

CENTRE OF MARITIME HISTORY

FIRST
INTERNATIONAL
SYMPOSIUM

PROGRAMME

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INTERNATIONAL
SYMPOSIUM

What is
Maritime History

IN MEMORIAM SKIP FISCHER

Drawing by Manolis Kulukundis. Private Collection Ioannis Theotokas



What is
Maritime History

IN MEMORIAM OF SKIP FISCHER



With the kind support of
"MARIA TSAKOS",
PUBLIC BENEFIT FOUNDATION
CENTRE FOR MARITIME
RESEARCH AND TRADITION



FORTH
INSTITUTE FOR MEDITERRANEAN STUDIES

RETHYMNO, 25-26 APRIL 2018

Institute for Mediterranean Studies

Foundation of Research and Technology - Hellas

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What is Maritime History?

The symposium is to inaugurate the new Centre of Maritime History of the Institute for Mediterranean Studies and it is meant to bring together some of the members of the group of Maritime Historians that have marked the path of Maritime History in the last forty years. Professor Lewis R. (Skip) Fischer (1946-2018) was one of the “patriarchs” of Maritime History and paved the way of its organization worldwide since the 1980s. He had looked very much forward to this meeting but unfortunately he passed away on 11 February 2018. We have thus decided to dedicate this First Symposium to him, hoping to continue his work from this part of the world.

The Centre of Maritime History of the Institute for Mediterranean Studies of the Foundation of Research and Technology - Hellas is based in Rethymnon, Crete, Greece. The aim of the Centre is to expand research on a broad range of topics of Maritime History, related to the areas of the Mediterranean, the Black Sea and beyond, having the global, interdisciplinary and comparative studies in the epicenter. The Centre provides the necessary resources for young and experienced scholars to carry out their research in a stimulating and encouraging environment. Among these resources are: a) Digital data bases and archives, b) a specialized library, and c) a very cohesive and experienced group of researchers working in Maritime History. Furthermore, the Centre devotes funding resources to attract talented PhD students who are willing to pursue research on maritime history. The Centre aims to organize workshops, conferences and lectures in order to provide academic meetings at a regular basis and opportunities for scholars to discuss research problems and questions and exchange ideas for further research development.



Lewis R. Fischer, known as “Skip” has been one of the driving forces behind the growth of maritime history for the past forty years. As a teacher, scholar and organizer Skip has been instrumental in the worldwide organization and rise of the importance of Maritime History as an independent academic discipline since the mid-1970s. Skip Fischer spent most of his career at Memorial University of Newfoundland, an institution he joined in 1976 as part of the Atlantic Canada Shipping Project (ACSP), a pioneering digital research project (with an extensive database on British crewlists) in maritime history. He has also taught extensively overseas, especially in Norway which became the focus of many of his writings. He retired at the end of 2015. Professor Fischer was the author or editor of more than 200 publications on maritime economic history, including insurance, chartering and freights, ports and seafaring labour.

He was one of the founders of the International Maritime Economic History Association and co-editor of its newsletter, which in 1989 became the *International Journal of Maritime History*, a journal he served as Editor-in-Chief for twenty-five years and which he considered his proudest accomplishment. He also founded and edited the Association’s on-going series “Research in Maritime History” and several other book series. Along with Peter Davies, he organized the first International Congress of Maritime History in 1992 and served on the organizing committees of several others. Between 1990 and 1995, he was secretary general of the International Commission for Maritime History. His contributions to the profession have been honoured by an honorary doctorate from the University of Liverpool (2005) and a festschrift: Gelina Harlaftis, Stig Tenold and Jesús M. Valdaliso (eds.), *The World’s Key Industry: History and Economics of International Shipping*, (London, 2012).

Above all, Skip Fischer was a generous person, a tireless, dedicated, passionate scholar, an inspiration for his organizational skills and his research. An engine of work, devotion and ceaseless enthusiasm for maritime history he gave spirit and time to all and especially to young scholars worldwide, embracing two generations.

Wednesday 25

April 2018

11:00 - 13:00

Gelina Harlaftis,

Director of the Institute for Mediterranean Studies,
Skip Fischer and the new Centre of Maritime History

Malcolm Tull,

President of the International Maritime History Association
The role of the International Maritime History Association

13:00 - 14:30 Lunch

14:30 - 16:30

Session I

Thematics of Maritime History

Lars Scholl, *Maritime History at Maritime Museums*

Sarah Palmer, *History of the Ports*

Amélia Polónia, *Inter -, multi - and trans - disciplinarity
in Maritime History: Potentialities and Limits*

16:30 - 17:00 Coffee Break

17:00 - 19:00

Session II

*Global History and Maritime History. How much have
we developed this? How comparative and transnational
have we developed maritime history?*

Gelina Harlaftis, *Maritime History or History of the Sea*

David J. Starkey, *Why Maritime History?*

David Williams, *Maritime History; Contexts and Perspectives*

20:00 Dinner

Thursday 26

April 2018

10:30 - 12:30

Session III

*Maritime History and other disciplines:
parallel or interconnected lives?
Interdisciplinarity in Maritime History*

Maria Fusaro,

With what other disciplines does Maritime history communicate?

Stig Tenold,

Constantly crossing borders – research on maritime business?

12:30 - 14:00 Lunch

14:00 - 16:00

Session IV

*The Future in Maritime History: Research projects
and continuity.*

Maria Fusaro, *Early modern Maritime History in ERC projects*

Apostolos Delis, *Modern Maritime History in ERC projects*

Katerina Galani and Alexandra Papadopoulou, *National
Research Projects in Maritime and Economic History*

16:00 - 16:30 Coffee Break

16:30 - 18:00

Global Maritime History. Round Table and Conclusions

18:00

*The Centre of Maritime History's Ph.D. scholarship
in Maritime History, sponsored by Aegeus Foundation*

20:00 Dinner

Symposium participants

Apostolos Delis is Researcher on Maritime History in the Institute for Mediterranean Studies of the Foundation of Research and Technology (IMS/FORTH) and Principal Investigator of an ERC Starting Grant (2017-2022) in Maritime History.

Maria Fusaro is Professor in Early Modern Social and Economy History of the University of Exeter, U.K, where she directs the Centre for Maritime Historical Studies. She is also Principal Investigator in an ERC Consolidator Grant (2017-2022) in Maritime History and Vice-Chair of the Editorial Board of the *International Journal of Maritime History*.

Katerina Galani (M.Sc. Dphil Oxon) is a post-doctoral researcher at the Centre of Maritime History at IMS/FORTH and she teaches economic history at the Hellenic Open University and the Ionian University. She received in 2012, in the 6th ICMH in Ghent, the Frank Broeze Prize for Outstanding Doctoral Thesis in Maritime History.

Gelina Harlaftis is Director of IMS/FORTH and Professor of Maritime History at the Ionian University. She was President of the International Maritime Economic History Association (2004-2008) and is currently Chair of the Editorial Board of the *International Journal of Maritime History*.

Alexandra Papadopoulou is a post-doctoral researcher at the Centre of Maritime History at IMS/FORTH and teaches economic and maritime history at the Ionian University.

Sarah Palmer is Emeritus Professor of Maritime History at the University of Greenwich UK and founding Director of the Greenwich Maritime Institute UK. She was previously Head of the Department of History, Queen Mary College, University of London.

Amélia Polónia is an Associate Professor at the University of Porto. She is vice-president of the International Maritime History Association, Scientific Coordinator of CITCEM (Transdisciplinary Research Centre Culture, Space of Memory), and Director of the master programme in African Studies, University of Porto.

Lars U. Scholl was Professor of Maritime History at Hamburg University (2000) and Professor of Maritime History at Bremen University (2004), Germany, from where he retired. During 2004-2012 he was Director of the German National Maritime Museum in Bremerhaven. He was President of the International Maritime Economic History Association (2012-2016).

David J. Starkey is Professor of Maritime History at the University of Hull, UK. He has been Director of Hull's Maritime Historical Studies Centre since 1998, and Editor-in-Chief of the *International Journal of Maritime History* since 2014

Stig Tenold is a professor of Economic History at the Norwegian School of Economics [*Norges Handelshøyskole*] in Bergen, Norway. He is Secretary of the Editorial Board of the *International Journal of Maritime History*.

Malcolm Tull is a Professor in the School of Business and Government at Murdoch University, Perth, Western Australia. He is currently President of the International Maritime History Association and is a life member of the Australian Association for Maritime History.

David M. Williams is an Honorary Fellow of University of Leicester, UK. He was President of the International Maritime History Association (2001-2004) and past Chair of the Editorial Board of the *International Journal of Maritime History*.