



**global dis  
:connect**



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**Call for Papers**  
**International Workshop**  
"Oceans Disconnect"

**Place & date:** Munich, 21-22 November 2022

**Host institution:** Käte Hamburger Research Centre *global dis:connect*, LMU Munich

**Organisers:** David Armitage (Harvard), Sujit Sivasundaram (Cambridge), Roland Wenzlhuemer (Munich)

**Call for Papers**

The Käte Hamburger Research Centre "Dis:connectivity in processes of globalisation" (*global dis:connect*) at the Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität (LMU) Munich invites paper proposals for the international workshop "Oceans Disconnect" to take place in Munich on 21 and 22 November 2022.

"Oceans connect" was the motto of the first wave of oceanic history in the 1990s: journal issues bore the title, as did a germinal research group. The slogan reflected the explicit ambition of its practitioners to go beyond the nation-state but also encoded the implicit teleological logic of globalisation at the time: that the world was becoming one, that barriers and borders were melting into air, and that the fluidity of "liquid modernity" began with, and upon, the ocean as a matrix of integrative processes. Accordingly, over the past three decades, the rapidly expanding historical literature on oceans and seas has traditionally been framed around the geographical units of the world's water bodies; it has been directed towards tracking long-distance connections, so as to problematise the political and specialist organisation of historical knowledge around "nation", "area" and "civilisation."

Yet the promise of the first, boosterish, phase of oceanic history has lately ebbed. Globalisation now looks more reversible and halting. And transnational historians more generally are examining disconnection rather than connection as a dynamic in world history. Along these lines, new work in oceanic history is insisting on particularity, friction, interruption, materiality and resistance. There is growing attention to the critical foundations of connection, where people, things, ideas, legal systems, could demonstrate instability, violence, and invisibility at the very nodes of globalisation. And historians are increasingly focusing on the choke-points within the

world's oceans: straits and narrows, gulfs and bays; pirates' nests and contested waters; natural disaster and commercial risk; closed seas and maritime limits, among other topics. This conference, hosted by the new Käte Hamburger Research Centre, with its innovative focus on *dis:connection*, and also by two leading scholars of the Indian, Pacific and Atlantic Oceans, will interrogate the underside of connection and the dynamics of disconnection in oceanic history.

Possible topics include but are not limited to the following:

- International law and the sea
- Risk, warfare and blockade
- Migration, refugees and the sea
- Trade, piracy, smuggling and the sea
- The environmental emergency and the sea
- Quarantine, disease and the sea
- Resistance and anti-colonialism at sea
- Islands, straits and maritime chokepoints

The workshop specifically focuses on the modern period, but contributions from other periods of observation are welcome. We especially welcome submissions from early-career researchers.

### **Modalities**

Proposal should include a provisional paper title, a short CV, and a paper abstract of not more than 300 words. Please send these documents in one PDF file to [gdc@lrz.uni-muenchen.de](mailto:gdc@lrz.uni-muenchen.de) by 15 May 2022. The workshop is funded by the Käte Hamburger Research Centre *global dis:connect*. For active participants, economy travel costs and accommodation for the duration of the workshop will be covered by the centre. The workshop is planned as an on-site event but there will be the opportunity to join virtually, if need arises.

### **The Käte Hamburger Research Centre**

The centre explores from international and transdisciplinary perspectives the interdependent, complex relationship between global interconnectedness, lack of interconnectedness and disentanglement in historical and contemporary globalisation processes. To find out more about the aims of the centre, please visit the website at [www.globaldisconnect.org](http://www.globaldisconnect.org).