Setting an agenda at Southampton for humanities disciplines related to maritime studies

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Oceans and the Humanities

- Oceans as sites of cultural exchange, migration and transnationalism
- Oceans as cultural identities in which identities are shaped and reshaped
- Interdisciplinarity/research networks
Aims

• To bring together researchers in humanities at Southampton with research interests in maritime studies
• To facilitate an exchange of ideas
• To identify common areas of interest that might form the basis of future collaboration
Southampton: Gateway to Empire
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- During the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries tens of thousands of troops left Southampton to defend the British Empire.
- During the nineteenth and twentieth centuries Southampton became an important liner terminal connecting the UK with the Caribbean, Africa, and North America (Canada).
Southampton: Gateway to Empire

- Collaboration with Southampton City Archives
- Embedding Southampton’s maritime history into the undergraduate curriculum
- Creating research networks local and regional museums, e.g. the National Maritime Museum
Port Cities

• Port cities as points of departure and arrival
• How were migrant groups affected by the experience of migration?
• How did migrant groups interact with host societies?
• How were the identities of host communities shaped by migration and transmigration?
Maritime Technologies

- The social, political, cultural, and economic impact of maritime technologies
Passports

- The passport as a new legal technology and one that raised important questions about surveillance, freedom of movement, state regulation and bureaucracy
Credit and insurance

- Methods of providing credit and insurance – particularly the kind of long-range and long-term credit and insurance involved as something as complex as the transatlantic slave trade – signalled the emergence of a new economic technology
Maritime Technologies

• What were the contexts in which maritime technologies developed?
• How did maritime technologies spread?
• How were maritime technologies represented?
• How did societies and governments respond to technological innovations?
Conclusion

Aims

• To make the University of Southampton an international centre for maritime research in the Humanities
• To develop cutting-edge research in maritime studies
• To develop partnerships with other UK and overseas higher educational institutions, as well as with museums and archives
• To create an interface between Humanities and engineering, science, law and social sciences