International U Bremen Research Alliance Symposium

Thursday, 18 June 2026

German Maritime Museum in Bremerhaven
https://www.dsm.museum/en/
Hans-Scharoun-Platz 1, Bremerhaven

We leave on a train to Bremerhaven at 8.56 AM from Platform 10, meet in front of Bremen main train station 8.40 AM

10:00 AM | Opening of Symposium

Ruth Schilling (Director of German Maritime Museum (DSM), Bremerhaven)
Kerstin Knopf (Founder of Bremen Blue Humanities Research Group, BBHRG)

10:20 – 11:00 AM | Presentations

Ruth Schilling (German Maritime Museum, Bremerhaven; U Bremen)
In the Eye of Society: Maritime History as a Public Endeavour
Sven Bergmann (German Maritime Museum, Bremerhaven; U Bremen)
Naturecultures at Sea: Ethnographic and Curatorial Perspectives on Pollution and Emerging Ocean Worlds
Katharina Bothe (German Maritime Museum, Bremerhaven; U Bremen)
Narrating Blue Justice: Testimonies, Oral Histories and Ocean Literacy in Exhibitions
Kerstin Knopf (U Bremen)
Ocean Literacy in the Classroom

Participants with asterisks present online

"Ocean Literacies – Literatures of Oceans"

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM | Guided Museum Tour (2 groups)

12:00 – 1:00 PM | Time to explore selected areas in museum

1:00 – 2:00 PM | Lunch Break

(soup and bread)

2:00 PM | Walk to the Boat Pier

(20 min) – Quay at Apex of the Inner Port (see map)

2:45 PM – 3:45 PM | Boat Trip

Inner Bremerhaven Seaport

4:15 – 5:15 PM | Presentations

**Grab a coffee and snacks*
Hester Blum * (Washington U, USA)
Arctic Ocean Literacies, Arctic Humanities
Jaime Uluwehi Hopkins (U Hawai'i; U Augsburg)
The Ocean is Calling
Oluwadunni Talabi (U Bremen)
Water as Subject: African Onto-Epistemologies as Alternative Humanist Narratives
Feliks Gornischeff (Estonian Maritime Museum, Tallin)
From the Baltic Sea to the Global Ocean: Mapping Ocean Literacy and the Blue Humanities through Estonian Maritime History
Edvinas Ubis (Lithuanian Sea Museum, Klaipeda)
The Blue History of Lithuania from a Maritime Perspective
Katrin Kleemann (German Maritime Museum, Bremerhaven; U Bremen)
Recovering the Ocean's Past for Future Research: Archives and the Production of Interdisciplinary Ocean Knowledge

5:15 PM – 5:45PM | Coffee Break

5:45 PM – 6:45 PM | Presentations
John Muthyala * (U Maine, USA)
Reading and Ruling the Sea: Ocean Literacies, Indigenous Knowledge, and Maritime Power
Christina Brito* (Nova U Lisbon, Portugal)
W is for Water and Whale: Multispecies and Multidisciplinary Approaches in the Humanities
Elizabeth DeLoughrey (UCLA, USA)
Deep Sea Minding
Ursula Kluwick (U Bremen)
Aquatic and Littoral Forms and Knowledges
Ewelina Jarosz and Karolina Kolenda (UKEN Krakow, Poland)
Brackish Blue Humanities: Critical Methodology for the Baltic Sea and Brackish waters*

7:00 PM | Walk to Dinner Venue

7:30 PM | Conference Dinner
Strandhalle, Hermann-Henrich-Meier-Str. 1, Bremerhaven

Trains leave back for Bremen at 21:28 (35 min.) and 22:01 hours (49 min.)

Friday, June 19, 2026

Forum am Domshof, Domshof 26, Bremen (U Bremen's Law Faculty), Second Floor, Room 20012

9:00 AM – 9:50 AM | Presentations
Hsinya Huang* (National Sun Yat-sen University, Kaohsiung, Taiwan)
Islanding the Pacific: The Blue Poetics of the Tatala
Chia Hua Lin* (National Sun Yat-sen University, Kaohsiung, Taiwan)
Ocean Literacies in the Age of AI
Caroline Rosenthal (U Jena)
The Semiotics of Watery Places
Andrin Albrecht (U Jena)
Multimodal Waters between Melville, Music, and AI
Emma McKinley (U Cardiff, UK)
Putting the Emoceans into Ocean Literacies

9:50 AM – 10:00 AM | Short Break

10:00 AM – 10:50 AM | Presentations
Eva Bischoff* (U Trier)
Maritime Commodity Frontiers. Liminal Spaces, Extraction and Indigenous Agency
Daria Ezgeta Balic* (U Split, Croatia)
Advancing Ocean Literacy in Croatia: The Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries Experience
Matt Matsuda (Rutgers U Toronto, Canada)
Ancestral Waters: Genealogy and the Chemistries of Life and Longing in Oceania
Rosabelle Boswell (Nelson Mandela U, South Africa)
Hydro-Sociality and Ocean Literacy: Embodied Orientations in a More-than-Human World
Maria Geustyn (Rhodes U, South Africa)
Blue Humanities and African Literature

10:50 AM – 11:20 AM | Coffee Break

11:20 AM – 12:00 PM | Presentations
Charne Lavery* (U Pretoria, South Africa)
Seabeds, Southern Oceans and the Oceanic South
Raimund Bleischwitz (Centre for Tropical Marine Research; U Bremen)
Economic Views in the Blue Humanities - Perspectives for Blue Economy and Prosperity
Kimberley Peters (U Oldenburg)
Ocean Illiteracies and Disconnections: A Case for Excessive Understandings
Erki Tammiksar (Tartu U, Estonia)
Exploration of the World's Oceans: Nothing More than Colonization and the Exploitation of Natural Resources, or does it still Offer Lessons for us Today?
12:00 PM – 12:10 PM | Short Break

12:10 PM – 1:00 PM | Presentations
Martin Willis* (U Cardiff, UK)
Narratives of British Water
Keir Waddington* (U Cardiff, UK)
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Hannes Hansen Magnusson (U Cardiff, UK)
Making Sense of British Arctic Culture
Susanne Ferwerda (Utrecht U, Netherlands)
Climate Colonialism and Pacific Blue Literatures
Paula von Gleich (U Bremen)
Race, Class, Gender, Water: Studying American Literature and Film

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM | Lunch Break
(soup, bread, dessert)

2:00 PM – 2:50 PM | Presentations
Sylvain Briens* (Sorbonne, France)
Transoceanic Frame and Blue Humanities - Case Study: Global Literary Arctic Zone
Hélène Artaud* (Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle Paris, France)
Between the Anthropology of Nature and Postcolonial Studies: A Relational and Political Analysis of Oceanic "Imaginaries"
Margaret Cohen (Stanford U, USA)
Located Waters: Place, Perspective, Imagination
Angelo Monaco (U Bari, Italy)
From Water Stories to Wetland Literacies: A Research Agenda for the COST Action
Brian Russell Roberts* (Brigham Young U, USA)
Translate Like an Archipelago: A Position Paper

2:50 PM – 3:00 PM | Short Break

3:00 PM – 3:50 PM | Presentations
Patrícia Carvalho * (Nova U Lisbon, Portugal)
Whales on Fault Lines: The Blue Humanities in Lisbon
Julia Kuznetski* (U Tallin, Estonia)
Oceans as Fluid Archives in Contemporary Transnational Literature
Gargi Binju* (U Tübingen)
Anti-Canonization and Oceanic Writing
Dace Bula (U Latvia, Riga)
North Pacific Elegies
Christoph Humrich (RUG Groningen, Netherlands)
Narrating the Ocean as Political Space

3:50 PM – 4:20 PM | Coffee Break

4:20 PM – 5:10 PM | Presentations
Rainer Buschmann (CSU, Channel Islands, USA)
Fluid Empires: The Central Pacific during the Long Nineteenth Century
Katarzyna Wieckowska (U Torun, Poland)
The Alterlife of Water
Mohammed Muharram (U Bremen)
Towards Arabic Blue Humanities
Melody Jue* (UC Santa Barbara, USA)
Seaweed Media and Underwater Interpretation
Steve Mentz * (St. John's U, USA)
Reading By Feeling: Toward a Blue Literacy of Sensation

5:10 PM – 5:20 PM | Short Break

5:20 PM – 6:20 PM | Plenum Brainstorming
Develop working groups

6.30 PM – 9:00 PM | Reception
Finger food, sparkling wine, white wine and beer

Saturday, June 20, 2026

Forum am Domshof, Domshof 26, 28195 Bremen (U Bremen's Law Faculty), 6th Floor, Rooms 60001-60005

10:00 AM – 11:00 AM | Working Group Bazar (Browse the WGs)

11:00 AM – 11:30 AM | Coffee Break

11:30 AM – 1:00 PM | Working Group Workshops

Develop specific objectives, research questions, activities, and deliverables

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM | Lunch Break
(soup, bread, dessert)

2:00 PM – 3:00 PM | Working Group Workshops
Discussion of overall application research gaps, state of the art, objectives, stakeholders, communication, and dissemination

3:00 PM – 4:00 PM | Final Discussion

4:00 PM – 7:00 PM | Intermission

7:00 PM | Informal Dinner
Asian Take-Out, Juno Suites, Bahnhofstr. 6, Room 130

Zoom links for Working Group Workshops 11:30 AM-1:00 PM will be sent Friday evening