

*MARITIME LABOUR HISTORY
WORKING GROUP
(EUROPEAN LABOR HISTORY
NETWORK)*

Newsletter No 3, 17 June 2016

EUROPEAN LABOUR HISTORY NETWORK – NEXT STOP, PARIS

Dear colleagues,

We are pleased to inform you that the next conference of the European Labour History Network will be held in Paris late October-early November 2017, under the responsibility of the AFHMT (Association française pour l’histoire des mondes du travail).

As a working group, we started our activities in the first conference at Turin, as a part of this Network. We are one of the active groups, so this will be a new opportunity to organize more Maritime Labour History sessions and to do a step forward in our field of research.

We are asked to send our proposals, individual or collective, by September 2016, in order to define a preagenda before the end of 2016 regarding the practical aspects of the organisation of the conference. So please let us know about your intentions so, if you agree, we could built a solid proposal for this conference. It would be necessary to have your feedback before the end of July (only a title and a short abstract of your paper) so we can inform the Organizing Committee before the deadline.

From our side, we believe that the Congress in Turin, was above all a meeting point where we showed some of our recent research. Now we want to move forward and we value the possibility of organizing for the next meeting in Paris discussion around two or three main issues. We can start with a proposal: the issue of responses and adaptation of workers to crisis situation, a topic on which we are currently working. But we are looking forward to hearing your opinion, not only about papers, but also about possible sessions. So please keep this in mind while you prepare your summer holidays and send us your comments, suggestions or ideas.

Proposals should be sent to garcia@telefonica.net or to Jordi.ibarz@ub.edu

CALL FOR PAPERS – INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE AT GREECE, 2017

Dear colleagues,

We have received as well a Call for Papers and an invitation to join another meeting with a Maritime Labour History Session. If we are able to gather enough papers we can organize a session as a Maritime Labour History Working Group. If you are interested please send us a short proposal (name, title, 100 words abstract) before the end of July in order to evaluate the viability of this session. In our opinion, our main effort should be directed at the ELHN conference in Paris. However, if there are enough proposals, we could organize a meeting in Ioannina as well. Please consider it.

3rd International Conference in Economic and Social History: “Labour History: Production, Markets, Relations, Policies” (From the Late Middle Ages to the Early 21st Century). Ioannina, Greece, 24-27 May 2017. Organizing: Greek Economic History Association / University of Ioannina, Faculty of History and Archaeology

The conference aspires to examine the diverse and historically changing types of labour in different geographical areas and state forms, from the Middle Ages to the present day. The perceptions and redefinitions of labour across different systems of Political Economy is another issue we hope to address at the conference. Even though there is no strict geographical limitation, the aim of the conference is to bring to the foreground relevant research carried out for the Mediterranean and the Balkans. Comparative approaches at a national, regional or international level on history, historiography, the theory of labour relations and the history of political economy are welcomed. The scientific committee also welcomes approaches that explore the role of gender, age, ethnicity, race and family in the historical formation of the division of labour, labour relations, labour markets, labour policies and workers’ experiences. The conference revolves around four thematic axes:

- 1. Labour in production:** How did the conditions of production evolve historically in different sectors? The division of labour and wages: how are wages decided? Which are the different forms and systems of payment (e.g. subcontracting, piecework)? How technological change affects labour and professional specialization and skills in agriculture, crafts and industry, in shipping and transport, in trade and the service sector?
- 2. Labour markets:** The historical formation of labour markets at a local, national, regional and international level. The organization and development of migrant flows in response to labour markets.
- 3. Labour relations:** The formation and historical evolution of the regime (institutional, social, ideological) that regulates working conditions. What are the different types and relations of labour historically and how were they expressed (e.g. paid, unpaid, domestic, forced, free, unfree, unformal)? What are the new forms of labour (“flexible”, “precarious”) that tend to become dominant today and how have they occurred historically? How are labour relations established in agriculture, manufacture and the service sector?
- 4. Labour policies:** The state regulatory framework and employer policies for labour. Which are the public and private policies on labour and social protection and how do they change over time? Which factors influence ideas and claims about working conditions in different eras?

WORK IN PROGRESS

Some colleagues in South America are working on the **Segundo Congreso Internacional de la Asociación Latinoamericana e Ibérica de Historia Social. Buenos Aires, Argentina, 1, 2 and 3 March 2017**. In this framework they organize the session **Comunidades obreras en los puertos latinoamericanos: sus trabajadores, experiencias e identidades** (Work Communities in Latinamerican Ports: Workers, Experiences and Identities). The papers are:

“Dockopolis” y la ciudad de los portuarios: trabajo y “comunidad” en Santos, San Pablo”, by Fernando Teixeira da Silva (Professor livre-docente do Departamento de História da Universidade Estadual de Campinas (UNICAMP) e coordenador do Centro de Pesquisa em História Social da Cultura (CECULT-UNICAMP)

“Conflictos, organizaciones obreras e ideologías políticas en los puertos del caribe colombiano, 1900-1930”, by Sergio Paolo Solano D. (Profesor Titular, Programa de Historia, Facultad de Ciencias Humanas, Univ. de Cartagena, Colombia.

“Trabajadores y comunidad en la entrada a la nueva Babel: el puerto de Buenos Aires 1890-1921”, by Laura Caruso, Investigadora CONICET, Instituto de Altos Estudios Sociales, UNSAM, Doctora y Profesora en Historia (UBA) Magister en Historia Social (IDAES-UNSAM), teacher in both institutions.

If you are interested in more information, please contact Laura Caruso: lauracaruso@gmail.com

NEW BOOKS

Jaap R. Bruijn, *Zeegang. Zeevarend Nederland in de achttiende eeuw*, Walburg Pers, Zutphen 2016, 319 p. ill., ISBN 9789462 490987, € 29,75.



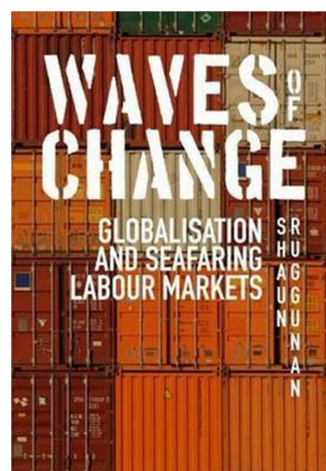
Seamen on Dutch eighteenth-century ships are the topic of this book. They sailed on board fishermen, whaling vessels, as well as on men-of-war, East-Indiamen and ships of the mercantile marine. How did they become a seaman, at what age, how did they find a ship and on what conditions? Life and work on board, but also the home front, has their own chapters.

Autobiographies of ten seamen have been interwoven into the text. Available at:

<https://www.walburgpers.nl/winkel/geschiedenis/zeegang/>

Shaun Ruggunan, *Waves of Change - Globalisation and Seafaring Labour Markets*
Editor: Shaun Ruggunan, ISBN soft cover: 978-0-7969-2518-3, 160 pages, Price: R190.00

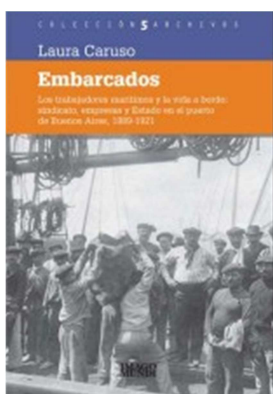
Over 90 per cent of the goods we use - from our smartphones to the fuel in our cars - are transported by ships. The cargo shipping industry is the most globalised industry in the world, yet we know very little about the context in which these ships operate or the ways in which seafaring labour is organised. Drawing on evidence from South Africa and the Philippines, *Waves of Change* provides an account of globalisation, seafaring labour markets and the state that allows us to understand how processes of globalisation unfold in this industry.



The author shows that globalisation does not always mean a 'race to the bottom' for workers: labour solidarity and interventionist states shape globalisation as much as ship owners do. Scholars, policy makers, students and those with a general interest in globalisation and labour will find *Waves of Change* a revelatory account of an industry about which little is generally known.

Available at: <http://www.hsrepress.ac.za/>

Laura Caruso: *Embarcados. Los trabajadores marítimos y la vida a bordo: sindicato, empresas y estado en el puerto de Buenos Aires, 1889-1921*. Imago Mundi, 320 p., ISBN 978-950-793-231-1, \$ 350 ARS



There are many pictures of the port of Buenos Aires, one of the emblematic areas of the city. They are enrolled in the social imaginary and have been repeated at length. They show mainly a tourist scenario, recommended for those who enjoy “bodegones” and “milongas”.

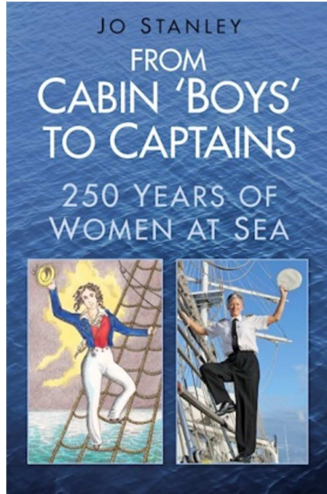
This general conception of the port area contrasts with the actual image of the past that shows the port as a grim and bustling world of work. The story that this book presents is precisely those of the workers in the Buenos Aires port, their daily work, their trade unions and organizations, struggles and political itineraries. The port, at the dawn of the twentieth century, was known to be a space marked by work and conflict. Both port and workers formed early in the century a lively, social, dynamic duo. The inputs and outputs of ships and strikes and demonstrations by workers occupied several columns on the front pages of major newspapers. Also the response of the shipping companies did. This book rescues the stories of maritime and river workers, on board and in the waterfront.

Available at <http://edicionesimagomundi.com/embarcados/>

Jo Stanley, *From Cabin 'Boys' to Captains. 250 years of women at sea.*

ISBN: 9780752488783. Available at http://www.jostanley.biz/women_and_the_sea.html

Traditionally, a woman's place was never on stormy seas. But actually thousands of dancers, purserettes, doctors, stewardesses, captains and conductresses have taken to the waves on



everything from floating palaces to battered windjammers. Their daring story is barely known, even by today's seawomen. From before the 1750s, women fancying an oceangoing life had either to disguise themselves as cabin 'boys' or acquire a cooperative husband with a ship attached. Early pioneers faced superstition and discrimination in the briny 'monasteries'. Today women captain cruise ships as big as towns and work at the highest level in the global maritime industry. This comprehensive exploration looks at the Merchant Navy, comparing it to the Royal Navy in which Wrens only began sailing in 1991. Using interviews and sources never before published, Jo Stanley vividly reveals the incredible journey across time taken by these brave and lively women salts.

**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**

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