

MARITIME LABOUR HISTORY WORKING GROUP (EUROPEAN LABOR HISTORY NETWORK)

Newsletter No 11, 2 July 2018.

CONFERENCES

Labour and the Sea

The Centre for Port and Maritime History, at Liverpool, organizes its Annual Conference on Thursday 13th Sept. 2018. The topic is *Labour and the Sea*.

Maritime labour remains central to our understanding of port and shipboard life. Turns towards global, transnational and postcolonial histories have all variously reinvigorated these discussions, showing how practices of resistance, antagonism, internationalism and much more were embedded within the maritime world. For the 2018 CPMH Conference, we return to these themes to discuss what current, leading-edge research is uncovering about the role of maritime labour in the past, but also to encourage the discussion of previous debates in the light of new evidence or approaches.

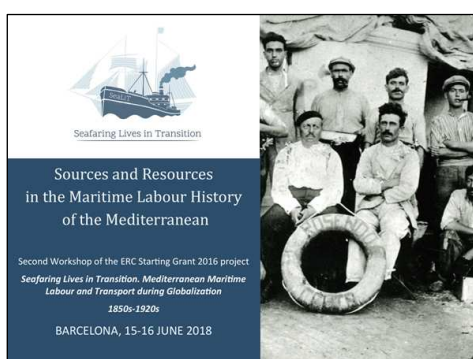


The conference theme is deliberately broad in scope, but potential themes/topics for discussion could include (but are not limited to): Varieties of maritime work and

practices (e.g. regional/national maritime traditions/systems); Maritime labour militancy and political activity; Struggles over pay and conditions; Shipboard labour as a vector for inter/transnational political movements and solidarity; Intersectional accounts of maritime labour (including ethnic, gender and cultural diversity). To submit an abstract for this year's conference, please email a 250-word abstract to Dr Andy Davies, Co-Director of the CPMH (a.d.davies@liv.ac.uk) by the 3rd of August 2018.

In addition to the CPMH Conference, this year, the Centre is convening a workshop on 'Singapore 200: Two Hundred Years of the Lion City' on the 14th of September at Liverpool John Moores University.

Barcelona SeaLit Workshop



On 15-16 June the Universitat de Barcelona and the Museu Marítim de Barcelona hosted the 2nd Workshop that was part of the ERC Starting Grant research project *Seafaring Lives in Transition Mediterranean Maritime Labour and Shipping, 1850s-1920s*. The topic was "Sources and Resources in the Maritime Labour History of the Mediterranean", and the aim was to update information about research in progress.

You can find more information about the project and the workshop in the website of the project, <http://www.sealitproject.eu/>

Transnational approaches

Jo Stanley informs us about the celebration, last May, of the Seminar Union Organising Globally: Chinese and Latin American Ports Compared, organized by Central London BUIRA. In case you are interested on this topic you should know something about the speakers.

Katy Fox Hodess presented some of the findings of her PhD, entitled *Dockworkers*

of the World Unite: Transnational Class Formation and the New Labor Internationalism, in which she examines the construction of 'bottom-up' labor internationalism by rank-and-file dockworker union activists affiliated to the International Dockworkers Council. Katy will discuss union coordination in response to



recent labor disputes in Latin America (Chile, Colombia). Katy is undertaking her PhD thesis in Sociology at the University of California at Berkeley and is currently is a lecturer in Work, Employment, People and Organisations at the University of Sheffield. Her publications include ‘(Re-) Locating the Local and National in the Global: Multi-Scalar Political Alignment in Transnational European Dockworker Union Campaigns’ *British Journal of Industrial Relations*, 2017

Tim Pringle is a senior lecturer in Labour, Social Movements and Development. His research is focussed on East Asia, in particular labour relations, trade union reform and social movements and labour migration in China and Vietnam. He is also the editor of *China Quarterly*. Tim will presented research focuses on the extent that the Party-led All-China Federation of Trade Unions is able to establish functioning trade union branches at enterprise level, drawing on a case study of the Yantian International Container Terminal. Tim will argue that the YICT union developed a system of annual collective bargaining in order to ‘tame’ the power of militant dockworkers and prevent strikes. This required an effective enterprise-level trade union that was able to manipulate members’ somewhat ambiguous acceptance of its role.

3rd European Labour History Network Conference, Amsterdam 2019



We remind you that the 3rd ELHN will be hosted by the International Institute of Social History, in Amsterdam, on 19, 20 and 21 September 2019.

In further issues of this newsletter we will launch a

Call for Papers, so we suggest that during our well-deserved vacations we all think about proposals for the Maritime Labour History Working Group sessions.

On the other hand, you will find soon information about or Working Group at the ELHM webpage, <https://socialhistoryportal.org/elhn/wg>. We are working on it.

V Mediterranean Maritime History Network at Constanza

On 9-11th May 2018 some members of our Working Group participated in the Mediterranean Maritime History Network at Constanza, Romania. The conference was held at the Ovidius University. At the end of the conference it was agreed that the next meeting will be held on 2022 at Rethymno (Crete). The conference will be hosted by the Center of Maritime History IMS-FORTH.

PUBLICATIONS AND RESOURCES

We offer you information about publications that can be of your interest. In this newsletter all of them are from members of our working group. Please keep us informed about your recent publications on the topic on labour and maritime industries.

Thesis on Communist Seamen and port workers

Our colleague Constance Micallef Margain informs us that the first volume of her PhD thesis is now available on line. Is a text in French and the title is *L'Internationale des gens de la mer (1930-1937) Activités, parcours militants et résistance au nazisme d'un syndicat communiste de marins et dockers*. You only have to follow this link: <https://tel.archives-ouvertes.fr/tel-01676981>. As soon as the second part is published we will inform you.

Dockers in the Canary Island

For those interested on dockers, you can find a chapter about dock labour in the Canary Island in a book recently published. The aim of the work is to remind the role of the dockers in the last years of Francoism and during the Transition from the Dictatorship to the Democracy in Spain. The title of the chapter is "Debajo la parra": Estibadores en el Puerto de La Luz, 1969-1988" in León Álvarez, A. (ed.), *La Transición en Canarias, Le Canarien e Instituto de Estudios Canarios*, Santa Cruz de Tenerife, pp. 469-488, and the author David Castillo.



The chapter deals with the changes on dock Labour in La Luz (Las Palmas) and the rising waterfront radicalism during a period of depth transformations in this sector at global scale.

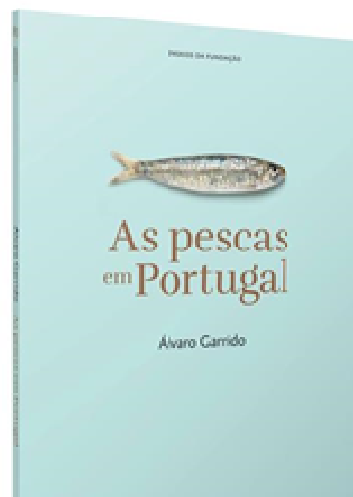
The increased mechanization processes and institutional changes developed in Spain in the late 1960 decade were driving factors of change that encouraged waterfront radicalism in Las Palmas. We

offer a number of oral interviews of dockers made in 2016 where we aim to contrast their testimonies with the academic literature and Archival sources. We explore the way how waterfront radicalism evolved in Las Palmas attending to a global context of structural change on the maritime transport sector.

Fishing in Portugal

Recently our colleague Alvaro Garrido has launched his last book, *As pescas em Portugal*. With 1,610 km. of coastline, Portugal and Fishing are inseparable, as controversy in the fisheries sector is always present. Whether it is because of quotas or the price of fish, of salaries, of or the 'invasion' of foreign boats and fish - the problems seem to have no end in sight. However, what we believe to be a current issue is, in fact, an imbroglio that comes too far behind. The debate on fisheries is vitiated by myths and half-truths about the conditioning of the European Community, the golden age of the Estado Novo or the weight it lost in the economy and demography.

With contributions from fishermen, ship owners, scientists and policy makers, this is a history of Portuguese fisheries and a picture of the current state of the sector in an essay that lays the groundwork for an urgent and serious debate on fisheries in Portugal. You can buy the book and find more information at <https://www.ffms.pt/publicacoes/detalhe/2545/as-pescas-em-portugal>.



DIVERSORUM

A Statue to Jules Durand

Les Amis de Jules Durand is an association dedicated to the memory of Jules DURAND, a social activist sentenced to death for what he was, the secretary of Le Havre's Coal Porters' Union, a CGT affiliate at a time when there was only one central labor federation in France. Durand was sentenced to capital punishment on November 25, 1910. At last, 100 years after the injustice, on 15 June a full-fledged public rehabilitation has been organized and his memory has been honoured as it should.



You can find more information at <https://lesamisdejulesdurand.jimdo.com/>

PLEASE SEND US INFORMATION ABOUT BOOKS, RESEARCH IN PROGRESS, EXHIBITIONS, CONFERENCES OR ANY SUBJECT THAT MIGHT BE OF INTEREST FOR THE GROUP. NEW INFORMATION WILL BE POSTED IN THE NEXT NEWSLETTER.

IF YOU DO NOT WISH TO RECEIVE THIS NEWSLETTER PLEASE SEND AN E-MAIL TO US AND YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS WILL BE DELETED FROM THE LIST OF SUBSCRIBERS.

Enric Garcia, garciade@telefonica.net
Jordi Ibarz: jordi.ibarz@ub.edu