fishing activities and market gardening, brought a new reason for dissatisfaction to the fishermen, now more and more inclined to emigrate illegally to the Canary Islands or to other European countries.

In the current context, marked by the forthcoming exploitation of the Grande Tortue gas fields and the widening of the breach at the mouth of the Senegal River (2003), the survival of the Langue de Barbarie and the Guet Ndar district remains a major concern.

Conference Themes

On the basis of these lines of reflection, communications could address the following themes (Please note that the list below is non-exhaustive):

Historicity of the Guet Ndar neighborhood: singularity, sociology, major historical figures of the Guet Ndar neighborhood, land issues, perception of the Guet Ndarian fishermen by the other communities of Saint-Louis and by the fishing communities of the Atlantic Coast of West Africa

Understanding the historical behavior of the seafront (from Nouadhibou to the Gulf of Guinea) and the cause of the erosion (effects of global warming, rise in the level of the Atlantic Ocean, etc.)

A singular fishing community? Comparative approach with other fishing communities in Senegal, in Africa and in the world.

5 Sène, A.1985, *Les transformations sociales dans la pêche maritime piroguière. Conditions de travail et modes de vie des pêcheurs de Guet Ndar de Saint-Louis du Sénégal*. Thèse de 3e cycle en sociologie, Université Toulouse le Mirail, 706 p.

Maritime and river fishing activities and their future: evolution of the resource, challenges related to the granting of fishing licenses (Mauritania, Gambia, Guinea, etc.), fishing agreements (European Union, Russia, Japan, etc.);

The future of Guet Ndar: What are possible development scenarios for sustainable human development in the fishing community of Guet Ndar?

A golden future with the outcome of the exploitation of the Grande Tortue deposits, or the departure and/or ruin of the fishermen's activities? Disappearance of the mouth of the river with the widening of the breach, a catastrophic scenario that would consecrate the submersion of Ndar, the memory-island of local European presence?

Conference Format

The conference will be held under two formats: a series of papers presentations by speakers and a forum that will bring together the conference's participants and the opinion leaders of the Guet Ndar neighborhood, in order to compare analyses and ideas formulated during the sessions, and to learn about the perspectives of the members of the Guet Ndar community. Recommendations will be made and addressed to municipal and national authorities.

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION AND COMMUNICATION PROTOCOL

Please submit a single combined file in Word or PDF including an abstract of no more than 500 words, accompanied by a brief CV and send it no later than February 01, 2021 by email to conferences@iea-saintlouis.sn with the subject line : **“The fishing community of Guet Ndar in Saint Louis du Sénégal: between singularity and universality”**.

The abstract can be written in English or French.

Paper proposals will be reviewed by the conference's scientific committee, chaired by Professor Abdoulaye Sène, Institute of Environmental Sciences and outgoing Chairman of the Board of Directors of the National Authority for Quality Assurance in Higher Education of Senegal (ANAQ-Sup).

The working languages of the conference will be English and French. Selected papers will be published in the conference proceedings.

COORDINATION:

Under the direction of Professor Abdoulaye Sène, President of the Scientific Committee, a coordination committee will be set up for the follow-up and organization of the conference. Mr. Mohamed Fall will serve as the Assistant Secretary on behalf of the IEA of Saint-Louis of Senegal.

The scientific committee includes Professor Abdoulaye Sène, Cheikh Anta Diop University of Dakar, Professor Babacar Diop Buuba, Deputy General Coordinator of the Association for the Rewriting of the General History of Senegal, Professor Mame Moussé Diagne, Cheikh Anta Diop University of Dakar, Dr. Moussé Diagne and Dr. Moussé Diagne. Cheikh Oumar Ba, Initiative Prospective Agricole et Rurale - IPAR, Mr. Ahmet Bachir Diop, Initiative Prospective Agricole et Rurale - IPAR, Mrs. Rougyatou Ka, IPAR, Professor Baydalaye Kane,

Gaston Berger University of Saint-Louis, Alioune Sall, Executive Director of the Institute of African Futures, Pretoria, South Africa, Mr. Amadou Diaw, President of the Saint-Louis Forum of Senegal, Mr. Mouhamed Naby Kane, Dakar School of Architecture, Colonel Moumar Gueye, Association of Writers of Senegal, Mr. Arona Fall, consultant, Mr. Alpha Amadou SY, Senegalese Section of the African Community of Culture (CACSEN) Mr. Ababacar Gaye Fall, IEA Saint-Louis, Mr. Malamine Savané, Sahélienne Ingéniering Qualité-SIQ, Professor Papa Ndiaye, IFAN Cheikh Anta Diop, UCAD, Professor Cheikh Ly, National Academy of Science and Technology of Senegal, Professor Cheikh Bécaye Gaye, National Academy of Science and Technology of Senegal, Professor Jean-Pierre

Dozon, Fondation de la Maison des Sciences de l'Homme, Paris, France, Professor Isabelle Surun, University of Lille, France, Mrs. Fatima Fall, Director of the Centre de Recherche et de Documentation du Sénégal (CRDS), Professor Sylvie Kandé, Suny Old Westbury, New York, Professor Massal Fall, University of Sine Saloum Elhadji Ibrahima Niassé, Mrs. Maty Ndiaye Sy, (IEA Saint-Louis), Mr. Pape Touty Sow, IEA Saint-Louis, Mr. Aladji Dieng, Consultant, Mr. Yaya Dia, Consultant, Dr. Yaya Dia. Dr. Samba Ka, Consultant, Mrs. Khadidiatou Tall Thiam, IEA Saint-Louis, Mr. Babacar Ndiaye, Business Manager, Mr. Ababacar Sène, Traditionalist, Mr. Mbaye Sar, National Confederation of the Employers in Senegal, Dr Chérif Salif Sy, Association des Economistes Sénégalais, Prof. Babacar Fall, IEA Saint-Louis.

The Organizing Committee is made up of the following volunteers: Mrs. Fatima Fall, Professor Abdoulaye Sène, Mrs. Maty Ndiaye Sy, Mr. Mohamed Fall, Dr. Cheikh Oumar Ba, Mr. Ababacar Gaye Fall, Professor Babacar Buuba Diop, Mr. Babacar Ndiaye, Mr. Mouhamed Naby Kane, Professor Dah Dieng, Professor Massal Fall, Mr. Yaya Dia, Mr. Malamine Savané, Ababacar Sène, Mr. Arona Fall, Professor Babacar Fall.

Call for Papers & Panels

Risk and uncertainty in the premodern world

With the global economy grinding to a halt after the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, and climate change looming ever large, humanity is now facing an incredible cluster of hazards that threaten every aspect of life. Yet such distressing times are not unprecedented: throughout history, natural and anthropogenic risks have threatened human endeavours on a constant basis. The IHR Partnership Seminar series “Risk and Uncertainty in the Premodern World” will investigate how societies have coped with risk and uncertainty in the past. The premodern world offers us plenty of material to study these questions, providing valuable lessons for our time. Themes could include, but are not limited to:

- The economics of risk and uncertainty in the premodernworld
- Politics, risk and uncertainty in the premodernworld
- Risk and literature in the premodernworld
- Visual representation, risk and uncertainty in the premodernworld
- Cultural perceptions of risk and uncertainty in the premodernworld
- Climate change, risk and uncertainty in the premodernworld
- Pandemics, uncertainty and societal change in the premodernworld

We take a broad perspective on risk and uncertainty in the premodern world, including all geographical areas. As the (non-exhaustive) list implies, we explicitly seek cross-disciplinary perspectives. The themes cited allow for multiple disciplines to engage in conversation, including economists, historians, lawyers, political scientists, climate scientists, literary scholars and art historians. This broad conceptualisation also gives plenty of opportunity for museums and other cultural heritage institutions to engage with the series if they wish.

Seminars will take place online from April 2021 to June 2022. We welcome proposals for single papers or full panels (normally two/three papers) within the series. Although everyone is welcome to submit a proposal, we particularly welcome those from early career scholars (including PhD students) and those for panel discussions involving early career scholars. We strive to have a gender balance among the speakers and especially welcome applications from underrepresented groups.

Please send your proposal for a paper or panel (ca. 300 words) and a short biographical note to riskseminar2021@gmail.com by **15 January 2021**. Do not hesitate to contact the convenors via this e-mail address (Lewis Wade, Mallory Hope and Gijs Dreijer) to discuss matters pertaining to your proposal. Seminars will normally take place on Thursdays from 17:00 to 19:00 London time, but this can be changed to accommodate speakers if necessary.