

# Aquatic Cartographies: Oceanic Imaginaries, Histories, and Identities

## Universitat de Lleida

### Programme

21st July

9.00-9.30 Registration

**ALL SESSIONS WILL BE HELD IN SALA DE JUNTES (2<sup>ND</sup> Floor)**

**10.00-10.15 Opening Session:** Dean of the Faculty, Dr M. Carme Figuerola Cabrol, Head of Department, Dr Núria Casado Gual, Conference Convenor, Dr Esther Pujolràs Noguer

**10.20 Plenary Lecture 1:**

Tina Steiner, Stellenbosch University  
“Mapping a world in common?”  
Chair: Felicity Hand

**11.15 Coffee Break**

**11.30-13.00 Session 1. East African Cartographies**

Paula García Ramírez, University of Jaén (Spain)  
Mapping the Paths of Memory in Abdulrazak Gurnah’s Early Fiction

Gargi Binju, University of Tübingen (Germany)  
Negotiating identity: Portraiture in the Novel *The Gunny Sack* by M.G. Vassanji

Emma Domínguez-Rué & Maricel Oró-Piqueras, Universitat de Lleida (Spain)  
Mapping Indian Ocean identities from the Perspective of Narrative Gerontology: M.G. Vassanji’s *The Book of Secrets*

**13.00-14.00 Lunch Venue: Cafeteria Lletres – 1st Floor**

**14.00-15.30 Session 2 South Africa – India Connections**

Ruchini Abayakoon, McMaster University (Canada)  
High Tides and Low Tides: A Gendered Analysis of Ocean Crossing in Imraan Coovadia’s *The Wedding*

J. Coplen Rose, McMaster University/University of Toronto/Acadia University (Canada)

Kaleidoscopic Visions of South Africa: A Study of State and Station in Imraan Coovadia's *Tales of the Metric System*

Maurice O'Connor, University of Cádiz (Spain)  
Crosspollination as a Metaphor For Transculturality in the Work of Ronnie Govender.

Laura Gutiérrez González, Autonomous University of Barcelona (Spain)  
"This must be loneliness": Oceanic perspectives in Zoë Wicomb's *Playing in the Light*

### 15.30-15.45 Coffee Break

### 15.45-17.45 Session 3 Indian Ocean Geographies

Juan-José Martín González, University of Málaga (Spain)  
'Nothing in Common, Except the Indian Ocean': Glocalization and the Representation of Lascars in Maritime Fiction

Nikhita Obeegadoo, University of British Columbia Okanagan, Canada  
The Underwater Realm: An Oceanic Approach to Memories of Migration

Ryan Poinasamy, University of the Witwatersrand (South Africa)  
Sinking as Origin: The Histories, Presents, and Futures of the Mauritian Islands

Nasra Smith, Johannes Gutenberg Universität (Germany)  
Sea Nomadism: The Somali Worlds of the Indian Ocean

### 18.00-19.00 Plenary Lecture 2

Kumari Issur, University of Mauritius  
"Cartographies of the Imaginary, Imaginary Cartographies: The Indian Ocean in Question"  
Chair: Esther Pujolràs Noguera

### 19.00 Wine Reception

## 22nd July

### 9.00-10.30 Session 4 Ecocritical Readings

Juan Ignacio Oliva, University of La Laguna (Spain)  
Environmental Liminality in Pacific & Indian Ocean Waters: A Comparative Study of Craig Santos's & Meena Alexander's Liquid Identity

Mattia Mantellato, University of Udine (Italy) The Whale and the Girl: A Reading of Witi Ihimaera's *The Whale Rider* from a Blue and Partnership Perspective

Anna Clifton, University of Oviedo (Spain)  
An Ecocritical Reading of Arthurian Sea Monsters in Alfred Lord Tennyson's *The Kraken*

### 10.30-10.45 Coffee Break

### 10.45- 12.15 Plenary lecture 3

Imraan Coovadia , University of Cape Town  
"The Crossing of Animals from the Water to the Land"

Chair: J. Coplen Rose

### 12.30-13.30 Lunch

### 13.30- 15.00 Session 5 Oceans in Conversation

Mónica Fernández Jiménez, University of Valladolid (Spain)  
Resilience and the Archipelago in the Poetry of Edward Kamau Brathwaite

M<sup>a</sup> Isabel Santaulària & Agnès Guardiola, Universitat de Lleida (Spain)  
Islandness and Gender in Scott O'Dell's Children Classic *Island of the Blue Dolphins*

Amanda Jones, University of Lleida (Spain)  
Privilege of Disengagement: The Absence of the Black Atlantic in Afropolitan Novels

### 15.00-15.30 Coffee Break

### 15.30-17.00 Session 6 Homelands & Belonging

Isabel Alonso-Breto, University of Barcelona (Spain)  
Relentless Waves of Signification: Aquatic Embodiments and Metaphors in Lankan Literature

Juan Miguel Zarandona, University of Valladolid (Spain)  
Naipaul, Ondaatje, and Vassanji's Returns to their Indian Ocean Homelands – from an in-between World to an in-among One

Grace Mariam Raju, Jamia Millia Islamia University, Delhi (India).  
Problematizing Half-Caste: Introspecting Creolization in Select Malayalam Fictions

### 17.30-18.00 Performance by Mattia Mantellato: The Schooner Flight

### 20.00 Conference Dinner

**23rd July**

**10.00 Guided tour of the city**