



Organização
das Nações Unidas
para a Educação,
a Ciência e a Cultura



Cátedra UNESCO
O Património Cultural
dos Oceanos
Portugal



UNIVERSIDADE
NOVA
DE LISBOA

OCEANICA

As I write these words, we are well into March 2021. For about a year now, we have been experiencing an intermittent state of lockdown, and a constant feeling of uncertainty and doubt. Since the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic, physicians and scientists have been called upon to provide urgent responses, while other researchers, thinkers and artists have reflected on their role in our society. Myself, I cannot help but think about how the Humanities and its practitioners help in responding to the pandemic, to our collective understanding of the world we are experiencing and our common future?

Papers, discussions, and opinions about the pandemic have multiplied from the point of view of historians and other academics (see the special issues of *HALAC* or of *Environmental History - 'Reflections: Environmental History in the Era of COVID-19'*). Words such as Existence, Survival, Urgency, Ecologies, Societies, Adaptation, Resilience, Creativity, Fear, Hope, Differences, Reflection, emerge from its reading. So many and so different feelings, reflecting the multiplicity of ecosystems of the planet - air, land, and water - as well as the plurality of cultures and worldviews. Ecological, geophysical, and climatic complexities are sided with those of humans.

To understand such complexities, we must rely on the Humanities. In this scientific domain, we find people who can critically analyse problems and events and that write about their own thoughts and those of others. By giving voice to the Environmental Humanities in all its multidisciplinary (and by that I mean environmental history, ecocriticism, artistic and literary studies, and the arts), it will be possible for us to frame and contextualize this more-than-human world. In a theoretical and methodological view of 'multidiversities' and 'multispecies' integrated systems, which is urgently needed, we will find a world where invisible viruses, among so many other elements of nature, are conditioning factors of human life and its societies. A world of interconnected socio-ecological systems, of numerous environmental challenges that are inherently connected to different aspects of history and cultures. As a group of researchers, equally plural in their approaches and experiences, we hope to contribute a little to these topics that require urgent thinking and actions.

Cristina Brito

(Assistant Professor and Diretor of CHAM – Centre for the Humanities, NOVA FCSH).

EDITORIAL INFORMATION
OCEANICA – Newsletter of the UNESCO Chair “The Ocean’s Cultural Heritage”, n.º 5 of the 2nd Series (march, 2021).

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COVER WATERCOLOR
Lúgia Oliveira – *Posidonia Oceanica*, 2020,
Watercolour on acid-free cotton paper.

Special Issue – Interviewing
Ulrike Guerin, as part of the Commemoration of the 20th Anniversary of the 2001 UNESCO Convention for the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage.

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A RESEARCHER AND HIS WORK

Hilarino da Luz was born in Cape Verde and is currently part of the research staff at the NOVA FCSH. He is also an integrated researcher at CHAM, where he was previously a post-doctoral fellow (2015 – 2018), a member of the Culture and Literature Group, in the Thematic Line in African Studies, and Environmental History and the Sea. He has extensive professional experience, mainly in the fields of teaching, publishing and library science. Besides participating in various masters' juries, he was co-supervisor of a doctoral thesis at NOVA FCSH, and supervisor of an undergraduate monograph at Universidade de Cabo Verde. He was a researcher in the CONCHA Project, a member of the Chair Eugénio Tavares of the Universidade de Cabo Verde, also collaborating with the UNESCO Chair "Ocean's Cultural Heritage". Under the supervision of António Manuel Ferreira, Carlos Morais, Maria Brasete, and Rosa Lídia Coimbra, in 2020 Hilarino Rodrigues da Luz published the book-chapter "O mar na poesia de Ruy Duarte de Carvalho, Jorge Barbosa e na obra *Os Pescadores* de Raul Brandão" ["The sea in the poetry of Ruy Duarte de Carvalho, Jorge Barbosa, and in the work *The Fishermen* by Raul Brandão"]. It is part of a book entitled *Pelos mares da literatura em português* [Through the seas of Portuguese literature in Portuguese], published by the internationally renowned publishing company Peter Lang.

[Hilarino da Luz](#) (CHAM, NOVA FCSH).

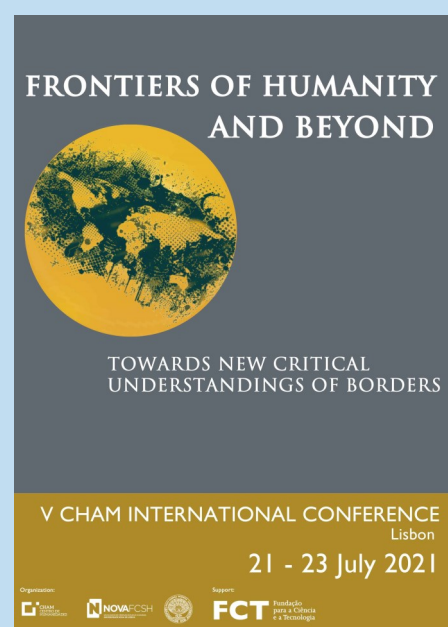


Sculptures. [Alcindo da Luz](#), TCHIND (Cape Verde).

ONE EDITION, ONE PHOTO



Canoe. Santa Catarina, São Tomé and Príncipe, 2020. Author: [Gonçalo C. Lopes](#). Canoes are omnipresent in the landscape of São Tomé and Príncipe: they transport people and goods, both on the sea and in rivers. On the beaches, they lie flat on their backs or are overturned because the tide has gone out. They are an integral part of society. They are not objects. They are entities. The study of their naval architecture allows us to touch on several aspects of São Toméan society.



THE CHAIR SUPPORTS

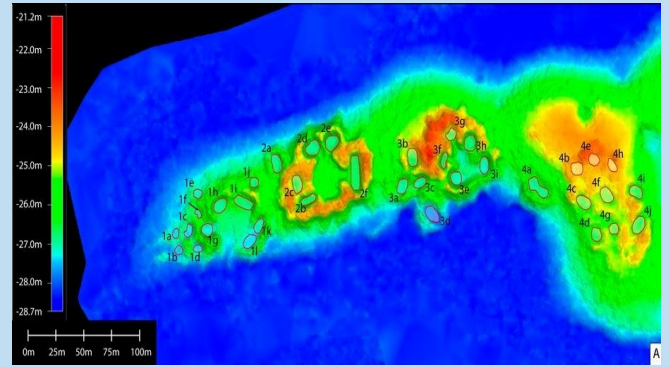
The V International CHAM Conference dedicated to the theme "Frontiers of Humanity and Beyond: Towards new critical understandings of borders" will take place between 21 and 23 July 2021. The Conference will feature two panels organized by members of the UNESCO Chair "Ocean's Cultural Heritage", namely "Beyond Frontiers Perspectives: Innovation, Creativity and Sustainability in Heritage Research" (by Carla Alferes Pinto and Paula Ochôa) and "Early Anthropocene: Exploitation and extinction in the seas" (by Nina Vieira and Cristina Brito). More information [here](#).

4 SMALL MOMENTS OF KNOWLEDGE IN ENVIRONMENTAL ARCHAEOLOGY

Concept, struture, fishing gear and marine species



Archaeological data, besides providing information about past human societies, can help us understand the relationship between people and the environment. The different natural remains, manipulated by humans, are interpreted by environmental archaeology as indicators of how human societies adapted to a given ecosystem. The human consumption of bivalves in Amerindian societies allows us to understand how they were consumed or used to make adornments or utensils. Author: [Ana Catarina Garcia](#) (CHAM, NOVA FCSH). [Photo Credits: [Hermano Noronha](#)].



The village of Raleigh Island (Florida), dated between 900 and 1200 AD, is unique for several reasons. One of them, its architecture composed of 37 rings of oyster shells that mark the different family spaces occupied by its inhabitants. These structures were between 1 and 4 metres high and ranged in size from 23 to 136 m². They could be semi-circular or rectangular. In their interior, there are post holes which confirm their residential character. The largest rectangular enclosure stands out, with approximately 180 m², which could be a public building. Author: [Joana Baço](#) (CHAM, NOVA FCSH). [Image Credits: <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.1911285116>].



Original in the John Carter Brown Library at Brown University

In Florida (Mound Key), the Calusa people developed a complex and organised system of structures supplied by an artificial water network, in which it was possible to catch and store live fish. The design and development of these structures, called watercourts, implied not only a profound knowledge of the environment in which they lived, including, for example, the water system and the tides, but also a great capacity to transform it. Author: [Patrícia Carvalho](#) (CHAM, NOVA FCSH). [Image Credits: Fishing Scene (North America). Harriot, Thomas, c.1590. [John Carter Library](#)].



In the tropical waters of Florida, the Calusa were agile fishermen, depending on various marine and estuarine species for their subsistence. Archaeological studies focused on the analysis and interpretation of shellfish reveal that their diet was based on a great diversity of molluscs and fish, such as sharks, mullets, herring, perch, among others. The availability of marine resources favoured a culturally and socially complex society, and the specialised techniques developed for their exploitation transformed the landscape, the marine ecosystem, and the populations – both those of people and animals of the sea. Author: [Nina Vieira](#) (CHAM, NOVA FCSH). [Follow the link, clicking in the image].

Research projects:

◆ 4-OCEANS—*The human History of marine life*

4-OCEANS is a European Research Council Synergy Grant awarded to Poul Holm, Francis Ludlow, Cristina Brito, and James Barrett, funded with aprox. €10 million (2021-2027). It aims to understand the history of marine life in the two millennia before the industrial age and to analyse the role and importance of marine life for human societies. Regional and global extractions, production and dissemination of knowledge and technology, cultural and environmental factors, and consumption patterns of marine resources in the Arctic, Atlantic, Indian and Pacific will be addressed. It will focus on ten taxonomic groups (e.g. cod, salmon, tuna, whales, walruses) that have been important targets of human exploitation over time. Thus, this project of great international impact will be transformative for the understanding of the scale and impacts of ecological globalization before contemporary times.



Roman Villa of Milreu. Different species of fish and mollusks. [Photo Credit: Cristina Brito].

To achieve the proposed goals, 4-OCEANS crosses chronologies, geographies and methodological approaches. It will involve researchers from fields such as (zoo)archaeology, molecular biology, marine environmental history, historical ecology, economic, social and scientific history, historical geography and climatology, as well as modelling and digital humanities. An open access Atlas of the Historical Exploitation of Marine Resources will be produced, which will be relevant to all areas that relate to the past and present of the oceans.

In Portugal, this research based at CHAM will consolidate environmental history as a discipline of reference and the relevance of interdisciplinarity to address scientific issues and societal problems. Moreover, it will contribute to ocean literacy and to reinforce the role of the humanities in the study and knowledge of the oceans.

[Cristina Brito](#) (DH & CHAM, NOVA FCSH).

A ROTA DO CABO E AS ROTAS DA SEDA ◆

This project is being developed within CHAM – Centre for the Humanities, in partnership with the Scientific and Cultural Centre of Macao, and has as its starting point the fact that we have at our disposal the archaeological and archival legacy of three shipwrecks of the Carreira da Índia, all of which occurred at the end of the return journey (one in Faial Island and two in the mouth of the Tagus River), with a short interval of twenty years (1606-1625).

Archaeological work has revealed the persistence in situ of traces of pepper and a lot of porcelain, which was the element that raised a first question: was the Cape Route simply a mercantile circuit, which linked the India of the spices to Portugal, or was it rather a segment of a much wider and more complex game of exchanges, which we generically call the Silk Routes?

And this question leads us to others

- ◆ If the Cape Route was, after all, the connection between production and consumption centres in East Asia and Western Europe, is the Azores archipelago (an essential support point for the return journey) also a region integrated within the Silk Routes? The study of the mobile heritage and flora of the Azorean islands indicates that it is.
- ◆ And was Lisbon simply an arrival point for Asian products, or was it rather a relay for numerous European products heading for Asia, China and Japan, and vice versa? In other words, was it a major hub for Euro-Asian relations? And did the products only circulate, or could they change their form or social value, as it happened with the fan, which in Lisbon ceased to be a masculine object and became worn by ladies?

We are looking for the answers.

[João Paulo Oliveira e Costa](#) (DH & CHAM, NOVA FCSH).

For slow reading: We open our suggestions with *Two Years Before the Mast* (1840) by Richard Henry Dana Jr., a fundamental contribution to the history of maritime literature, to the understanding of the law and work in the age of sailing and the usages and customs of the crews of these ships. The revelation of the psychological issues and states of mind affecting seafarers on long voyages are rare topics in literature in general, but very present here.

For the youngest, *Go Wild At The Seaside* (2019), written by Goldie Hawk and illustrated by Rachel Saunders, describes a beach from a dual point of view: discovery (how we should prepare, what living things and phenomena it is possible to research) and fun (games, constructions, artifacts).

"If Portugal is a country of the Sea, are Portuguese women of the Sea?" Through 36 female profiles, we discover *Mulheres e o Mar*, a tribute to women from so many areas who see the sea as the backdrop to all their activities. Coordinated by Elsa Páscoa and published by Diário de Bordo, the book came out on International Women's Day itself, giving a voice to so many who have dedicated their lives to the sea.

Quick readings:

- ◆ Aporela is promoting guided tours for schools to the Caravel Vera Cruz, check out the [video](#) for more information.
- ◆ *Water Flows Together*, tells the story of guide Colleen on the San Juan River, reflecting on our responsibility to the waters and the environment.

THE PORT OF THE CITY

Tavira's port

The importance of Tavira's port in modern times is brought to us by royal documents indicating that, since the 13th century, successive monarchies have given privileges to the people of Tavira in retribution for their support during the territorial conquest and contribution to the wealth of the Kingdom. This port attracted attention for its geographical position in relation to the dominated areas that the Crown held in Northern Africa, but also in the disputes with the kingdom of Castile. It was a place of arrival and departure of boats that entered the area of the Ria Formosa, coming from the sea, through an active channel. The port changed places over the centuries, being reached through the Gilão River, which allowed the navigation of large draft ships. Tavira was Algarve's main port during the 13th century. Later on, in the next century, the Customs were introduced, thus, being the oldest in the kingdom. It was also an important hub in whale hunting, bestowing the king salt from his salt marshes in order to preserve this fish. On March 16, 1520, King Manuel I elevated Tavira to the status of city, being the largest population center in Algarve in the censuses of 1527. Along with whale hunting and tuna fishing, shipbuilding also flourished here under royal protection, rendering a construction ban along its riverbank, the southernmost in the Kingdom. The 1755 earthquake caused damage to the urban mesh and to the buildings along the riverside. Part of these buildings, witnesses of the relevant maritime activities of this port, were demolished in the late 19th century making way for the Municipal Market and the Public Garden.



City plan of Tavira—Leonardo de Ferrari [1655].

Brígida Baptista (NOVA FCSH & [Lais de Guia](#)).

NOTE FROM THE EDITORIAL TEAM:

At CHAM - Centre for the Humanities, we contribute to a comprehensive approach of the Humanities, through international multidisciplinary projects and directed towards societal and environmental challenges, with a strong focus on the study of the past of the oceans. In this issue of OCEANICA we bring some of these examples in the scope of research, but also through readings, photographs, art, objects and stories, among countless components of our collective heritage that must be safeguarded and protected. "Although the puzzle is bigger and more complex than we imagined, the unraveling of small details feeds us on this winding path", here we turn to Steffy (2012: 52), who tells us how his father, John Richard "Dick" Steffy, understood shipbuilding and the study of shipwrecks. The same reasoning applies here to the entire cultural heritage of the oceans, in whatever guise: submerged, in dry or floodable sites, extinct or alive. This issue is like a first dive into the sea, a glimpse of something gigantic, which we always want to know better. This is a constant dialogue between problematics and methodologies, to which we add different research from other research units, such as the IEM - Institute of Medieval Studies, to whose researchers we pass the torch.

SPECIAL ISSUE – INTERVIEWING ULRIKE GUERIN

Secretary of the UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage (2001)

◆ WHAT IS THE ROLE OF UNESCO'S CONVENTION 2001 FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE UNDERWATER CULTURAL HERITAGE?

The UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage was adopted to combat the extensive pillage, commercial exploitation, and illicit or unethical traffic of underwater cultural heritage. It is a comprehensive treaty, which fully addresses these issues regarding all waters. It increases the legal protection of sites in situ and prohibits the illicit and/or unethical recovery and traffic of artefacts. The Convention is thus very relevant at a time when the pillage and commercial exploitation of underwater cultural heritage, as well as the industrialization of the seabed, constitute major issues that have not yet found an appropriate solution in most regions of the world.

The Convention, however, goes further than that. It also responds to the need for scientific guidance and the facilitation of State cooperation. Underwater archaeology is still a developing discipline. 71% of the Earth is covered by oceans and the majority of the global seabed has not yet been researched for heritage. Research capacities are still lacking and awareness of the immense heritage lying on the ocean beds, rivers and lakes is very low. Only through the exchange of knowledge and training can this situation be improved and bring the important underwater cultural heritage to benefit the public.

Last but certainly not least, the Convention addresses the needs to mitigate the impact of industrial seabed activities, such as trawling, dredging, mineral extraction and so on, with the protection of submerged archaeological sites. These impacts are considerable, but with wise planning and collaboration, not only excellent results for heritage protection and the development of underwater archaeology can be achieved, but also the enterprises concerned can benefit in terms of corporate responsibility and public image.



◆ WHAT ARE MAJOR DIFFICULTIES IN IMPLEMENTING THE CONVENTION?

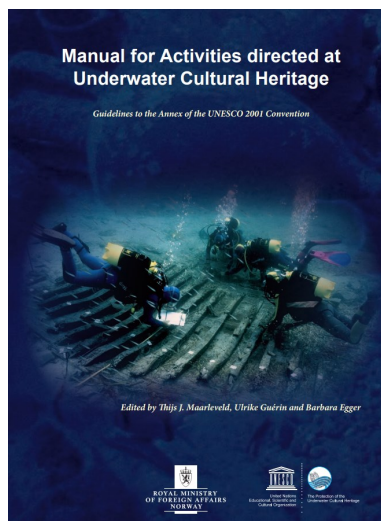
Critical issues in implementation concern legal and operational matters.

It is crucial that States introduce the regulations of the 2001 Convention into national legal frameworks and implement them. Another challenge is the need to build capacity in underwater archaeology and increase the investment in this field.

The Convention's implementation was greatly strengthened through the enlargement of the network of partners encompassing UNESCO Chairs in Lisbon, Aix and Alexandria, universities, NGOs, and a Category 2 centre in Zadar, Croatia.

This global network created around the Convention expands the outreach capacity of UNESCO and is immensely valuable.

◆ HOW DO UNESCO'S CHAIRS CAN HELP IN THE ACCOMPLISHMENT OF 2001 CONVENTION'S MAIN GOALS?



The 2001 Convention defines in its Article 1 Paragraph 1 the overall goal of the Convention, which is to “ensure and strengthen the protection of underwater cultural heritage”.

The appropriate training of capable underwater archaeologists has always been one of the main concerns in this matter. Many States do not yet dispose of trained professionals and mostly also paid professional positions are lacking.

Moreover, Article 20 of the Convention stresses the importance of public awareness in opposition to a temptation that is sometimes felt within authorities to keep all underwater cultural heritage sites hidden. Education and awareness raising are essential.

The cooperation with the UNESCO Chairs aims to increase capacity through international cooperation and academic outreach. It will enhance the protection of and research into, underwater cultural heritage, by connecting in a formal way universities and professional training institutions working in the field of underwater archaeology. It will also act as a bridge between the academic world, civil society, local communities, research and policymakers.

Follow the link, clicking on the image.

SPECIAL ISSUE – INTERVIEWING *ULRIKE GUERIN*

Secretary of the UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage (2001)

◆ WHICH ARE THE 'SECRET INGREDIENTS' FOR AN EFFECTIVE OCEAN LITERACY?

In Ocean Literacy it is essential to promote ocean protection and a more responsible and sustainable use of its natural and cultural resources. Here, the symbolic power of underwater cultural heritage can strongly advocate for protection, raise awareness on the impact of human activities, and reconnect people with the sea through photo exhibitions, videos and digital communication materials, especially in the framework of the ongoing UN Ocean Decade.

Chairs and underwater cultural heritage figures can here become part of the “Generation Ocean” brand, and share testimonials on the importance of their work for oceans and disseminate key messages on the need to protect marine cultural resources.

Ocean Literacy work gives an opportunity to demonstrate the important interactions between humans and oceans, understand their importance for the future of oceans, raise awareness on threats to oceans, and encourage behavioural changes towards them through communication and advocacy.

◆ WHY PEOPLE SHOULD CARE ABOUT UNDERWATER CULTURAL HERITAGE?

The oceans, which cover 71% of our planet, still retain many of their secrets and information on the development of civilizations. Underwater cultural heritage is a legacy from the past, which we pass on to future generations. It encompasses sunken cities, magnificent ancient shipwrecks, and human origin sites.

Ships, for instance, were the most advanced technological inventions of ancient times. Their remains give us a glimpse into a moment in the past. Also, a majority of human populations live close to the coast and seafaring was a major way of commerce throughout history. As sea levels rose over time at an average of 30 m, with peaks of up to 130 m, many prehistoric landscapes and sites of human origin are today located under water.

There is so much more to learn. Yet – only 5% of the seabed have even yet been mapped in sufficient resolution. That means the bigger part of underwater cultural heritage sites has not yet been discovered. The most stunning archaeological discoveries of the future might be made under water. If those sites would be preserved of course. However, today, underwater cultural heritage is being destroyed by trawling, cut into pieces for its valuable metals feeding the microchips industry, or exploited by treasure hunters. This heritage belongs to all of us. We need to protect it.

UNESCO works to save underwater heritage from destruction and to ensure its proper safeguarding.



Follow the link, clicking on the image.

◆ THIS YEAR THE CONVENTION ACCOMPLISHES 20 YEARS. WHAT IS THE BALANCE OF THESE 20 YEARS OF IMPLEMENTATION AND WHAT EXPECTATIONS DO YOU HAVE FOR THE FUTURE?

In the past years UNESCO assisted States facing heritage emergencies by missions of its 14-expert Scientific Advisory Body and trained hundreds of young professionals. It also helped States to draft new laws and to form police to protect submerged heritage sites, helped build museums and set international scientific standards in underwater archaeology. Moreover, the 2001 Convention joined States together to better research submerged archaeological sites.

For the future, UNESCO aims to enhance the protection of underwater cultural heritage and foster public access to it. It also seeks to build research capacity and resilience of the local communities to safeguard and preserve their heritage.

Finally, it is an objective to raise awareness of underwater cultural heritage and help build new museums.

The upcoming 20th anniversary of the 2001 Convention provides an opportunity to advocate for ratification, but also for the integration of the protection of underwater cultural heritage into actions to help achieve UN Sustainable Development Goal 14. This will, however, require increasing considerably cooperation with the domain of ocean science in all fields.

This special issue is part of the Commemorations of the 20th anniversary of the UNESCO Convention for the Protection of the Underwater Heritage of 2001.

For further information, events, bibliography and resources, please visit [UNESCO's website](https://www.unesco.org).