

S. 6. 1. – CULTURAL HERITAGE AND COMMUNITY INTERACTION

Chair: Alice Semedo
(FLUP/CITCEM)

Shellfish farming and fishing in the Galician Rias. The case of Carril, a century-old history

ANGEL I. FERNANDEZ-GONZALEZ (Universidade de Santiago (Spain))

Abstract

For a long time, due to the abundance of nutrients and their physical configuration, the Galician Rias have been and are an optimal space for the growth of fish and shellfish, captured through harvesting and fishing. The objective of this work is the study of the socio-economic evolution, in the last three centuries, of this activity, with special attention to bivalve molluscs: oysters, mussels, clams, etc. We will examine, from the demand side, what have been the explanatory factors of its rise, constantly increasing since the end of the 19th century. And we will also show the changes that have occurred in the field of supply: species, production, techniques, customary and legal regulations on the use of resources, etc. A general and long-term vision that will be complemented with the study of a peculiar case, that of the port of Carril, one of the few Galician coastal villages that for centuries has practiced bivalve semi-cultivation in intertidal parks of private use.

Keywords

Shellfish harvesting and farming, Galicia, economic history

Biography

Associate Professor of Economic History at the Faculty of Economic Sciences of Santiago (Spain) since 1998. I have been part of several research projects related to the history of fisheries and maritime industries. I have published several articles on the history of aquaculture in Galicia and Spain for the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, as well as three stories of Galician companies in the canned fish sector, collected in the book “Las familias de la conserva: el sector de las conservas de pescados a través de sus sagas familiares” [Canning families: the sector of canned fish through their family sagas] (2011). My last work has been a communication presented to the International Conference: Transitions in Agriculture and Rural Society. The Global Challenges of Rural History (Santiago, June 20-23, 2018), entitled “The management of common resources - beaches and waters - in the Galician Rias. Three centuries of history”, which has won the award for the best communication.

Shipwrecks as legal spaces: considering underwater cultural heritage for marine spatial planning in 'Bahia da Lagoa' (Algoa bay), south Africa

JACQUES D. MAHLER-COETZEE (Nelson Mandela University, Port Elizabeth, South Africa)

Abstract

Algoa Bay (33° 50'S 25° 50'E), on the Indian Ocean coast of South Africa was first recorded by Batholomeu Dias in 1488 as Angra da Roca (later, Bahia da Lagoa). At least 230 significant shipwrecks occur in the vicinity.

The maritime environment, including underwater cultural heritage (UCH), is an increasingly contested space, globally and in South Africa. Indeed, “the ocean...has multiple usages that may conflict with one another.”

South Africa's new Marine Spatial Planning Act 16 of 2018 (MSPA) dictates that existing laws “must be consistent with the approved marine area plans” and that the MSPA prevails where there is conflict with other legislation. While MSPA mentions UCH, the effect on contrary provisions in national heritage legislation is unclear.

Using the lens of historically significant shipwrecks, this paper therefore critically examines the governance and representation of UCH as a complex, juristically-constructed space in the context of the Algoa Bay Marine Spatial Planning Pilot Project (ABMSPP).

It is hoped that this work will contribute to necessary discussions around harmonizing UCH governance within MSP regimes in the region and elsewhere.

Biography

Jacques Mahler-Coetzee is a member of the *Eastern Cape Ocean Sciences Community of Practice*, currently researching Aviation & Underwater Cultural Heritage Governance for the South African National Research Foundation-funded *Algoa Bay Marine Spatial Planning Pilot Project*. An Attorney, Jacques is also a Senior Lecturer (Medical Jurisprudence/ Bio-Ethics), *Nelson Mandela School of Law, University of Fort Hare*, East London, an Instructor (Leadership), *East London School for Legal Practice*, and serves on the *Frere & Cecilia Makiwane Hospitals' Ethics Committee*. His Master of Laws (*University of Cape Town*) focused on Historical Shipwrecks. His doctoral work (*Nelson Mandela University*, Port Elizabeth), considers sustainable regulation of Surfing as an important vector for Tourism and Coastal Development in Africa. Jacques is a trans-Atlantic Sailor, Scuba Dive Master (Wreck Speciality), Tour-guide, Student Aviator and Surfer.

From the deck of the whaling ship to the metropolitan Museums: an epistemological study of “the vanguard[s] of ocean science” in eighteenth-century zoological publications.

CÉLINE STANTINA (McGill University)

Abstract

The historiography of marine science of the past 20 years has presented the 19th century as the age when naturalists started taking the sea to seek the oceans’ biological and geological deepest secrets. Some authors have emphasized the role played by seamen and more precisely whalers in this process; Rozwadowski (2008) calling them the “vanguard of the ocean science.” But whalers did not wait for natural philosophers to come onboard in the 19th century to improve, experience and share vernacular knowledge about cetaceans for generations among their communities, knowledge which had been pivotal to the success of whaling fisheries.

Meanwhile, far away from the hazards of the sea, 18th-century European armchair naturalists were absorbed by the tedious task of classifying the living. A scan of the scientific institutions’ collections to which they belonged, show that among the growing assemblage of the world’s naturalia, cetacean natural objects were quite scarce. The Muséum d’histoire naturelle of Paris, for example, only counted a couple of ribs, baleen plates and parts of sperm whale skulls at the end of the 18th century.

By studying a set of natural history publications, as well as scientific correspondence; this presentation will examine the pivotal role played by whalers in the construction of cetacean zoological knowledge in the long 18th century and how these “vanguard[s] of ocean science” made new uses of the sea as a terrain of scientific observations, long time before scientists decided to colonize the decks. It will present two worlds with different codes and goals, that connected at the initiative of natural philosophers seeking this vernacular knowledge based on years of empirical expertise; worlds that sometimes, quite interestingly, failed to connect. I believe that paying a closer attention to the vernacular knowledge of whalers will enrich the historiography of marine science especially as it pertains to the less explored 18th-century.

Keywords

Whaling, Zoology, Science, Whalers, Knowledge

Biography

Céline Stantina is a History PhD candidate at McGill University, interested in History of science and zoology. Her master’s thesis, at l’Université de Montréal (2016-2018) focused on the

work of Lacépède *Histoire Naturelle des Cétacées* (1804) and vernacular maritime knowledge. This research work principally mobilized sources in the Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle of Paris, equally for the naturalists' thick correspondence than for the physical contemporary collections. Her current research aims to examine the trajectories of cetacean natural objects and of vernacular maritime knowledge to help exemplify the way powerful scientific institutions tried to mobilize different strata of individuals in order to build systemic networks of exchange. The goal of this research is to take a step back from sources generated in these institutions, and to analyze further how knowledge is "produced" on the field, in that case: the ocean. Logbooks and correspondence are the prime sources of this study.