
“You are not a drop in the ocean. You are the entire ocean in a drop.”– Jalāl ad-Dīn Muhammad Rūmī (1207-1273)

Kurzbeschreibung:

How intimately are people connected with the sea? The Earth is often imagined as a blue continent. Yet, discussions on oceanic and coastal spaces have become ‘mainstreamed’ in recent years due to debates on globalization, human migration, and climate change. How does contemporary anthropology (as a discipline), given its land-centered historic roots engage with marine realms? Do oceans and seas matter as much in today’s digitalized world, for whom, and why? And, could our interest be extended to consider broader forms of socio-ecological life, well beyond the human-centered ‘maritime’?

This **block seminar** offers a cross-disciplinary **primer to Maritime Ethnology** (or Maritime Anthropology). The course is designed as an interactive series, and integrates case-study material with discussions on ethnographic methods and research practices suited to marine and coastal spaces.

The syllabus covers a range of historic, contemporary cultural, socio-economic, and political themes that have taken center stage within this sub-discipline, for example microplastics and sea-level change, to ocean governance, coastal privatization, and seabed mining. The course will also draw on contemporary debates in maritime history (and new thalassology), oceanic studies, cultural and feminist geographies, literary studies, postcolonial and decolonial thinking, political ecology, multispecies ethnography, Science and Technology Studies, and Urban Studies.

Students are particularly encouraged to explore how varied anthropologies of saltwater continue to offer exciting theoretical and methodological avenues with which to “think from” and to “think with” the sea, particularly in ways that challenge land-centric perspectives in contemporary scholarship.

We also welcome MA students, including those considering coastal marine-related topics for their theses.

Literatur/ Literature:

Hastrup, Kirsten; Hastrup, Frida (eds.)(2015). [Waterworlds: Anthropology in Fluid Environments](#). New York: Berghahn Books.

Hauofa, Epeli (2008). [We are the Ocean: Selected Works](#). Hawai'i: University of Hawai'i Press.

Hayward, Eva (2012). [Sensational jellyfish: Aquarium affects and the matter of immersion](#). *differences*, 23(3), 161-196.

Helmreich, Stefan (2011). [Nature/Culture/Seawater](#). *American Anthropologist* 113(1),132-144.

Mack, John. (2011). [The Sea: A Cultural History](#). London: Reaktion Books.

Mah, Alice, Anastasia (2014). [Port Cities and Global Legacies: Urban Identity, Waterfront Work, and Radicalism](#). London: Palgrave MacMillan.

McCusker, Maeve; Anthony Soares (eds.)(2011). [Islanded Identities: Constructions of Postcolonial Cultural Insularity](#). Amsterdam/New York: Rodopi B.V. pp. xi-xxvii.

Gillis, John (2015). [The Human Shore: Seacoasts in History](#). Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Probyn, Elspeth (2014). [Women following fish in a more-than-human world](#). *Gender, Place & Culture*, 21(5), 589-603.

Rozwadowski, Helen M (2005). [Fathoming the Ocean](#). Harvard: Harvard University Press.

Steinberg, Philip. E. (2001). [The Social Construction of the Ocean](#). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Steinberg, Philip.; Peters, Kimberley (2015). [Wet ontologies, fluidspaces: giving depth to volume through oceanic thinking](#). *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space* 33(2), 247–264.

Symes, Colin (2012). [All at sea: an auto-ethnography of a slowed community, on a container ship](#). *Annals of Leisure Research* 15(1), 55-68.