

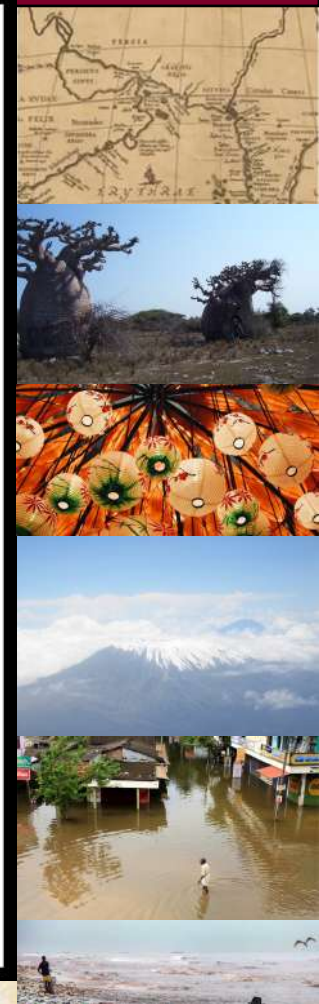
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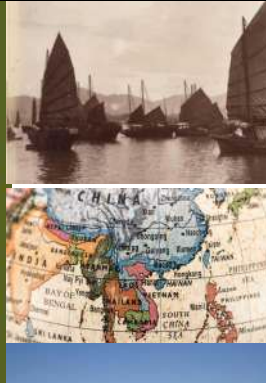
# The Indian Ocean World Centre 10th Anniversary Report 2011-2021

McGill UNIVERSITY

IOWC  
INDIAN OCEAN WORLD CENTRE



**AFRICA AND THE INDIAN OCEAN WORLD FROM EARLY TIMES TO CIRCA 1900**  
GWYN CAMPBELL  
New Approaches to African History



**AFRICAN STUDIES**  
**AN ECONOMIC HISTORY OF IMPERIAL MADAGASCAR, 1750-1895**  
*The Rise and Fall of an Island Empire*  
GWYN CAMPBELL



**PALGRAVE SERIES IN INDIAN OCEAN WORLD STUDIES**  
**Animal Trade Histories in the Indian Ocean World**  
Edited by Martha Chaikin, Philip Gooding, Gwyn Campbell

**PALGRAVE SERIES IN INDIAN OCEAN WORLD STUDIES**  
**Disease Dispersion and Impact in the Indian Ocean World**  
Edited by Gwyn Campbell, Eva-Maria Knoll



**The Travels of Robert Lyall, 1789-1831**  
Scottish Surgeon, Naturalist and British Agent to the Court of Madagascar  
Gwyn Campbell





## Indian Ocean World Centre: 10th Anniversary Report (2011-21)

The Indian Ocean World Centre (IOWC) was named an official McGill University Research Centre in 2011. Since then, it has gained international recognition as the leading centre in Indian Ocean World (IOW) studies, engaging with global partners in pioneering multidisciplinary research, notably on past-to-present environmental and climatic events, disease, slavery, production and trade. By attracting a growing number of undergraduate and doctoral students, postdoctoral fellows and other emerging scholars, as well as senior researchers, it has become a multicultural hub of activities, including research, workshops, conferences, and a speaker series, resulting in a Graduate Working Paper Series, the launch of the *Journal of Indian Ocean World Studies (JIEWS)*, and – in collaboration with publisher Palgrave MacMillan – the Palgrave Series in Indian Ocean World Studies, as well as web-based podcasts and webinars.

In all, through its ongoing activities, international research collaborations, and publications, the centre has significantly augmented the international profile of McGill as a research university.

This report summarizes the gamut of the IOWC's activities and successes over the first 10 years of its existence. We hope it will inform our primary goal moving forward: to develop strategies and attract support for a bid to make the IOWC a permanent institution at McGill University, one which will solidify the vision of an eventful decade and ensure the Centre's continued existence.

### IOWC Board

Chair, Interim Dean of Arts	Mary Hunter
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Provost	Christopher Manfredi
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This report was compiled and edited by Renée Manderville in conjunction with IOWC director, Gwyn Campbell, past and present IOWC PhD students and postdoctoral fellows, and IOWC personnel.

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# What is the IOW?

## The Indian Ocean World:

The Indian Ocean World comprises the area of the globe that is affected by the planet's largest monsoon system. Historically, this macro-region constituted an environmentally coherent entity sustaining interconnected societies in an economic world-system.



*The Indian Ocean World System*

## Contemporary IOW Countries include...

- |                     |                    |                        |
|---------------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| • Aghanistan        | Kenya              | • Rwanda               |
| • Australia         | • Kuwait           | • Saudi Arabia         |
| • Azerbaijan        | • Kyrgyzstan       | • Seychelles           |
| • Bahrain           | • Laos             | • Singapore            |
| • Bangladesh        | • Lebanon          | • Somalia              |
| • Bhutan            | • Lesotho          | • South Africa         |
| • Botswana          | • Macao            | • South Korea          |
| • Brunei Durassalam | • Madagascar       | • South Sudan          |
| • Burundi           | • Malawi           | • Sri Lanka            |
| • Cambodia          | • Malaysia         | • Sudan                |
| • China             | • Maldives         | • Swaziland            |
| • Comoros           | • Mauritius        | • Syria                |
| • Djibouti          | • Mayotte          | • Taiwan               |
| • Egypt             | • Mongolia         | • Tajikistan           |
| • Eritrea           | • Mozambique       | • Tanzania             |
| • Ethiopia          | • Myanmar          | • Thailand             |
| • Georgia           | • Nepal            | • Timor-Leste          |
| • Hong Kong         | • New Zealand      | • Turkey               |
| • India             | • North Korea      | • Turkmenistan         |
| • Indonesia         | • Oman             | • Uganda               |
| • Iran              | • Pakistan         | • United Arab Emirates |
| • Iraq              | • Palestine        | • Vietnam              |
| • Israel            | • Papua New Guinea | • Yemen                |
| • Japan             | • Philippines      | • Zambia               |
| • Jordan            | • Qatar            | • Zimbabwe             |
| • Kazakhstan        | • Réunion          |                        |

**Climate change is an alarming reality, with rising sea levels and increasingly intense droughts – often accompanied by crop failure, famine, conflict over natural resources, and migration.**

### **Climate Change and the IOW**

Of the ten countries most at risk to climate change, six lie in the Indian Ocean World (IOW), a macro-region running from Africa through the Middle East, South and Southeast Asia to China. The IOW, which contains most of the world's population, is the region most vulnerable to several diseases, such as malaria, cholera, and the plague. It is also the focus of the planet's major conflict flashpoints — which can be acutely exacerbated by adverse environmental factors. Environmental change in the IOW is thus of major economic, political and humanitarian concern.

The IOW is profoundly affected by a complex interplay between human and environmental factors — notably the monsoons, El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO), cyclones and volcanism. As such, it offers a unique laboratory in which to explore how humans have coped with environmental crises over time.

Six of the greatest periods of environmental crises in the IOW from the mid-sixth century CE to the present day are as follows:

- 530 – 800 CE
- 1330 – 1370 CE
- 1630 – 1660 CE
- 1780 – 1820 CE
- 1880 – 1900 CE
- 2000 – present

These crisis periods are characterized by significant climate change, volcanic eruptions, tsunamis, droughts, floods, epidemic disease, socio-economic instability, mass migration, and high mortality.

### **The Development of the IOW Macro-Region**

This macro-region witnessed the early emergence of major centres of production and a monsoon-based system of transoceanic trade that led to the emergence by ca 300 BCE of a sophisticated and durable system of long-distance exchange of commodities, monies, technology, ideas, and people. The IOW was thus home to the first “global” economy, one that dominated the macro-region until at least the mid-eighteenth century and which is again resurgent.

Today, the IOW comprises 50 per cent of the planet's population, and contains fast developing countries, notably China which is poised to overtake the USA as the world's leading economy.



Mui Ne, Vietnam, 2019

# WHAT IS THE IOWC

INDIAN OCEAN WORLD CENTRE

The Indian Ocean World Centre (IOWC) at McGill University is a research initiative and resource base established by Professor **Gwyn Campbell** to promote the study of the history, economy, and cultures of the Indian Ocean world (IOW) – from China to Southeast and South Asia, the Middle East and Africa.

## History of the IOWC

The IOWC, recognised as an official McGill research centre in 2011, can trace its origins to the Indian Ocean Project (IOP), established by Gwyn Campbell in 1993 at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa.

The IOP established a programme in Indian Ocean studies and organized an international conference, “France, Southern Africa and the Indian Ocean”, co-sponsored by the South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA) and l’Institut français d’Afrique du sud (IFAS). As founder of the IOP, Campbell was invited to advise the South African Government in negotiations with a number of Indian Ocean countries (including Australia, India, and Mauritius), which resulted in the formation of an Indian Ocean regional association in 1997.

The IOP was reborn in 1999 as the Association pour l’étude de l’Afrique et les pays de l’Océan Indien (AAOI) at the University of Avignon, France. There, it helped to establish an academic programme on North-South relations and organized five international conferences on slavery, resulting in several publications.

Following Campbell’s appointment as a Canada Research Chair at McGill University in 2005, the AAOI became the Indian Ocean World Centre (IOWC) based at McGill. The IOWC’s inaugural conference, “Sex, Power and Slavery,” held at McGill in April 2007, constituted the ninth such international conference organized under the auspices of a research association now entering its sixteenth year.

## Peterson Hall, McGill



Since its inauguration in 2011, the IOWC has been based here.

# Braudel's Revolutionary Approach



Fernand Braudel ( 1902-1985 )

The IOWC pursues an interdisciplinary approach inspired by French historian Fernand Braudel (1902–1985), who posited history as an ongoing interaction between human and natural forces, encompassing geography, environment, climate, and disease.

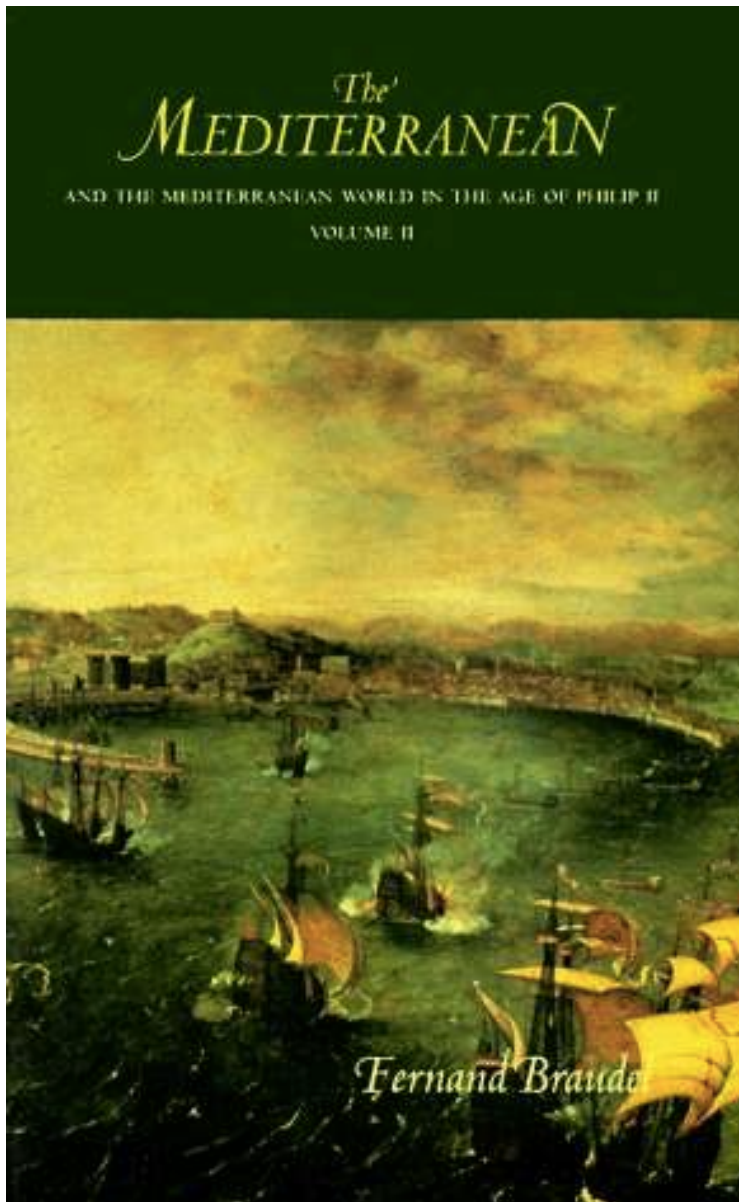
The Centre's current research priorities include:

- **The rise and development of the first global economy**
- **Human migration and diaspora in the IOW**
- **Systems of IOW bondage and human trafficking**
- **Trans-IOW exchange of commodities technology and ideas**

## The Annales School

Under the direction of Fernand Braudel, the Annales School of history promoted a new form of history, one that replaced the study of leaders with the lives of ordinary people, and conventional histories focusing on politics, diplomacy, and wars with inquiries into climate, demography, agriculture, commerce, technology, transportation, and communication, as well as social groups and mentalities.

Braudel was interested first and foremost in the **environment** in which the people lived, its climate and its impact, its geographical features, its mountains and plains, the sea, its rivers, roads, and towns. Within this context, he studied the long term rhythm of “geographic time” with the rapid rhythm of “individual time” and the movement of peoples and their ideas.



*Introducing...*

# *Prof. Gwyn Campbell*

*Director of the IOWC and the Appraising Risk Partnership*



“ The Indian Ocean World Centre (IOWC) is a pioneering project, the first of its kind in academe. Since how and why the Centre came into existence has a lot to do with my own personal journey, I will start at the beginning. I was born in Fianarantsoa, a town in the southern highlands of Madagascar, where my Welsh parents were posted as missionaries. When I was three, they returned to Britain, and I grew up in southwest Wales. However, my early memories of Madagascar remained strong and when I undertook doctoral research in economic history, the large island in the Indian Ocean, 2.5 times larger than the UK, seemed a natural choice.

Between high school and university, I spent fourteen months on Voluntary Service Overseas, teaching English in a Ramakrishna Mission school at Narendrapur, just outside Calcutta. During a year of massive floods and a refugee crisis due to the Bangladesh War, I participated in the Ramakrishna Mission’s relief programme, in one case taking food by boat to villages in the Bengal Plain isolated by flood water, and in another handing out rice and dal to inmates of a camp on the border of Bangladesh for refugees fleeing the conflict. Such events, the dire poverty witnessed in and around Calcutta, and the activities of the revolutionary Naxalite movement, made a deep impression, causing me to question religion and politics, notably colonialism, neo-colonialism and international capitalism. And in conversation with my Indian colleagues, comparisons with Wales, the oldest English colonial

conquest, inevitably arose. I lost my Christian faith and, realising that there was no contradiction with internationalism, became a convert to Welsh independence.

Returning home, I enrolled in social work at the University of Birmingham, and spent six months working with Protestant and Catholic children in inner Belfast, then in the midst of “the troubles.” However, the practical, UK-centric university courses had nothing to say about the reasons for global poverty and inequality, so I dropped out for a time, working as a labourer. When I re-enrolled it was to study economic history, under Peter Cain and Tony Hopkins, whose lectures on the economic history of West Africa (Hopkins), and British imperialism (Cain and Hopkins) set the course of my future work.

My dream to land a university position in Wales proved impossible in Thatcher’s Britain, where job prospects were dismal. I worked as a Radio Producer for BBC Wales, then as director of an adult education centre in Cardiff before obtaining a university post at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg. Living in Southern Africa, teaching the economic history of Sub-Saharan Africa and Madagascar, made me increasingly aware of the region’s wider Indian Ocean connections, from Indonesia to East Africa. In the early 1990s, I accepted an invitation to be an advisor to the South African government in the Indian Ocean Rim (IOR) Economic Association, an inter-governmental initiative to foster regional economic cooperation in which South Africa, India, Australia and Mauritius were the principal members. In 1997, the IOR became the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA), which is now the main regional group spanning the Indian Ocean, with 22 member states.

Moving to Avignon University, France in 1995, I launched a series of conferences on slavery attended by top international scholars, including Paul Lovejoy, Joseph Miller, Martin Klein, Suzanne Miers, Abdul Sheriff, Indrani Chatterjee, Anthony Reid, William Clarence-Smith, Edward Alpers, Pier Larson and Richard Allen. These ground-breaking conferences led to the formation of an Indian Ocean World Association (AAOI) to foster research into slavery and the wider history of the IOW.





Gwyn (second from right) in East Africa on a McGill "African Field Study Semester" (AFSS) in 2007. Pictured with Sylvanos Otieno (on the right), an AFSS Adjunct, and Canadian students.

A slate of publications and connections led to an invitation to join the history department at McGill University in 2004. In 2005, I was awarded a Canada Research Chair in Indian Ocean World history which included space for a research team, and in 2011 the project was accorded official status as the Indian Ocean World Centre (IOWC).

My research increasingly pointed to the significance of environmental and climatic events in the history of the Indian Ocean World (IOW). Central to the entire macro-region, from East Africa to East Asia is the monsoon system. The Indian Ocean, and Indonesian and China seas are, unlike the Pacific and Atlantic oceans, capped to their north by the world's largest continent – Asia. When the Asian continent warms in summer, hot air rises, creating a vacuum that sucks in moist air from the maritime zones to its south, which creates the southwest monsoon. In the northern hemisphere winter, the Asian landmass cools, pushing air south, creating the northeast monsoons. This giant monsoon phenomenon is unique to the IOW. However, the monsoons are variable. Scientific research is increasingly demonstrating that other environmental factors, such as the El Niño–Southern Oscillation (ENSO), significantly influence the monsoons. This is of vital historical and current concern in the IOW, the world's most populous region, where up to the present-day the majority of people of the region are engaged in agriculture, for cultivation in the littoral regions and much of hinterland Asia, depends on monsoon rainfall. Should the monsoons fail, as they have periodically in the past, it can bring about harvest failure, famine, epidemic disease, and migration. Global warming makes this an ever-growing threat.

This forms the background for the IOWC's innovative international collaborative research programme into past-to-present patterns of human-environment interaction in the IOW. From 2010-19, we were awarded a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) Major Collaborative Research Initiative (MCRI) grant of \$2.5 million for a project entitled "The Indian Ocean

World: The Making of the First Global Economy in the Context of Human-Environment Interaction." This work became the basis for our current SSHRC Partnership grant of similar structure and value, entitled "Appraising Risk, Past and Present: Interrogating Historical Data to Enhance Understanding of Environmental Crises in the Indian Ocean World".

The effort required to land such grants is enormous. Competition is stiff, meaning months of work often leads to failure, discouraging many applicants from trying again. Although success is sweet, the management and direction of such grants is a hugely demanding challenge, as there is little money for administration of an operation which typically involves dozens of international scholars and teams of graduate students. The paperwork and reporting alone is a crushing burden.

Nevertheless, the IOWC's research focus has become increasingly important. We find ourselves on the frontier of topics such as climate change and global warming, which are of immense academic and public interest. What began in my own life as an attempt to understand the world outside the horizons of a provincial settlement in the southern highlands of Madagascar, and an equally particular neighbourhood in England's first colony – Wales – has now become a subject of wide importance, even urgency.

This **10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Review of the IOWC** documents the calibre and strength of participating students, emerging scholars and established researchers in what we hope will be recognised as an important contribution to an urgently needed understanding of economic and environmental forces as planet earth struggles to survive. The IOWC's success in winning grants for truly innovative and pertinent research projects, creating international multidisciplinary research networks embracing students, emerging scholars and established researchers, hosting seminars, conferences, and a speaker series, launching an academic podcast series and open-access peer reviewed journal is hereby documented. These initiatives reflect a dynamic, innovative, world class research centre of which we trust that McGill University, Quebec, and Canada can be proud.

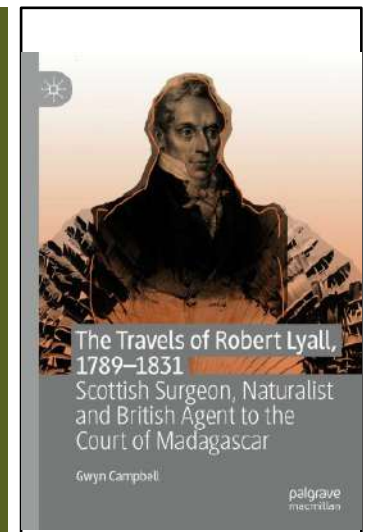
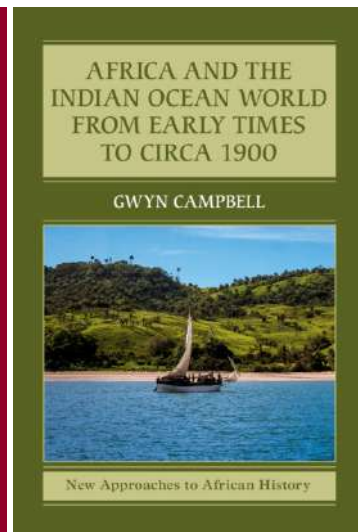
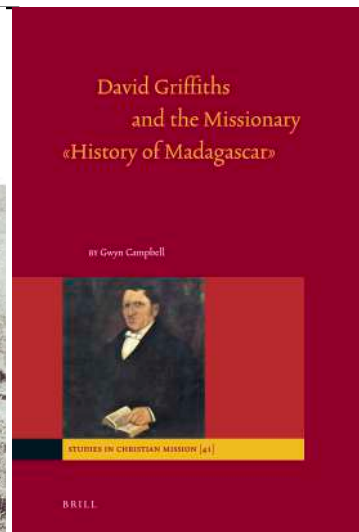
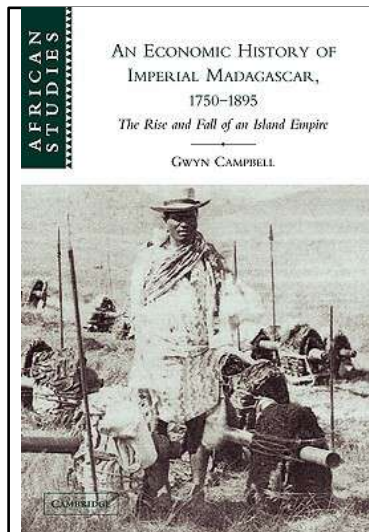


Despite the IOWC's many successes, its existence is precarious, dependent on our constant effort and success at winning grants. Were we to stop pushing that wheel up the hill, the IOWC would quickly collapse. On this, its 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, it is vital that we secure permanent operating funding for the Centre. It is my greatest hope that we will find external sponsors, and support from within McGill, to ensure the IOWC's future by transforming it into a permanent institution, part of McGill's prestigious network of research institutes, thereby ensuring the legacy of an innovative and worthwhile achievement.



### Published Monographs:

2020	<i>The Travels of Robert Lyall, 1789-1831. Scottish Surgeon, Naturalist and British Agent to the Court of Madagascar</i> (Cham, Switzerland: Palgrave Macmillan).
2019	<i>Africa and the Indian Ocean World from early times to 1900</i> (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press).
2012	<i>David Griffiths and the Missionary 'History of Madagascar'</i> (Leiden: Brill)
2005	<i>An Economic History of Imperial Madagascar, 1750-1895: The Rise and Fall of an Island Empire</i> (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press).



*“A powerful book made more impactful by its timeliness. It is a historical book that deepens our understanding of the ecological implications of colonialism, while simultaneously supporting new scholarship on extremely important, contemporary issues around social justice, disenfranchised communities, and role played by African peoples in the process of shaping the modern world.”*

- Krish Seetah, African Archaeological Review (2021) discussing Dr.Campbell's 2019 publication of *Africa and the Indian Ocean World From Early Times to Circa 1900*.

### Forthcoming Monographs:

2025	<i>The Monsoon World: An Environmental History of the Indian Ocean from Earliest Times to Twenty-First Century</i> , forthcoming – commissioned by Cambridge University Press.
2023	<i>Historical Dictionary of Madagascar</i> forthcoming - commissioned by Rowman & Littlefield.
2022	<i>The Madagascar Youths: British Alliances and Military Expansion in the Indian Ocean Region</i> (Cambridge University Press), in press.

# Meet the IOWC Team: Past and Present Postdoctoral Fellows



Since 2021, **Julie Babin** is a postdoctoral fellow at the Indian Ocean World Centre

“My doctoral research has focused on shaping and supporting Japanese Arctic policy from a national as well as local perspective, notably that of the Northern Prefecture of Hokkaido

During my post-doctoral fellowship at the IOWC, I am researching the ecological, economic and political consequences of climate change in the Arctic for South and South-East Asia.

I discovered the IOWC by researching multidisciplinary research centres located in Canada that focussed on Asia and the impacts there of climate change.”



Since 2018, **Philip Gooding** is a postdoctoral fellow at the Indian Ocean World Centre and a Course Lecturer in the History and Classical Studies department at McGill University.

“Since 2018, I have been a postdoctoral fellow at the IOWC, although I started attending its speaker series from 2015. My reasons for originally getting involved were almost circumstantial - I moved to Montreal during my doctoral studies. Once I settled, I discovered the IOWC, and I

increasingly became drawn to its vibrant research culture. But, as I came to discover, the work being done at the IOWC was highly relevant to my research.

Working at the IOWC encouraged me to expand my geographical focus. Having originally been trained as an Africanist, I now see my research in a much wider light, examining how eastern Africa has been affected by (and has affected) 'global' processes, many of which are rooted in the history of the wider Indian Ocean World. My work at the IOWC has led me to think about the influence of global climatic systems, global religions, wider systems of bondage, and more in eastern Africa.

The most rewarding research I have conducted at the IOWC was on the effects of the 1876-8 El Niño-Indian Ocean Dipole event on eastern African history. My work at the IOWC enabled me to link this global climatic anomaly to a range of phenomena in eastern Africa, including an epidemic, an epizootic,

technological developments, migration, labour, and political instability.

Readers should also look forward to my forthcoming outputs. The first is a monograph entitled, *On the Frontiers of the Indian Ocean World: A history of Lake Tanganyika, c.1830-1890*, which stems from my doctoral research but was written at the IOWC, and will soon be published by Cambridge University Press. I also have an edited volume under contract with Palgrave entitled *Droughts, Floods, and Global Climatic Anomalies in the Indian Ocean World*. Further outputs will come from my ongoing project, “Climate history and human-environment interaction in equatorial eastern Africa, c.1780-1900,” which is partly funded by a SSHRC Insight Development Grant.”



**Archisman Chaudhuri** was a postdoctoral fellow at the IOWC in 2019-21. His research focused on a comparative analysis of coeval ENSO-induced droughts and their impact in South Asia and South-East Asia in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries during the more severe part of the Little Ice Age. His most recent investigation was into smallpox outbreaks in island South-East Asia in the seventeenth century. Further, he contributed actively to all IOWC events.

Although he has left to take up a Hakluyt Society Research Grant to undertake research at the British Library and National Archives, Kew, into English diplomat and politician, Sir William Norris (1658-1702), Archisman continues to be involved in the IOWC Podcast series and the editorial team of the JIOWS.

“My tenure at the IOWC and association with Prof. Gwyn Campbell helped me nuance my understanding of the role of climate and human-environment interaction. Climatic anomalies and their impact have played critical roles in the history of Indian Ocean World societies. ENSO significantly affects climate across the IOW. Studying ENSO events and their differential impact across a broad region helped me understand how climatic factors interact with human involvement in their impact upon societies. I learnt this not only from my own research, but also from the podcasts that I had the opportunity to organize and the

weekly seminar lectures that I chaired in the winter semester of 2020. The latter form some of my best memories at the IOWC. The occasional classes that I taught on the VOC in the Indian Ocean World were also a great learning experience.

On the whole, my tenure at the IOWC has been rewarding in several ways. One, it provided me with a proper initiation into the exciting domain of environmental history and its methodology. Two, the IOWC’s interdisciplinary approach and focus on the study of human-environment interaction from multiple perspectives has helped me. Three, the opportunity to serve as an editor for the *Journal of Indian Ocean World Studies* and the *Indian Ocean Working Paper Series* gave me a training that I had not experienced before. As an early career researcher, it has been a pleasure working at the IOWC.”



**Alastair McClure**, IOWC postdoctoral fellow, 2018-19

“Working at the Indian Ocean Centre from 2018-19 was my first position as a postdoctoral researcher. This is a difficult and at times uncertain period for junior scholars, however the IOWC was a great place to make this transition.

While at the centre I worked on a series of group projects

under the guidance of Professor Campbell. This included a series of funding grants as well as joining the editorial board at the *Journal of Indian Ocean World Studies*. Alongside this collaborative work, I also continued my own research. For this, I was able to submit an article for publication at *Modern Asian Studies* while making progress on my book project. This experience (and time) was vital in preparing me for the academic job market.

More broadly, in bringing together scholars working on different regions of the Indian Ocean World who may otherwise not have the opportunity to meet, the centre constitutes an incredibly productive intellectual space. In my case, this has culminated in an ongoing research project examining the deportation of refugees

and deserters between Ottoman-British Empires. These are connections I would not otherwise have been able to make, and are representative of the importance of keeping such unique spaces alive and well-funded!

After leaving the IOWC, I spent a year at the University of Chicago as a postdoctoral research fellow, before starting a tenure-track position at the University of Hong Kong. I look back very fondly at my time at the IOWC, which prepared me in a number of ways for future challenges within academia. Congratulations on the ten years, and best of luck with the next decade!”



**Zozan Pehlivan, IOWC**  
*postdoctoral fellow, 2016-18*

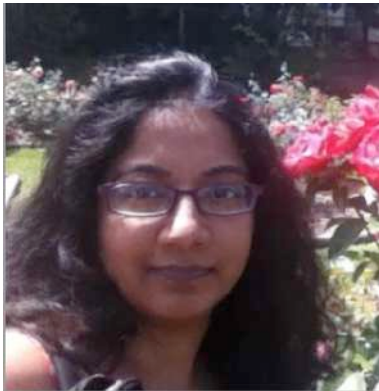
“At the IOWC, I investigated nineteenth-century ENSO-related climatic crises and

their impacts in the western Indian Ocean World, particularly in the Middle East. "El Nino in the Middle East" was the title of my project.

My two-year fellowship at the IOWC allowed me to expand my research beyond the Middle East. The IOWC was an excellent venue to meet scholars working on different parts of the Indian Ocean World, while the IOWC Speaker Series provided a great opportunity not only to meet scholars and learn more about their recent research, but also to engage in discussion and debate. During my fellowship, I worked closely with the IOWC team on the SSHRC

Partnership Grant proposal. That was a very good experience in terms of learning about multi-year research projects.

After completing my two-year postdoctoral fellowship at the IOWC, I joined the History department at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities. I was The Harry Frank Guggenheim Distinguished Scholar (2020); and am the McKnight Land-Grant Professor for 2021-2023. Currently, I am working on my book manuscript, entitled, ‘A Climate of Violence: Environmental Crises in Late Ottoman Empire’.”



**Yoshina Hurgobin, IOWC**  
*postdoctoral fellow, 2016-17*

“I first encountered the Indian Ocean World Centre in 2012 when I presented my work on malaria and labour migration

at an IOWC Graduate Conference. Four years later, I was awarded an IOWC postdoctoral fellowship to study ‘Epidemics, Epidemiology and Labour Migration in the Indian Ocean World.’ It was an intellectually stimulating time. I had the good fortune to contribute to the application for a research grant the IOWC was preparing, and to teach classes on slavery in the Indian Ocean world. The insights Gwyn has provided at different stages of my writing and thinking have been most helpful. Moreover, the IOWC provides an excellent space in which to debate Indian Ocean studies. After completing my postdoctoral research

fellowship in August 2017, I was appointed to my current position as Assistant Professor of History (South Asia) at Kennesaw State University.”



Gwyn with Yoshina at her parents’ home in Mauritius in 2014, after visiting the island’s National Archives



**Rashed Choudhury, IOWC**  
*postdoctoral fellow, 2012-13 and 2014-16*

“Since 2019, I have been an Assistant Professor at the Department of Political Science and International Relations at Manisa Celal Bayar University in Manisa, Turkey. Being a historian by training, I am part of the Diplomatic History branch of the department.

My research while working at the IOWC was, broadly, on ‘The Russian

Role in the Indian Ocean World in the Late Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Centuries’. My aim was to tease out the numerous ways in which the Russian Empire and its subjects interacted with the Indian Ocean World, a topic that was and remains understudied, at least in the English language. As part of my work, I conducted archival research in London, Moscow, Odessa, St Petersburg and Vladivostok with SSHRC funding provided to me by the IOWC. [continued on next page]

## Rashed Choudhury

[Continued from Previous Page]

My postdoctoral fellowship at the IOWC and the year I spent as acting co-director of the Centre gave me extremely valuable experience, both in research and in administrative tasks, such as editing, and organising conferences and the Speaker Series. My book chapter on Russian medical diplomacy in Ethiopia, produced under the auspices of the IOWC, was also well received. All of that helped

me to obtain, and has served me well, in my current position.

Gwyn has inspired me with what is sure to be a lifelong interest in the Indian Ocean World, and I hope to make further scholarly contributions to the field in the years ahead based on the extensive archival material I gathered during my postdoctoral fellowship, as well as material I plan to gather in future. Gwyn has also served as an invaluable exemplar of mentorship and collegiality. The energy that he puts into guiding junior

colleagues in their research is extraordinary, and inspires me to serve as a mentor to my junior colleagues to the degree that I am capable of. Lastly, as a member of the Conference Organisation Committee of my department this academic year, I have tried to apply the lessons learned under Gwyn's guidance at the IOWC of maintaining an active programme of regular talks and discussions in order to share research findings and open up future research possibilities.”



**Dr. Anna Winterbottom, IOWC postdoctoral fellow, 2012-14**

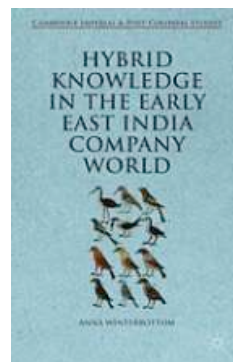
“I was a postdoctoral fellow at the IOWC between 2012 and 2014. At the IOWC my research focus was the 'Histories of Medicine and Healing in the Indian Ocean World.' I also spent time in Sri Lanka doing fieldwork for a project on Sri Lankan medical objects in museum collections. I gained a valuable understanding of

these objects through working with curators and scholars in Sri Lanka. This research has resulted in an article I published in the journal *Asian Medicine* and a chapter to appear in a forthcoming Routledge book, *Routledge Introduction to Early Modern Medicine*..

I remained a research associate throughout my British Academy fellowship at the Centre for World Environmental History at the University of Sussex, UK (2014-2018). I have now returned to McGill to work with a research project based in the Blacker-Wood library ('Women, Environment, and Networks of Empire, 2019-2022').”

Being at the IOWC helped me to develop a new project following my PhD, which I continued during my fellowship at Sussex. I organised an international conference while a post-

doctoral fellow at the IOWC and with encouragement from Professor Campbell, published the papers as a two-volume edited book (*Histories of Medicine and Healing in the Indian Ocean World*, Palgrave, 2015). This was co-edited with Dr. Facil Tesfaye, then a PhD student at the IOWC.



**Anna Winterbottom, *Hybrid Knowledge in the early East India Company World* (New York: Palgrave MacMillan, 2016)**



**Hideaki Suzuki, IOWC postdoctoral fellow, 2012-14**

“I became involved with the IOWC as a visiting researcher for the Japan Society for Promoting Science Overseas between 2012 and 2014. My research focus at the IOWC continued that which I began as a PhD student, which explored the environmental aspects of the nineteenth-century Western Indian Ocean slave trade. By 2010, IOWC was advanced compared to other centres in that it had already started a Major Collaborative

Research Initiative (MCRI) on the Indian Ocean World, so beginning my post-doc there in 2012 provided a great opportunity to engage with extensive collected data to enhance my understanding of the environmental aspects of the subject.

After a two-year post-doc, my experience at the IOWC had far surpassed my expectations. My fellow

[Continued at top of next page]

## Hideaki Suzuki

[Continued from Previous Page]

researchers at the IOWC and Gwyn-sensei were always very positive and motivated, even during dark and cold winters in Montreal! I also was fortunate to meet renowned scholars, whose research was relevant to my work during a series of conferences

held at the IOWC (Montreal), Ghent, Perth, Tokyo etc.

Wide ranging spatial, temporal, and interdisciplinary research is a unique and pervasive characteristic of the IOWC, a remarkable quality of the centre which is largely attributable to Gwyn-sensei.

On leaving the IOWC in 2014, I was appointed as a lecturer at Nagasaki University, and have since moved to the National Museum of Ethnology, Osaka, Japan, where I work as a professor. The multidisciplinary perspective that I acquired at the IOWC has been invaluable to me in Japan, a prized possession that I hold dear.”

“I am currently lecturer in Turkish at the Institute of Islamic Studies, McGill University. I have been teaching the entire Turkish language curriculum at McGill since September 2018. From 2014-15, I was a Research Assistant at the IOWC, then became an IOWC Postdoctoral Fellow and acted as the Centre’s interim co-director from 2015-16. Afterwards, from 2016-18, I held a Chauncey postdoctoral fellowship in Grand Strategy at the International Security Studies centre at Yale University, where I also taught courses on the history of the Ottoman Empire/Middle East.

Focusing on the academically neglected issue of Ottoman agency in the Red Sea, the Persian Gulf and the Horn of Africa, I study the competition between the Ottoman central authority, Khedival Egypt, and the British Empire over control of communication and trade routes between Asia and Europe. This research could be titled ‘Ottomans, Great Powers, and the Roads to India, 1798-1882.’ My current book project, which is tentatively entitled ‘Remaking the Ottoman Empire, 1789–1856: Imperial Ideology, Military Power, and the Politics of Islam’, draws from my earlier research at the IOWC, especially into political and diplomatic developments in the Middle East in the first half of the nineteenth century.

At the IOWC, I also participated in the MCRI project, which aimed at



*Veysel Şimşek, IOWC postdoctoral fellow, 2015-16*

creating a digital inventory of long-term patterns of human-environment interaction in the Indian Ocean world during periods characterised by major drought, famine, earthquakes, migration or conflict. I worked in designing, maintaining, and expanding the database and liaised between IOWC historians and McGill’s IT personnel.

The IOWC was a wonderful place for me to complete my doctoral dissertation and to carry out other research projects. It also gave me a springboard from which to pursue my academic career, first at Yale and now again at McGill. Professor Campbell was always an incredibly kind and attentive mentor. He has supported all my academic endeavors, for which I will always be deeply indebted. As his mentee, I have always appreciated how Professor Campbell encouraged me to ask big questions about history and pursue the challenging task of

finding answers for them, something that is increasingly avoided in this age of narrow specializations.

Under his energetic leadership, the IOWC has become a world renowned research centre where junior scholars gain invaluable skills and experiences that prepare them for their future careers. I found my conversations and connections with the diverse groups of research fellows, PhD students, research assistants, and invitee speakers especially nurturing. I have continued to integrate Digital Humanities into my ongoing research and my teaching, especially those concerning data visualization and geo-mapping. Most archival-based historical work is carried out individually. At the IOWC, however, there is a culture of teamwork to carry out complex yet rewarding projects such as creating the MCRI database. In this respect, the exposure to multidisciplinary and team-driven research at the IOWC is extremely precious.

Professor Campbell’s success as IOWC’s founding director, however, is not limited to academic matters. He has ensured that IOWC is a welcoming place for all affiliates, being genuinely interested in our well-being and contentment during our stay. His laughter, wit, and hospitality always warmed hearts. As a foreign researcher in North America, I will always remember this attentiveness very fondly.”

# PhD Students



*PhD students and postdocs outside the IOWC, Peterson Hall*

Pictured (left to right): Jennifer Craig, Alberto Tiburcio, Philip Gooding, Veysel Şimşek, and Peter Hynd



**Joseph Howard**  
2017 - Present

*“Joseph's research focuses on interactions between British missionaries and Christian communities in the Indian Ocean World, especially the Malankara Church in southern India and the Ethiopian Orthodox Church, in the early nineteenth century. His doctoral research, “Oriental Orthodoxy and the Impact of British Missionaries in the*

*Indian Ocean World”, explores the approach of the Church Missionary Society (CMS) to these established churches as well as the role of the CMS in the imperial project.”*

Gwyn has been remarkably supportive and encouraging during my time at the IOWC. When I get bogged down, he brings me back to the larger picture. He has pushed me to speak up more, and through the IOWC I have had the opportunity to help organize a conference. Under Gwyn's direction, the IOWC provides us with great opportunities for professional and personal growth that many other doctoral students do not have. It's a great place to study.

One of my best memories of the IOWC is when I came to present at the graduate student conference, before I started at McGill. The graduate students and post-docs were welcoming, friendly, kind, and highly intelligent. It's exactly the kind of group you want to join. And I'm glad I had the opportunity.





### **Peter Hynd**

2011- Present

*Peter's research focuses on the regulation and taxation of alcohol in nineteenth-century India. Attempts by the colonial state to harness alcohol as a source of tax revenue inadvertently resulted in dramatic changes to the ways that alcohol was produced and consumed across South Asia, and unintentionally created political controversies that continue to resonate in India to the present day.*

“The IOWC supported my research in many ways. Directly, in terms of the financial and logistical support that made my project possible, and indirectly, by providing a stimulating intellectual environment, and bringing me into contact with a diverse network of scholars, many of

whom have exposed me to exciting new ideas and opened my eyes to interesting perspectives. Outside of my own personal research, participation in the IOWC's larger project of understanding the history of human-environment interaction in the Indian Ocean World over the *longue-durée* introduced me to novel interdisciplinary methodologies and exciting new technologies that historians are rarely fortunate enough to encounter.

As part of my doctoral research, I visited archives in the UK and India. Although the vast majority of the sources I consulted in both places were written in English, conducting research at the National Archives of India in Delhi still offered a number of unique challenges, not the least of which was learning how to navigate Delhi in 40 degree late-August heat! Although the holdings of the National Archives of India are vast, navigating them can be tricky; at the time of my visit, the best available catalogues for the records I had come to consult were more than a century old. These catalogues contained little more than lists of titles and corresponding reference numbers, and frequently listed documents that are now lost, stored elsewhere, or otherwise no longer available. Each request for new material was an adventure! Some days I would arrive in the morning for one of the friendly archivists to hand me a stack of papers thousands of pages thick. Other days I would be greeted with little more than a shake of the head and yesterday's request forms marked “not available.”

One of my favorite memories of my time at the IOWC was assisting with a workshop that saw the IOWC play host a group of senior Japanese academics. In addition to offering a welcome reunion with my dear friend Dr. Hideaki Suzuki, the workshop was a unique opportunity to engage with scholars well outside my normal academic network, and provided a fun chance to share my love for Montreal, as an impromptu unofficial tour-guide.”



*Gwyn Campbell and PhD students at the IOWC summer school in Halle, Germany.*

Pictured (left to right): Gwyn Campbell, Joe Howard, Rebekah McCallum, and Alberto Tiburcio, postdoctoral fellow for The Max Planck Institute for the History of Science (MPIWG)).

***"Gwyn has been remarkably supportive and encouraging during my time at the IOWC "***

- Joe Howard



## **Rebekah McCallum**

2015 - 2021

*Rebekah, who recently successfully defended her thesis, 'The Business of Tea: British tea companies and plantation labor law in India, 1901–1951 (with special emphasis on James Finlay & Co.)', is currently a Humanities in the World/Mellon Just Transformations Postdoctoral Fellow at the Humanities Institute, Penn State.*

“The company that forms the main case study for my dissertation has been in tea production since the 1870s and is currently involved in sustainability discussions and projects for the twenty-first century tea industry. The continuity of this company’s name and work in the tea industry from South Asia to East Africa and Argentina, provides a useful framework for thinking about and challenging narrative historiographies that delineate a rupture between the colonial and post-colonial periods, and between the east and the west, and the north and the south. Narrow approaches seem to ignore the various legal, political, social, and economic continuities that persist across temporal and geographical divides, particularly in economies like tea.

Within the intellectual space of the IOWC, this project has also included consideration of how labour networks that traverse the Indian Ocean region, moving towards large sites of work (like tea plantations), are deeply related to environmental push-pull factors—such as droughts caused by a dearth of monsoon rains during a growing season.

As part of my doctoral work, I engaged in archival research in Glasgow, Cambridge (UK), and London. The archive that I spent the most time in, was at the University of Glasgow; I conducted research there for two summers. The Scottish business archive there houses the company archives of James Finlay & Co.—a company that from the late nineteenth century ran tea plantations in India (until 1983) and Ceylon (Sri Lanka) where – alongside Kenya and Argentina, it still has plantations. The research was funded in part by the IOWC and in part by a McGill-University of Glasgow research fellowship.

While at the University of Glasgow, I was hosted by the Centre for Business History in Scotland, which provided me with office space, library access and amazing resources. The archivists at the Business Archives were also extremely helpful—helping me to navigate both sensitive data for a still-active company and an enormous amount of historical data. I am very grateful that I had the opportunity to work there.

Being part of the IOWC over the course of my doctoral studies, has been incredibly rewarding. Not only has the IOWC facilitated the creation of a unique community of supportive colleagues at McGill, but it has also contributed to the building of a network of scholars and practitioners across the globe in different disciplines, who partner together on international collaborative projects.

The IOWC’s commitment to multidisciplinary work provides novel approaches to topics of study, built upon analysis of both qualitative and quantitative data. That commitment has inspired me to consider more the multi-faceted nature of my own work—including engaging with environmental history discourse, policy, and IOW regional specificities.

As a result of connections built through the IOWC, I have been able to participate in unique events—like traveling to two summer schools in Germany and hosting a conference and graduate workshop at the IOWC in partnership with professors at the University of Glasgow.

Some of the best times at the IOWC have been informal—conversations over coffee/tea, pauses in the work schedule to share something interesting, and behind-the-scenes work in preparation for conferences or public talks. I’ve also enjoyed the end-of semester parties and just being part of the IOWC community.”



*University of Glasgow (photo by: Carleigh Nicholls)*



**Tyler Yank**  
2013 - 2019

*Tyler currently lives in Edmonton, where she is Writer and Editor on the Ministerial Correspondence Team of the Government of Alberta's Ministry of Health. She is also a member of the Board of Governors of Heritage College, Gatineau's only English-language CEGEP*

“I joined the IOWC as a doctoral candidate in 2013 to research the intersections of gender, unfree labour, and colonialism in early nineteenth century Mauritius. This culminated in my thesis (2020), ‘Women, Slavery, and British Imperial Interventions in Mauritius, 1810-1845’.

During the second year of my doctoral program, I spent five weeks, in February and March 2015, on a research trip to Mauritius funded by the IOWC and the Quebec Science and Culture Research Fund (FRQSC). This was an incredibly rewarding experience: it was only my second time working inside an archive as a PhD student, and it was my first time working entirely in my second language (French). I researched principally the original British imperial records stored in the National Archives of Mauritius in Coromandel, seeking out mentions of, and references to, enslaved women and girls between 1800 and 1860.

As with all archival research, I didn’t know what I was really looking for until I found it. The archive’s catalog was entirely analog (i.e. paper-based), many rich documents were in very poor condition, and most of the records I accessed were in French. One memorable find was a collection of short narratives by unfree women, in

which they explained how they came to be enslaved on the island, which I integrated into the second chapter of my dissertation. Overall it was a highly productive trip, and the following year I was able to supplement my findings with further archival work in the National Archives (UK) and at Oxford University.

The support of Prof. Campbell and the IOWC was critical throughout my PhD journey. The IOWC served as a space where we could meet, think, and write alongside other historians, anthropologists, and geographers—a truly unique space at McGill. Favourite memories include afternoons grabbing coffee with IOWC colleagues at downtown Montreal cafés, attending the weekly Speaker Series, and of course, holiday parties in Mile End hosted by Prof. Campbell and his wife.”



*Coromandel, Mauritius (photo by Tyler Yank)*

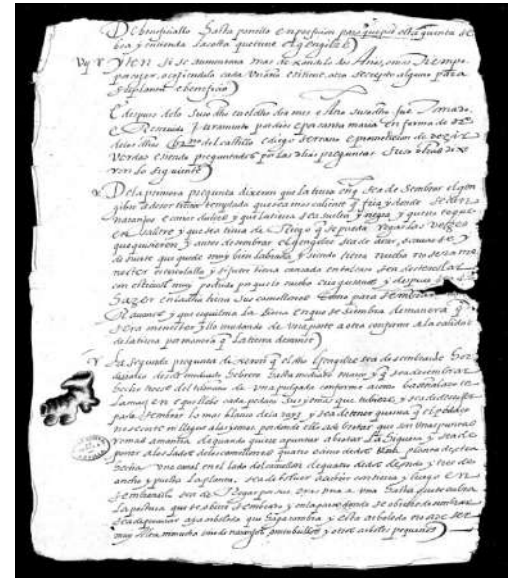


**Omri Bassewitsch Frenkel**  
(2011 - 2017)  
*Currently an advancement officer at McGill's Faculty of Engineering*

“My PhD dissertation at the IOWC was entitled “Transplantation of Asian Spices in the Spanish Empire 1518-1640: Entrepreneurship, Empiricism, and

The Crown.” It explores Spanish attempts to develop cash crop economies by transplanting spices and medicinal plants of Asian origin into their American and Philippine colonies, as well as to Spain. My doctoral research at the IOWC included archival work in Sevilla, Manila, and Mexico City. In order to conduct such archival research, I had to learn Spanish colonial paleography so I can read three different styles of Colonial Spanish handwriting.

The IOWC was a great and diverse environment to work in. Professor Campbell always supported my research interests and academic activities.”



“My PhD dissertation, undertaken at the IOWC, was entitled “The African Presence in Late Ottoman Izmir and Beyond”. In it, I examined the history of enslaved and emancipated Africans in Izmir (Turkey) during and after the abolition of the slave trade in 1857. Using oral history interviews I conducted with descendants of Africans who self-identify as “Afro-Turks,” as well as local newspapers, travelogues, and state archival sources, this study recreates the social world of a forgotten people. In tracing this history, I connect the cultural impact of the global phenomenon of African slavery to the history of a local, Ottoman urban space. Each chapter engages with a different aspect of the experiences and social lives of enslaved and emancipated Africans in and around Izmir: For example, I detail the Calf Festival, the annual event that was the focal point of the community’s spiritual and cultural life. In this way, my work also makes a timely and vital contribution to current debates in Turkey about national identity, race, and belonging.



**Michael Ferguson**  
(2008- 2015)

*Michael Ferguson is an Affiliate Assistant Professor in the Department of History at Concordia University*

As a member of the IOWC, I was connected to a global network of scholars working on cutting-edge research in the field of slavery studies. Likewise, in the office, the students of my cohort formed lasting bonds. Through Gwyn I developed lasting academic relationships with senior scholars the world over.

After completing my doctorate in 2015, I held first a SSHRC Post-Doctoral Fellowship in the

Department of History at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London, and subsequently a further Post-Doctoral Fellowship at the Gilder Lehrman Center for the Study of Slavery, Resistance, and Abolition at Yale University. I have also held short term positions at the Hagop Kevorkian Center for Near Eastern Studies at New York University and the Department of History at Queen’s University, Kingston. Since Fall 2018, I have been an Affiliate Assistant Professor in the Department of History at Concordia University. I continue to publish articles and book chapters related to my dissertation as I work to prepare the book version.

Since graduation, Gwyn has kept me within the IOWC network as well as supported my continued research at every opportunity. My approach to teaching the history of the IOW is greatly influenced by his, always working to challenge the dominant paradigms established by those working on the Atlantic World.”



**Facil Tesfaye**  
(2007 - 2013)

*Facil Tesfaye is currently Assistant Professor and Director of the African Studies Program at the University of Hong Kong*

“As a PhD student at the IOWC, I looked at German colonial medical activities in Africa. I also worked on the history of medicine, medical and therapeutical practices in the Indian Ocean world with IOWC colleagues, such as Anna Winterbottom (former postdoc). Professor Campbell, as well as the many high caliber affiliates/ associates of the IOWC, were crucial in my career. I still have very close contacts with most of them. (e.g. colleagues at the ZMO, Berlin [Prof. Kai Kresse]).

My current research project - funded by the General Research Fund of the Research Grants Committee of Hong Kong – looks at the medical history of Ethiopia, particularly the history of indigenous medical practices, as something embedded in the IOW.

*Statistique(s) et génocide au Rwanda: sur la genèse d'un système de catégorisation "génocidaire"* (Paris: L'Harmattan, 2014).



*“Tesfaye proposes an original and novel approach that he calls ‘demo-statistics’ when analyzing the 1994 Rwandan genocide... to clarify links existing between colonial statistics and the genocide itself, permitting ‘discussion of the unmentionable.’”*



**Steven Serels**  
(2007 - 2012)

*Currently a Research Fellow at the Zentrum-Moderner Orient in Berlin*

“My position in Berlin is funded by an individual grant that I received from the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG) [German Research Foundation] to study the historical causes and consequences of poverty in the

Southern Red Sea Region since the seventeenth century. Previously, I held research positions at Harvard University and Martin Luther Universität Halle-Wittenburg.

While I was a PhD student at the IOWC (2007-12), I was working on the history of famine in Sudan under British rule. This research culminated in my dissertation, titled ‘Feasting on Famines: Food Insecurity and the Making of the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan, 1883-1956.’ I subsequently developed my dissertation into a book, titled *Starvation and the State: Famine, Slavery and Power in Sudan, 1883-1956* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2013).

Gwyn Campbell was my dissertation supervisor and I learned a lot from him. Conversations that I had with him while at the IOWC helped me to understand the relationship between economic and environmental

conditions. He also helped me to understand that large bodies of water facilitate long-distance connections. These are fundamental insights that currently shape my interest in the economic and environmental history of the Red Sea. In addition, I received crucial financial support from the IOWC that supported me as a PhD student and allowed me to undertake archival research in Sudan and the UK.

After completing my dissertation, Gwyn continued to help me develop my career. He helped to get my two monographs published. He also included my work in a number of his edited collections. I also subsequently convened a conference at the IOWC in 2015 which led to a volume that I coedited with Gwyn. I have also continued to present my work at the IOWC, either as an invited speaker or at the centre’s conferences.

# More Monographs by Postdocs and PhD Students, Past and Present

## Monographs by Steven Serels (Zentrum-Moderner Orient, Berlin):



**Starvation and the State: Famine, Slavery and Power in Sudan, 1883-1956**, (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2013).



**The Impoverishment of the African Red Sea Littoral, 1640-1945** (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2018).

### Review for *The Impoverishment of the African Red Sea Littoral, 1640-1945*:

*“The geographical expanse and ethnic diversity of northeastern Africa and the adjoining Red Sea Littoral defy most scholarly efforts to produce a balanced historical account of the region’s pastoralist communities. This book overcomes these barriers to offer a masterful history of the development of poverty in these communities against the backdrop of environmental and socio-cultural change. For historians, anthropologists, and scholars of development studies and ethnic studies, this book will prove an invaluable resource.”*

(Martin S. Shanguhya, Associate Professor of African History, Syracuse University, USA)

## Monographs by Hideaki Suzuki (National Museum of Ethnology, Osaka):



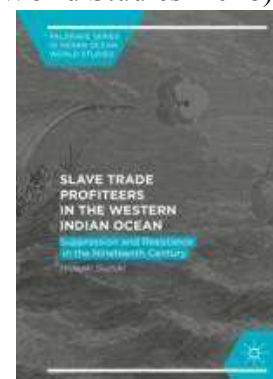
**A Global History of Abolition of Slavery and Slave Trade** (Tokyo: University of Tokyo Press 2020). (in Japanese).

Translation: Presenting new perspectives to world history, Suzuki examines what freedoms slavery and the slave trade brought to liberated society prior to its 18th century abolition, as well as what aspects of slavery still remain in modern day society.

### **Slave Trade Profiteers in the Western Indian Ocean Suppression and Resistance in the Nineteenth Century** (Montreal, QC: Palgrave Series in Indian Ocean World Studies 2018).

*“This is an important study on the concrete forms abolitionism took in the western Indian Ocean. Not just debates and claims, not just masters, slaves and former slaves but the interplay between labor, work, markets and people form the core of Suzuki’s analysis. Intermediaries play here a crucial, although neglected role before and after abolition. Their origins, background, networks and profits are detailed in this path-breaking study. A must-read for all those who are interested in past and contemporary forms of bondage and trafficking.”*

(Alessandro Stanziani, Professor of Global History, EHESS and CNRS Paris, France)



# PhD Affiliates



## Jennifer Craig

2014 - Present

*Jennifer's research focuses on Watery Archaeology as a braided knowledge developed from maritime archaeology, materialism, water science and indigenous knowledge. Her PhD research was initially supervised by Damian Robinson with the Oxford Centre for Maritime Archaeology (OCMA), University of Oxford. She is now finalizing her PhD research in Archaeology at McGill University.*

“My research perspective is FROM the water. I am currently researching the significance of beads archaeologically excavated from four shipwrecks within Philippines water, and exploring their role in connectivity. I am examining what it is about beads that can indicate connectivity, the analytical methods one can employ to compare underwater and terrestrial archaeology sites, and how these examinations challenge current models of complex society.

In 2014, I was awarded a McGill Doctoral Scholarship. I have also received laboratory and fieldwork support: the National Science Foundation's awarded to the Laboratory for Scientific Analysis, Chicago Field Museum; Bruce Trigger Award in Anthropology, McGill University; Society for Nautical Research Tomlin/Anderson Marine Research Grant.”

## Nicolas Parent

2019 - Present



*Nicolas' research is titled “From the ‘imagined homeland’ to pathways for peacebuilding in the DR Congo: An Ethnographic study with Congolese refugees at Gihembe camp, Rwanda.” The primary line of inquiry asks how Congolese imagine their homeland whilst in protracted exile, the needs, claims, and grievances they may have when considering voluntary repatriation, and conversely, how this can support/inform DRC-based peacebuilding from afar.*

“My affiliation with the IOWC has given me methodological insight, in which I have learnt from researchers at the centre who employ a wide array of methods tailored to geographical contexts and research aims. A good memory I have of the IOWC was getting introduced to the centre's efforts to spatialize Indian Census Data with Peter Hynd.”



## Caroline Seagle

2013 - Present

*Caroline's PhD research is entitled "Destroying nature to save it? Mining, conservation and the 'green economy' in Madagascar." Her PhD research focuses on the political ecology of mining-conservation partnerships and the emerging 'green economy' in Madagascar, a country which has seen a surge of large-scale mining projects in the past ten years and become a 'testing grounds' for market-based approaches, such as biodiversity offsets. Her work seeks to critically unpack narratives of 'mining-led development' and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) in Madagascar in order to illuminate how local and Indigenous people in Madagascar value nature, use land, and conceptualize heritage. Her research has been funded by the Wenner-Gren Foundation, a Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship, the Dutch Scientific Organisation (NWO), and a Graduate Excellence Scholarship.*

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***Caroline Seagle in Madagascar***

## **Caroline Seagle [Continued from Previous Page]**

I am an ABD (All But Dissertation) PhD candidate and Vanier Scholar in the Department of Anthropology and the Indian Ocean World Centre (IOWC) at McGill University. I have a BA (honours) degree in anthropology with a minor in environment from McGill, and an MA (cum laude) in social-cultural anthropology from the VU University Amsterdam. My research interests fall at the intersection of environmental anthropology, political philosophy, media(ation) and aesthetics, land deal politics, and neoliberal conservation. My PhD research focuses on the political ecology of mining-conservation partnerships and the emerging 'green economy' in Madagascar, a country which has seen a surge of large-scale mining projects in the past ten years and become a 'testing grounds' for market-based approaches, such as biodiversity offsets. My work seeks to critically unpack narratives of 'mining-led development' and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) in Madagascar in order to illuminate how local and Indigenous people in Madagascar value nature, use land, and conceptualize heritage. My research has been funded by the Wenner-Gren Foundation, a Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship, the Dutch Scientific Organisation (NWO), and a Graduate Excellence Scholarship.

My long standing passion for Madagascar led me to discover the IOWC in 2007, when I decided to embark on a BA honours thesis in anthropology on the topic of deforestation on the island. The Chair of the Anthropology department at the time, John Galaty, now my doctoral supervisor, urged me to meet Gwyn Campbell -- a Madagascar specialist at McGill in the History department. Thus began a 10+ year journey with the IOWC, in which I had the privilege of learning about other parts of the Indian Ocean World (IOW). Through Gwyn and fellow students, I helped to organize numerous workshops and conferences, contributed to the ongoing projects, and became part of a vibrant research community.

Perhaps my fondest memory of Gwyn is when I had just won the Vanier Scholarship, one of Canada's most prestigious awards. When the news came out, I was en route to Toronto for the 2014 Madagascar Workshop, organized by Michael Lambek and Sarah Gould. At the conference dinner, I was seated next to the great Maurice Bloch -- an world renowned scholar of Madagascar and quite famous anthropologist. I remember Gwyn arriving, opening the door to the restaurant, and walking over to our table. I was sure he was going to greet Maurice Bloch, as they had never formally met. To my surprise, Gwyn immediately came to me, with open arms and a big smile on his face, to congratulate me on being awarded the Vanier! Even with a keynote speaker and eminent scholarly figure sitting next to me, Gwyn was still thinking of his students.



***Bezanozano Women Planting Rice***

After going to Madagascar for the first time, at Gwyn's encouragement, I came back to McGill to begin working at the IOWC in its nascent years. One of my best memories of the IOWC is transcribing Gwyn's Mother's funny, wonderfully descriptive and thoughtful memoirs of Madagascar, where Gwyn's family lived in his youth. In addition to the transcription, at our old offices on Peel, I assisted in the early stages of the IOWC's exploration of the use of GIS (Geographic Information Systems) and historical mapping in the study of the Indian Ocean World, liaising with members of the Geography department and helping install install ArcGIS on our computers. More recently, during my doctorate, I had the honour of acting as a Managing Co-Editor of the *Journal of Indian Ocean World Studies (JIOWS)*, a journal founded by Gwyn. With Erin Bell, I worked to create and launch the journal at McGill, learning the ends and outs of journal development and management. I was also interim Project Manager at the IOWC for about eight months, contributing to the daily management of the Centre, managing finances, organizing the speaker series, managing communication with international partners, and overseeing the installation of new equipment and furniture at our new office. For several years, I co-organized, with Gwyn, the annual "Madagascar Workshop," a series of international and interdisciplinary workshops, alternated with Michael Lambek in Toronto, bringing together scholars of Madagascar. In 2016, we wrote a Connection Grant proposal which was awarded 25,000 CAD to fund a major international conference in Avignon called, "The Sacred and the Profane: Society, Cosmology and Environment in Madagascar, from Early Times to the Present Day." The grant allowed us to invite four emerging and established scholars from Madagascar to attend the conference in France, something that is rarely done.





*IOWC Students at a Canadian Association of African Studies (CAAS) conference in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, 2008.*

Pictured (left to right): Facil Tesfaye, Caroline Seagle, Scott Matter and Steven Serels.

## Recent Research Assistants



**Janav Valgi**  
(2021- Present)

Janav is a third-year student at McGill University, double majoring in Economics and Political Science. He works as a Research Assistant in the Appraising Risk Partnership, managing a rich historical database of human-environment data. He also works to collect, structure and organize data as it flows in from international Partners.



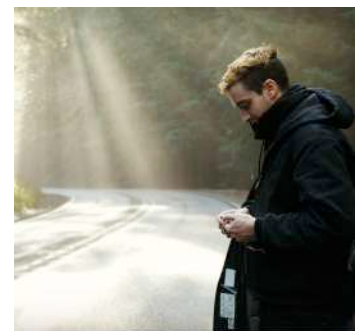
**Ruishen Zhang**  
(2021 - Present)

Ruishen Zhang is in his fourth year at McGill University, majoring in environmental biology. He works as a Research Assistant for the Appraising Risk Partnership, extracting and summarizing data on natural disasters from nineteenth century Gazetteers for southern China, and recording them in the appraising risk database. He is also involved with the GIS team, and is trying to georeference and digitalize the hand-drawn map from Gazetteers to current datum.



**Sudipta Maitra**  
(2019 - Present)

Sudipta works at the IOWC as a GIS Research Assistant. His research involves finding technological solutions to data research and analysis, including the use of OCR systems, and implementing an LGIS database.



**Luka Bair**  
(2019-21)

Luka, a spatial analyst focusing on the use of Geographic Information Systems (GIS), worked at the IOWC as a Research Assistant for the Appraising Risk Partnership. His role involved creating, structuring, and visualizing spatial data to identify historically relevant patterns in human-environment interaction, enabling novel forms of historical inquiry. He also provided web development and database administration support (as e.g. for the Appraising Risk Partnership website).

**Kareem Hammami**  
(2020-21)



Kareem, who is in the final year of his undergraduate studies at McGill's Bieler School of Environment, worked at the IOWC as a Geospatial Research Assistant performing GIS tasks, notably the digitization of historical maps to generate geospatial base datasets. He is author of the article "Digitizing the Indian Ocean World" in this Report that highlights some of the ground-breaking multidisciplinary research being conducted at the IOWC.

# Project Managers



**Carleigh Nicholls**  
2019-Present

*Carleigh Nicholls is a PhD Candidate in History at McGill, researching early modern Scotland. She joined the IOWC in 2019 as a Project Manager, assisting director Gwyn Campbell in budgetary and administrative work.*

"I started working at the IOWC as a Project Manager in winter 2019 with Renée. Having taken an IOW course with Prof. Campbell

during my Master's degree, I was excited to get to know the Centre from behind the scenes after hearing about an opening there. Although the geographic focus of my PhD is far removed from the IOW, I have always felt welcome and a part of the team. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Renée and I have had to work remotely for the majority of our tenures as Project Managers, which has brought about new challenges as well as new opportunities.

Because of the lack of in-person activities due to the pandemic, Renée and I brought the IOWC into the twenty-first century by creating social media accounts where we could share the IOWC's achievements and opportunities. We also helped run an international online conference via Zoom. In lieu of the in-person Speaker Series, Renée and the postdoctoral researchers revamped the Appraising Risk podcast series.

Along with these activities, I am grateful for the experience I've gained in administrative tasks such as hiring, budgeting, and organizing events. I appreciate the flexibility this position offers as I work toward completing my PhD."

**Renée Manderville**

2019-Present



*Reneé is a University of Ottawa Law School student who previously earned her Masters of Arts in History at McGill. She joined the IOWC as a Project Manager in 2019. She has since become an associate editor of the JIOWS, and inaugurated the IOWC Podcast Series.*

"Acting as a Project Manager at the IOWC alongside Carleigh has been a very educational and rewarding experience. The support and encouragement that I have received from Gwyn, Carleigh, and my fellow colleagues is indicative of the community oriented environment that Gwyn has fortified at the IOWC."

**Peter Hynd**

2017-19



"Congratulations to the IOWC!"

*Peter (see under PhDs above) played an essential interim role as Project Manager helping to launch the "Appraising Risk" Partnership, forging links between its multiple partners, and helping to establish a sound basis for its data collection and storage, and GIS components.*



**Nikki Middlemiss**

2015-16

*Currently Administrative Assistant for the McGill Sustainability Systems.*

"I'm still touched by how friendly and collaborative the group of IOWC students and

fellows I worked with was. Socializing and exchanging ideas was very important, and I attended an IOWC party immediately after being hired. That was a great way to take the pressure off when starting a new job!"

**Lori A. Callaghan**

2010-14

*Lori now lives in San Diego and is working in the biotech industry*

"What I remember the most about my time at the IOWC is the people. I was really fortunate to work with so many amazing and passionate researchers. The multidisciplinary and collaborative environment that Gwyn and the IOWC fostered gave rise to some really exciting projects. It's part of what made our conferences and workshops so special. Bringing everyone together to discuss what they had been working on and figuring out what we could achieve next helped us innovate and move research forward in some exciting ways. It was a lot of fun working with such a great team."



**Erik van Dongen**

2014-15

"Since leaving the IOWC, I have worked for the government, first at the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (the federal funding agency for health science), and since 2020 at Statistics Canada, the federal statistical agency."



**Pietro Mastromatteo**

2017

*Pietro now works as a governance advisor for the Office of the VP (administration and finance) at McGill University.*

"I enjoyed working alongside IOWC students and researchers – their enthusiasm and team spirit was very catching!"

# Major IOWC Research Grants

The IOWC has been highly successful in obtaining grants to conduct its research programme. Since 2010, IOWC director, Gwyn Campbell, has won over \$10 million in external grants, notably back-to-back Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) MCRI and Partnership grants, each worth \$2.5 million and of 7 years' duration. Campbell was also the recipient of a Humboldt Research Award (2017-19) for research and teaching in Indian Ocean World studies, and was a Co-Applicant in the successful "Gwillim Project" (2019-21) led by Victoria Dickenson of Redpath Library. Further, the IOWC link helped cement a successful bid by Professor Angela Schottenhammer of the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium for a €2.5 million grant for 5 years, while IOWC Postdoctoral Affiliates and Graduate Students have won \$186,000 in grants (internal and external).

The IOWC continues to expand its Canadian and international research network Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada. It has forged collaborative research programmes with the Ruhr-University Bochum and universities of Toronto, Glasgow, and is involved in ongoing international multidisciplinary research grant applications. Below, we detail our MCRI and Partnership research.



## Major Collaborative Research Project (MCRI)

2010-18

### *The Indian Ocean World: The Making of the First Global Economy in the Context of Human-Environment Interaction*

This ground-breaking project investigated the rise and development of the world's first "global economy" in the context of human-environment interaction from the early centuries B.C.E. to the present day. The region under study was the Indian Ocean World (IOW), an arena of primary geopolitical importance which includes eastern Africa, the Middle East, Southeast Asia, and emerging superpowers, China and India.

The economic, social and political foundations of the IOW date back two millennia and are related to the monsoons, a system of regularly alternating winds and currents unique to the Indian Ocean, and Indonesian, and South and East China Seas. The monsoons exerted a huge influence over the lands and societies around

[Continues on new page]

## MCRI Project [continued from previous page]

these inter-connected bodies of water: Monsoon rains underpinned agricultural production, while monsoon winds created the possibility of direct trans-oceanic sail which facilitated the rise of a sophisticated, durable structure of long-distance maritime exchange of commodities, ideas, technology and people. This system economic historians refer to as a “global economy” (as distinct from the modern “international economy” which began to take shape in the nineteenth century).

In addition to the monsoons, many other natural factors were taken into account, including the El Nino-Southern Oscillation (ENSO), cyclones and volcanic eruptions. This project constituted the first large-scale investigation and analysis of the causes, inter-relationship and economic, political and social impact of environmental factors and natural disasters over the long term in the IOW. Rejecting environmental determinism, project members adopted the concept of human-environment interaction as the central theme. However, they also highlighted human agency in responding to and reshaping the environment.

The project team, which involved a wide range of researchers from the humanities and social sciences to sciences, from history and geography to human genetics and earth and atmospheric science, comprised two main groups. The first engaged in wide-ranging research, utilising diverse sources—including archival, oral, linguistic, archaeological, paleo-ecological, and genetic—in order to identify and analyse data relating to the structure and development of the IOW global economy, and the inter-relationship, timing, and impact of environmental processes and human and natural disasters. The second group subjected the results of archival and field research to cutting-edge computer synthesis and modelling techniques in order to elucidate both longer-term environmental cycles in the IOW global economy, and possible patterns in natural disasters, such as volcanic eruptions, and possible human impact on the environment.

Through its research agenda and output, this project fundamentally altered conventional academic perceptions of the IOW, in establishing the emergence and development of the macro-region as a “global economy”, demonstrating the validity of utilising human-environment interaction as the core catalyst of historical change, and providing a sophisticated analysis of the environmental factors at work, and how they fluctuated over time. It also indicated major extended periods in the IOW that were characterised by adverse environmental events. This, in turn, formed the basis for a successful application for a SSHRC Partnership to investigate the dynamics of human-environment interaction during six such periods dating from the mid-first millennium CE to the present day.

For more information about the MCRI, see: [www.mcgill.ca/iow-mcri](http://www.mcgill.ca/iow-mcri)





# APPRAISING RISK

SSHRC  CRSH

## Historical Database of Climatic Crises in the Indian Ocean World

The **Appraising Risk Partnership** is an international collaboration of scholars and researchers dedicated to exploring the critical role of climatic crisis in the past and future of the Indian Ocean World. With generous support from the **Canadian Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC)**, the Partnership seeks to create a comprehensive spatial and temporal database of human-environment interaction and interdependence during selected protracted periods of adverse environmental and climatic factors.

Currently employed tools of environmental risk perception and governance are inadequate as they rely on historically shallow data focused on individual crises and fail to fully consider local IOW concepts of environmental risk. Conventional IOW histories privilege human agency, giving only cursory attention to environmental forces. There is at present no comprehensive model for environmental risk calculation that considers both historical and contemporary scientific data.

### Partnership Investigators and Teams

#### *Principal Investigator*

Gwyn Campbell

#### *Co-Investigators*

Vinita Damodaran	University of Sussex	Jon Unruh	McGill University
Margaret Kalacska	McGill University	Julia Verne	Johannes Gutenberg University of Mainz
Isaac Luginaah	University of Western Ontario	James Warren	Murdoch University

#### *Partners*

Katrin Bromber	Zentrum Moderner Orient, Berlin	Sandra Joireman	University of Richmond
Mark Daley	University of Western Ontario	Michael C. Low	Iowa State University
Philippe De Maeyer	University of Ghent	Scott St. George	University of Minnesota
Mick Frogley	University of Sussex	Angela Schottenhammer	KU Leuven
Shaila Seshia Galvin	Graduate Institute of International & Development Studies, Geneva	Alicia Schrikker	Leiden University
Andre Gingrich	Austrian Academy of Science	Tansen Sen	NYU Shanghai
Klaus Greve	University of Bonn	Alessandro Stanziani	EHESS, Paris
Herbert Hambati	University of Dar es Salaam	Franz Waldenburger	German Institute for Japanese & Studies, Tokyo

### *Collaborators*

Frederick A. Armah	University of Cape Coast	Akifumi Iwabuchi	Tokyo University of Marine Science & Technology
Gregory Bankoff	University of Hull		
Subho Basu	McGill University	Dominic R. Kniveton	University of Sussex
Philippe A. le Billon	University of British Columbia	Eva-Maria Knoll	Austrian Academy of Sciences
Giancarlo Casale	European University Institute	Paivi Lujala	Norwegian University of Science & Technology
Joseph E. Christensen	University of Western Australia	Grant McKenzie	McGill University
Tina Comes	Delft University of Technology	Rila Mukerjee	University of Hyderabad
François Crépeau	McGill University	Zozan Pehlivan	University of Minnesota
Ganapathy P. Ganapathy	Vellore Institute of Technology	Armando Salvatore	McGill University
		Brian Tomaszewski	Rochester University of Technology
		Yi Wang	University of Sussex

### ***What is GIS Data?***

A geographic information system (GIS) is a computer system used for capturing, checking, storing, and displaying data demonstrating positions on the Earth's surface. It is a crucial part of spacial-data infrastructure. GIS can display on one map many different kinds of data, such as streets, water networks, and vegetation - thus enabling further analyses, and an understanding of geographical patterns and relationships.

Cutting-edge geographic information systems still use pre-GIS cartographic and table or spreadsheet data, but also relies on satellite and remote sensing data to explore Earth-wide patterns and relationships. It can use any information that includes a location: latitude, longitude, or regional postal codes.

GIS technology can be used for scientific investigation, resource management, and development planning. GIS applications comprise both hardware and software systems, and may include cartographic, photographic and digital data, or data in spreadsheets. One important use of GIS technology is the compilation of time-based maps to demonstrate processes and developments occurring over a large area over the *longue-durée*.

### **Appraising Risk Partnership and GIS**

One of the core elements of the Appraising Risk Partnership is a database that can be used to store, categorize, analyze and disseminate information about historical events and locations in the Indian Ocean World. GIS systems display information based on geographic points and help to understand spatial patterns and relationships. Data loaded on GIS can Come from a multiple range of factors, including rainfall, disease, droughts, famines, volcanic activity, tsunamis. However, the data needs to be in digital format.

The sources of these data are cartographic images, photographic information, satellite surveys, tables, spreadsheets and texts, recent and historical. GIS permits all the different information to be stored as separate layers on a map, and provides the ability to visualize the data singly or in numerous different combinations, thus providing opportunities to see spatially, to analyse, and to draw conclusions. Data collected from different time periods for the same geographic area can show the changes that occur over time, thus providing opportunities for building predictive models.

# Digitizing the Indian Ocean World: GIS Datasets for Historical-Environmental Analyses

Kareem Hammami

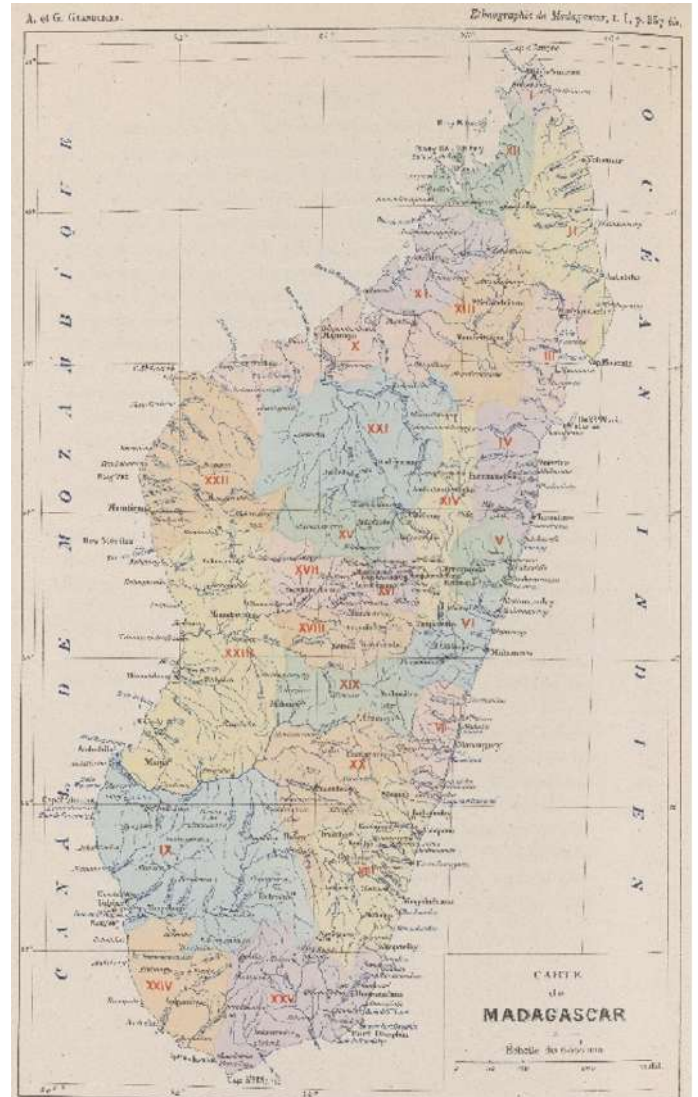
The SSHRC funded, IOWC-based partnership, “Appraising Risk, Past and Present: Interrogating Historical Data to Enhance Understanding of Environmental Crises in the Indian Ocean World” is exploring new ways to combine historical statistics and cartographic data in order to elucidate the historical relationship between human and environmental variables and how this can inform current climate change policy. To achieve this, we are integrating archival and online historical data into an IOWC database and digital Geographic Information System (GIS) for analysis. Of critical importance is the digitisation of historical maps to create “shapefiles” into which we integrate spatial information collected from censuses, weather stations, newspapers, and other sources.

Most recently, we have been producing a comprehensive set of maps of eighteenth and early nineteenth century Madagascar into which we are integrating data on population, disease, precipitation, migration, conflict, etc. in order to relate and compare various stressors and subsequent changes to key information. We start this process with digitized maps ranging from sketches to complex political and military charts, across municipal, regional, and national scales.

These maps must first be shaped and transformed to fit the physical reality that they seek to represent, then integrated with other information in order to produce accurate borders. Many of these boundaries followed natural features such as rivers (relatively stable at the scale we are looking at) and mountain ridges/ watersheds. Also, the maps are often accompanied by information detailing the specific features that define borders. Thus, we may mine modern datasets (produced right here at McGill) for these natural features to produce an accurate representation of what the boundaries may have looked like and how they have evolved.

We begin by shaping the 2D image onto our GIS platform, where specific points on the paper map, such as city positions, river intersections, islands, peninsulas, and mountain peaks, are matched with their real life positions to bend and stretch the map to look more like reality. Once the map is shaped through this process (known as “Georectification”), boundaries of individual areas are defined, either by following the existing rivers or ridges that our modern datasets provide, or, in the worst-case scenario, hand drawn lines on the Georectified map. Alternatively, we have been able to automate much of this process when the source maps possess clearly defined and well contrasting boundaries, although this involves the

elimination of extraneous information that may confuse the software used (for details see our website). While the creation of digital shapefiles from analog maps is not new, the integration of physical geography datasets is a novel method of creating accurate historical maps.



*French Colonial Administrative map of Madagascar around the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century*



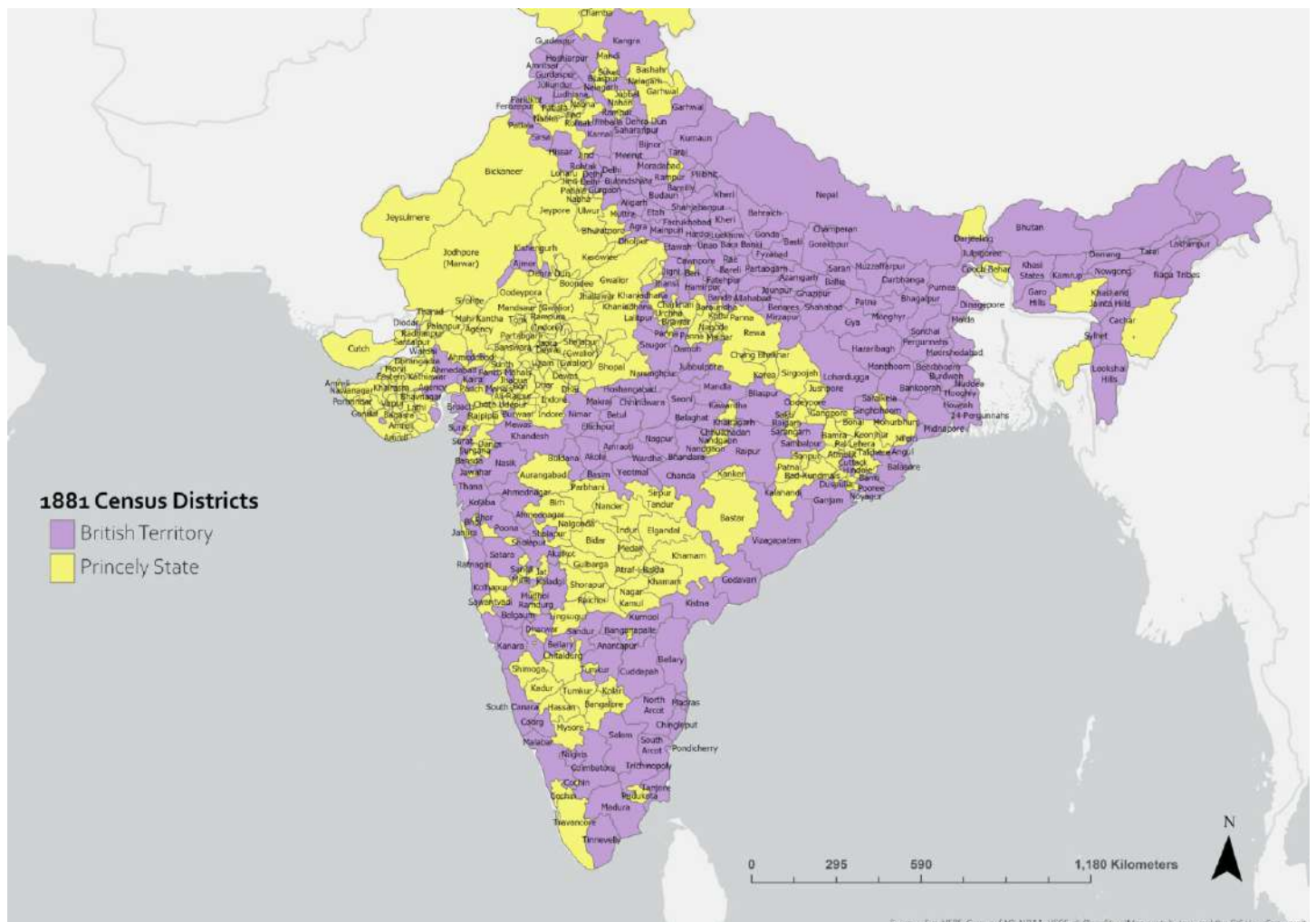
# Digitization of Indian Census Districts 1872 to Present

The Appraising Risk Partnership is developing a variety of innovative approaches to the extraction and digitization of historical data from cartographic source materials. Central to the project's goal of developing historically accurate GIS-ready spatial datasets covering the Indian Ocean World is the production of shapefiles that represent the political, social and environmental units by which the Indian Ocean World was divided, measured, organized and understood by its inhabitants.

Key to achieving this goal is developing automated, efficient, and accurate methods to extract historical data from map images. We have begun by converting static images of maps collected from a wide range of time periods and locations into dynamic GIS shapefiles. The digitization of map images into shapefiles allows us to utilize the map data in innovative and dynamic ways, enabling us to compile rich spatial references throughout the history of the Indian Ocean World. With these shapefiles, we are able to perform spatial analysis, assemble temporal databases containing hundreds of thousands of unique locations (our temporal gazetteer), compare cartographic data from different time periods, and produce our own maps and visualizations.

One of our most exciting projects showcasing these techniques has been our digitization of India Census Districts from 1872 to the Present. The goal of this project was to digitize the borders of every administrative district found in the national census of India documents provided by The Office of the Registrar General & Census Commissioner. The maps contained in these census booklets provide the historical borders of each census district, along with its name and its type (whether a British district or a Princely State), as well as the relevant census data.

Digitizing these historical district borders represents the only known shapefiles yet produced of the administrative boundaries of late nineteenth and early twentieth century India, providing a comprehensive and dynamic set of resources containing historical population data. These shapefiles will benefit historians and other researchers interested in changes in India during that period. Moreover, as district shapefiles already exist for contemporary India, our contributions allow for continuity from 1872 to the present day.



Sources: Tai, HERE, Google, FAO, NOAA, USGS, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community



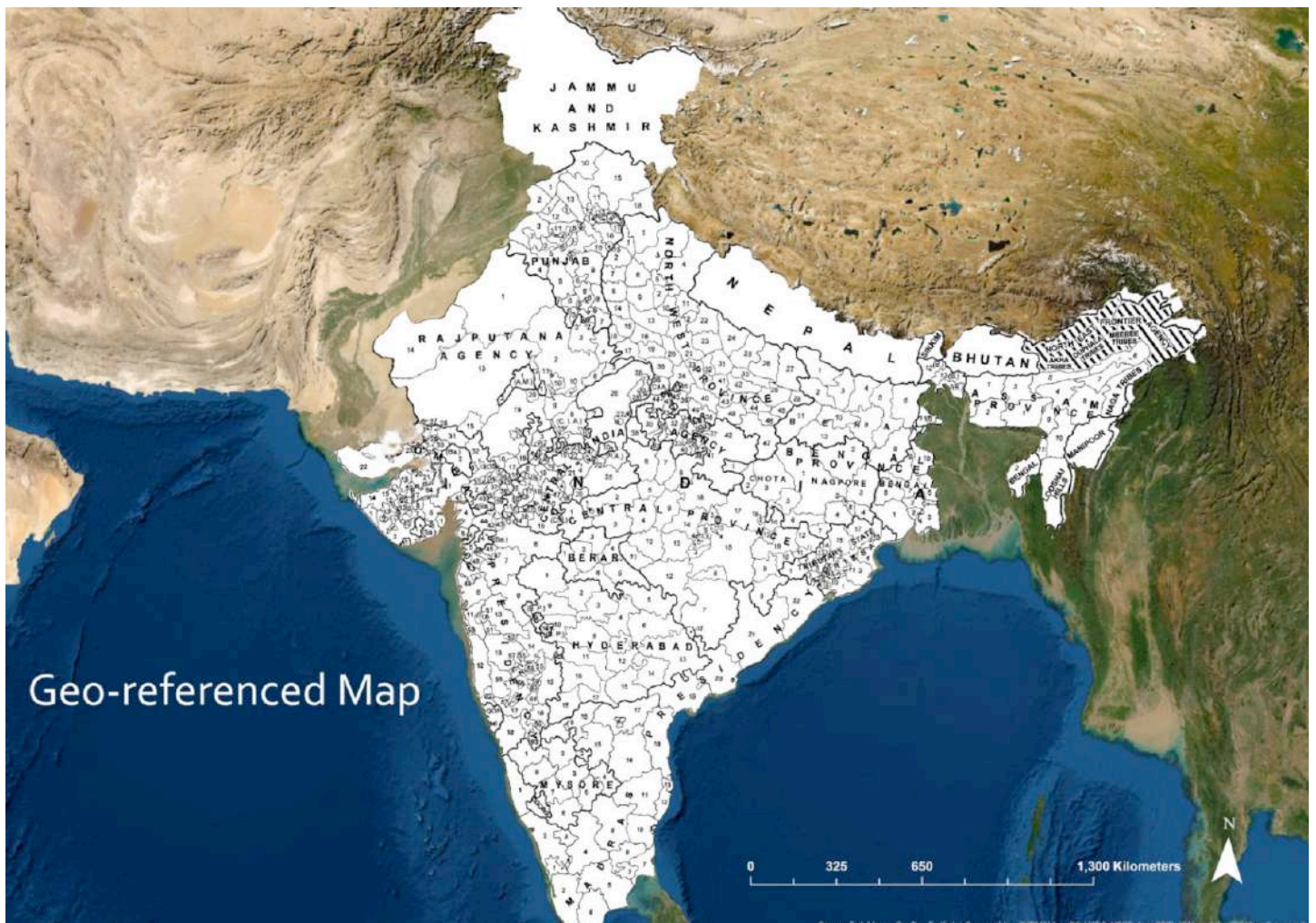
## Digitizing Shapefiles from Historical Maps

The process of map digitization utilizes custom workflow and tracing algorithms developed at the IOWC, allowing researchers to begin with a color or black-and-white scan of a map, and to digitally process and trace that map to derive a set of shapefiles which follow the borders and boundaries contained in the source map. While various digitization techniques have existed for over a decade, they usually require specialist knowledge of Geographic Information Systems and significant investments of time for each map, often relying on hand-tracing techniques. Our methodology includes automated processing and tracing, reducing the technical difficulty as well as the time needed to process a map. While our development is still in an early stage, we have managed to achieve 20-fold reduction in the time required to complete the digitization, indicating the possibility of digitizing large archives of cartographic material. The India Census District maps outlined below are representative of the process we use to generate shapefiles from a variety of source maps.

After selecting a source map, the first step uses our image pre-processing algorithm (built with Python's `imagemagick` library) to prepare and edit map images,

accentuating the color and detail elements that aid the later tracing process. These processed maps are cleaned and annotated by the user, and imported into GIS Software (in our case, Esri's ArcGIS suite). At this point, the images contain no spatial reference, and the computer does not yet recognize them as representing a particular area on the earth's surface. To rectify this, we geo-reference the images, selecting points on the image, and then assigning their respective coordinates on the surface of the earth. With 15-30 such reference points, the map image is warped so that it properly aligns with the real-world location it represents. Quite often, we discover that the maps do not entirely line up with our present-day map. These discrepancies are documented, as they often represent critical data about the limitations of the source map or possibly changes that have occurred in the region between the map's creation and the present day (such as when coast-lines change due to rising sea levels).

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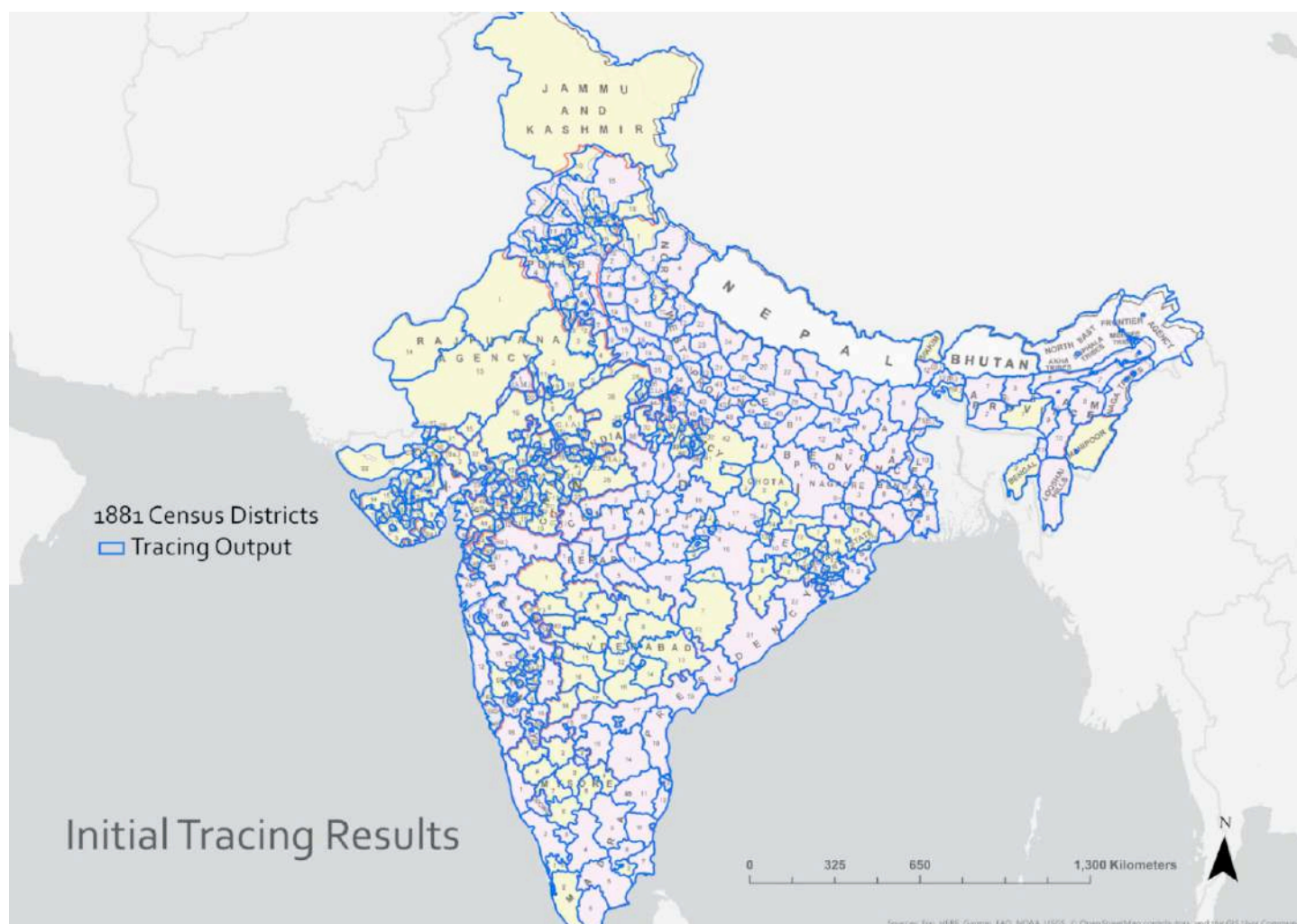


## Digitizing Shapefiles from Historical Maps [Continued]:

### The Source Map Geo-Referenced to India

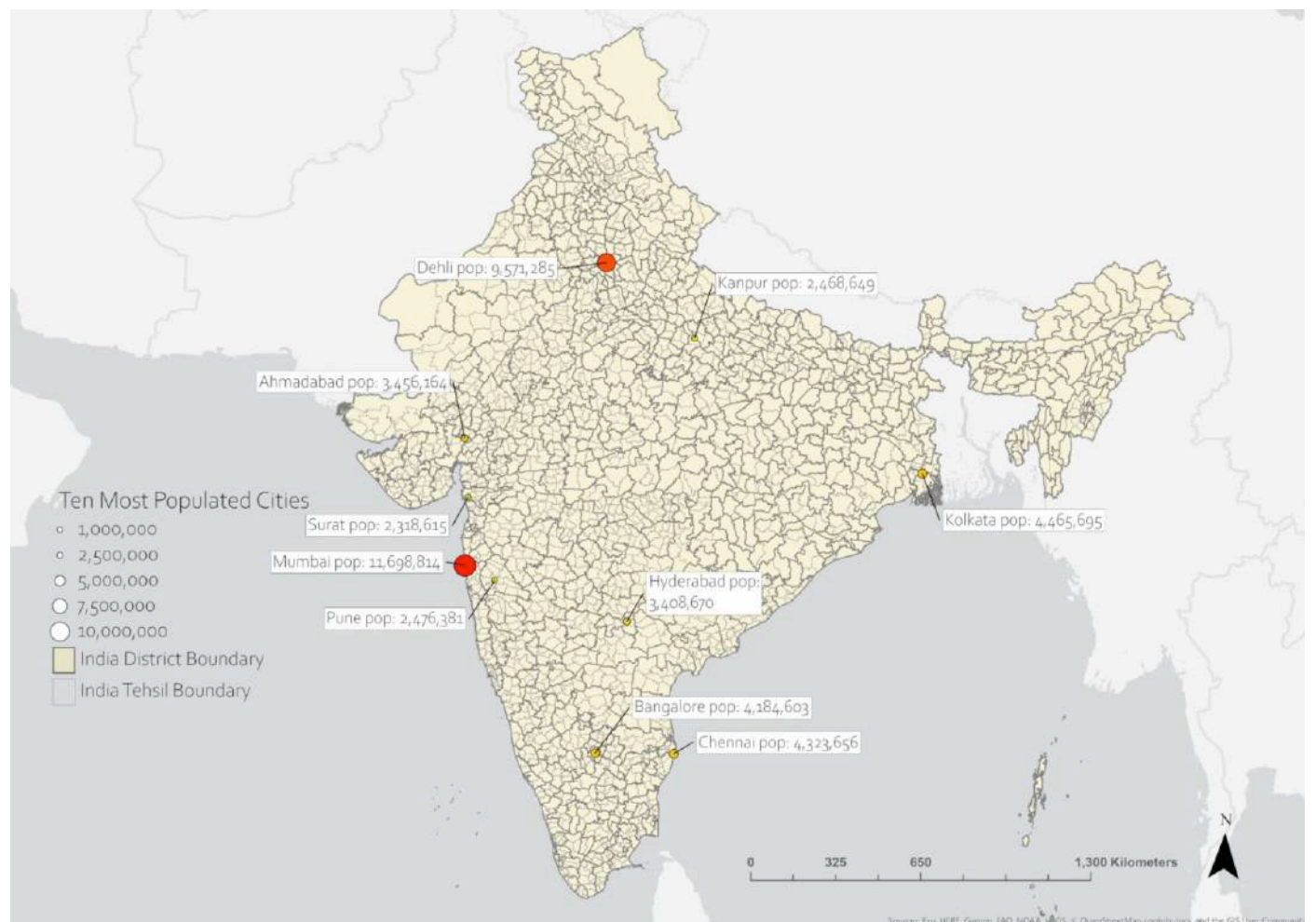
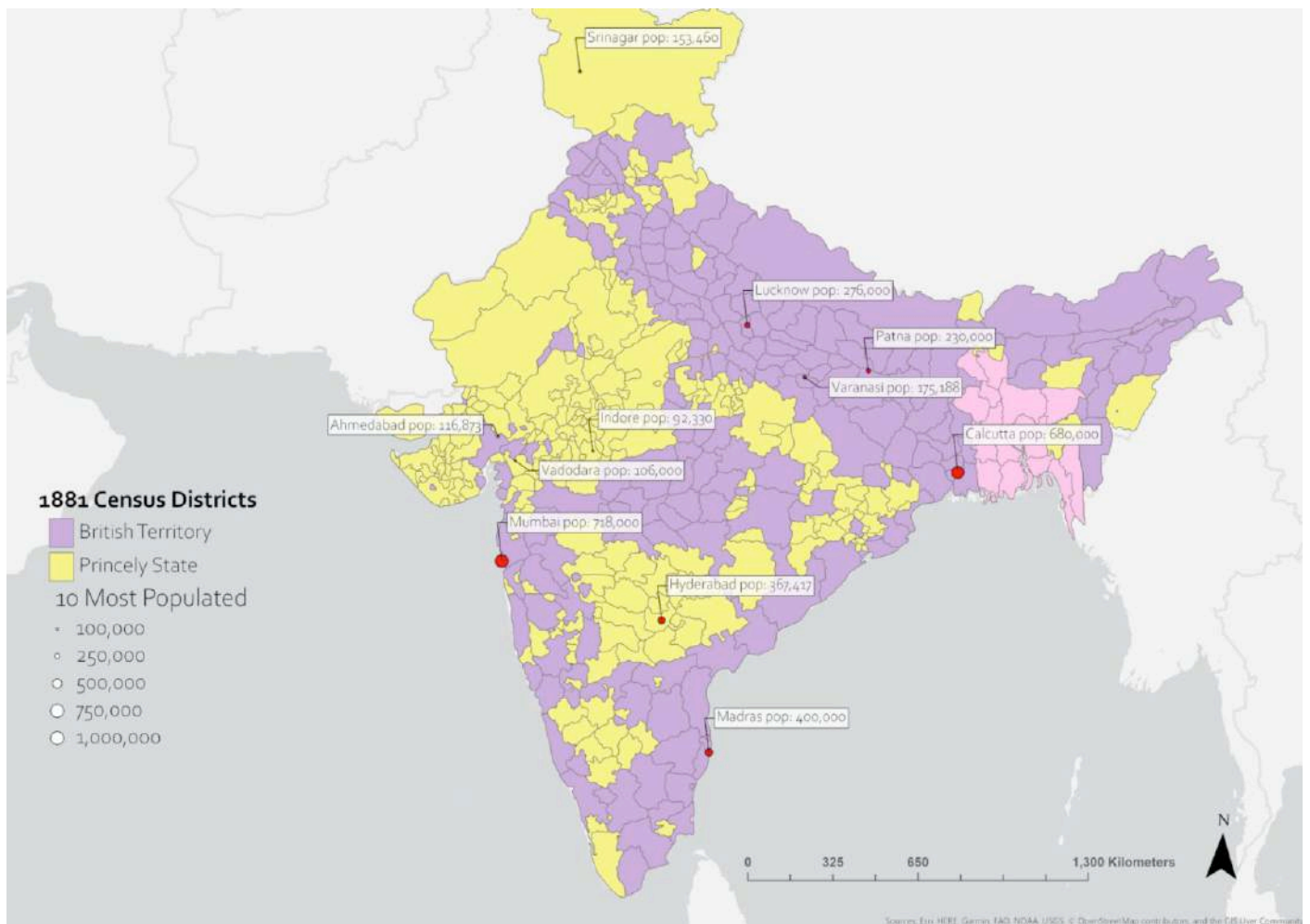
With the source map correctly aligned to its real-world location, we begin the automated tracing process, instructing the program to follow only the black lines and disregard the white background and small, unconnected line segments. The tracing outputs are viewed, corrected, and re-processed, with multiple iterative tracings being combined for the final shapes. In contrast with hand-tracing thousands of irregular shapes using a mouse, automated tracing can cut the overall digitization time by

90-95 percent. While the tracing process that produced the first round results below required three tracing iterations and 25 minutes of final editing and clean-up (28 minutes total), an attempt to hand-trace the same level of detail required 2 hours and 55 minutes, reflecting a major improvement in speed. Further advances in the pre-processing and tracing algorithms promise continued improvement of the total time to trace.



Once we have the borders of each shape traced, we can convert them to polygons and attach relevant data to each shape. In this case we have attached the name of each district from the census document, as well as its type – British Territory or Princely State. The completed shapefile is now ready to be utilized and distributed, with each user having the ability to add data to the shapefiles themselves, or to layer other datasets on top of the district shapefiles. In this example, we have included the top ten most populated cities in India for the year 1881, utilizing historical urban population data provided by NASA's Socioeconomic Data and Applications Center (SEDAC).

Following the same process, we have been able to generate historical district shapefiles for India in the years 1872, 1881, 1891, and 1904. As shapefiles are available for the period from 1947 to the Present day, our contribution of accurate, detailed shapefiles from the period of 1872-1904 will allow researchers to pursue analyses and inquiry using a continuous spatial record from the nineteenth century. The 1872, 1881, 1891, and 1904 India District shapefiles are still being finished, and we will post further updates and analysis using these shapefiles in the future.



## Partnership Planning Meeting University of Ghent, 15-16 October 2018



**Philippe De Maeyer and his Ghent Team present 3-D display of Archeological Sites on the Silk Road**

Pictured: (left to right): Samuel Van Ackere (University of Ghent). Phillippe de Maeyer (University of Ghent), Zozan Pehlivan (University of Minnesota, Twin Cities), Sandra Joireman (University of Richmond), Julia Verne (Johannes Gutenberg University of Mainz), Michael Christopher Low (NYU Abu Dhabi), Jon Unruh (McGill University), Lena Maria Scheen (NYU Shanghai), Eva-Maria Knoll (Institute for Social Anthropology (ISA), Austrian Academy of Sciences), Isaac Luginaah (University of Western Ontario).

### **Philippe De Maeyer shows the Partnership Team a Ghent University Library**

Pictured: (left to right): Margaret Kalacska (McGill University), Giancarlo Casale (European University Institute) and Philippe De Maeyer University of Ghent)



# Conferences

## International Conference on Environmental Crises in the Indian Ocean World since 1800

IOWC, May 2021

In light of the Covid-19 Pandemic, the **2021 International Conference on Environmental Crises in the Indian Ocean World since 1800** was the IOWC's first virtually held conference. Using Zoom allowed the IOWC to transcend geographical boundaries and travel restrictions, enabling the Centre to engage speakers in discussion and debate safely from all corners of the world.

### Conference Abstract

Climatic and environmental risks have always been part of the human condition, but we today face a fundamental transformation in their scale and complexity due to the unprecedented momentum of global warming, a process that some argue had its origins in the Industrial Revolution conventionally dated to around 1800. In this context, the Indian Ocean World (IOW), running from Indian Ocean Africa (including Egypt and South Africa) through the Middle East to South Asia, Southeast Asia, Australia, and East Asia, is of special interest. This is due firstly to the centrality in the IOW of the monsoon system and associated phenomena, notably the El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO), Intertropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ), and Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) systems, and other events such as cyclones and volcanic eruptions. The impacts of such phenomena are greatly affected by global warming.

According to the latest Global Climate Risk Index, 7 of the 10 countries most at risk from climate change are located in the IOW, making it the globe's most climatically vulnerable macro-region. Examples of such vulnerability include Australia's recent drought and severe wildfires, and the unprecedented locust plagues afflicting swathes of

the Middle East and Eastern Africa. Secondly, the IOW is the world's most populous macro-region, China and India alone accounting for one third of the global population. The impact of climate change in the IOW is thus of major global concern. For example, the densely populated floodplains of the macro-region (e.g. the Ganges Delta) are at immediate risk of catastrophic sea level rise and concomitant health hazards, population displacement, and mass migration, as are the IOW's low-lying islands (e.g. the Maldives).

This multi-disciplinary Zoom conference seeks to examine the current environmental crisis in the IOW and its historical roots. It calls for papers examining the interactions between environmental and human factors, notably the causes and impacts of environmental events, and human reactions and adaptations to them from circa 1800 to the present, during the transition from the Little Ice Age to warmer, wetter climates, and the recent acceleration of global warming. We invite papers from any relevant discipline, including climate science, health and epidemiology, and the social sciences□ from established academics, emerging scholars, and interested parties from international institutions and NGOs.

### Conference Programme

#### DAY 1: Friday, May 28, 2021

##### *Panel 1: Themes in South East Asia and Australasia (chaired by Gwyn Campbell)*

Ruchie Mark D. Pototanon (University of the Philippines Visayas): "After the Big Storm: An Initial Exploration of Flooding Events in Iloilo City following Typhoon Frank (Fengshen)"

Anif E. Trisnadi (Universitas Negeri Semarang, Indonesia): "The 1963 Volcanic Eruption of Mount Agung Bali, Indonesia and the National Response: A Preliminary Research"

James Warren & Lisa Woodward (Murdoch University, Australia): "A Rising Wall of Water: Philippine Storm Surges between the 17th and 21st Centuries"

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## Conference Programme [Continued]

### *Panel 2: Themes in South Asia (chaired by Archisman Chaudhuri)*

- Debojyoti Das (University of Sussex, UK): “The land of Eighteen Tides: Sundarbans Delta and Liminal Ecotone”
- Ashesh Kumar Dhar (University of Hyderabad, India): “Devastation and Dominion: Reading a Terrain in Natural Disasters”
- Archit Guha (Independent Researcher, India): “‘A Great Experiment Performed by the Hand of Nature’: Scaling the Cyclone as a Scientific Concept and the Politics of Empire in South Asia, 1839-1876”

### *Panel 3: Themes in Africa (chaired by Philip Gooding)*

- Rafaël Thiebaut (Musée du quai Branly - Jacques Chirac, France): “The «terrible ouragan» of 1760 in the Southwest Indian Ocean”
- Matthew Hannaford (University of Lincoln, UK): “Drought and the crisis of the early-nineteenth century in southeast Africa”
- Yadav Deerpaul (Iowa State University, USA): “Strands of a Longue Durée Study from the British Government's Reports of the Sanitary Commission (1884) in Mauritius”

### *Panel 4: Themes in South Asia (chaired by Nicolas Parent)*

- Harminder S. Sran (University of San Francisco, USA) & Navjotpal Kaur (Memorial University, Canada): “India's agrarian crisis: farmers' protest and the history of anthropogenic environmental degradation”
- Donal Thomas (State University of New York at Stony Brook, USA): “Floods in the Western Ghats: A Natural and Man-made Catastrophe”
- Boris Wille (Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany): “Atoll Engineering in the Maldives: Shifting Priorities in Crafting Archipelagic Landscapes”

### *Panel 5: Themes in the Middle East (chaired by Jon Unruh)*

- Jeremy Allen (University of Toronto, Canada): “*Qaḥṭy-eBozorg* 1288 *Qamarī*: The Political Ecology of Famine in Nineteenth Century Iran”
- Isacar Bolaños (California State University, Long Beach, USA): “Drought, Locusts, and the Political Economy of Famine in Late Ottoman Iraq”
- Scott Erich (CUNY Graduate Center, USA): “Tracing the Emergence of the World's Largest ‘Dead Zone’: Plankton, Fish, and People in the Gulf of Oman”

## **DAY 2: Saturday, May 29, 2021**

### *Panel 6: Themes in South East Asia and Australasia (chaired by Gwyn Campbell)*

- Bava Dharani (Independent Researcher, Singapore): “The cruel roots of Singaporean sand: the impact of sand dredging in Southeast Asia”
- Marco Lagman (University of the Philippines-Diliman): “Typhoons and their Impact on Infrastructure Projects in Six Localities of Northern Albay: A Preliminary Study”
- Ghamal Satya Mohammad (Murdoch University, Australia): “The Making of an ‘Economic Scape’ in Mt. Merapi, Java, 19th century – c.1940”
- Spatial Analysis of Disease Risk in 19th-Century India and Madagascar”

### *Panel 7: Transgerional and Southeast Asian Themes (chaired by Philip Gooding)*

- Darini Rajasingham-Senanayake (International Center for Ethnic Studies, Sri Lanka): “‘Zone of Peace?’ The Environmental impacts of the Militarization of the Indian Ocean Region (IOR)”
- Greg Bankoff (University of Hull, UK): “Unsafe harbours: The impact of typhoons on local shipping in the late nineteenth century Philippines”
- Archisman Chaudhuri (IOWC, McGill University, Canada): “Nineteenth-century colonial science and Franz Junghuhn's accounts of Java as a source on volcanic eruptions of Mount Bromo”

## Conference Programme [Continued]

### *Panel 8: Themes in the Middle East (chaired by Archisman Chaudhuri)*

- Steven Serels (Zentrum Moderner Orient, Germany): “Drought and the Environmental Crisis of Poverty in the Southern Red Sea Region over the Longue Durée”
- Mustafa Emre Günaydı (Iowa State University, USA): “The Making of a Disaster: Ecologies of Ottoman Recentralization in Baghdad, 1828-1831”
- Jon Unruh & Nicolas Parent (McGill University, Canada): “Hydropolitics, Middle East Security, and the Reach of the Neo-Ottoman Project in Syria” Debojyoti Das (University of Sussex, UK): “The land of Eighteen Tides: Sundarbans Delta and Liminal Ecotone”

### *Panel 9: Themes in Digital Mapping (chaired by Nicolas Parent)*

- Chris Low, Mustafa Emre Günaydı (Iowa State University, USA), & Zozan Pehlivan (Minnesota Twin Cities, USA) with Luka Miro & Kareem Hammami (IOWC, McGill University, Canada): “Microbial Mapping: Toward a Digital Cartography of Ottoman Cholera and Plague”
- Kareem Hammami, Peter Hynd & Luka Bair (IOWC, McGill University, Canada): “Epidemic Environments: Spatial Analysis of Disease Risk in 19th-Century India and Madagascar”

### *Panel 10: Themes in Africa (chaired by Jon Unruh)*

- Gwyn Campbell (IOWC, McGill University, Canada): “The 1863 Regicide of Radama II of Madagascar reinterpreted in the light of Human-Environment Interaction”
- Philip Gooding (IOWC, McGill University, Canada): “Environmental Change and Political Instability in Equatorial East Africa, 1876-84”
- Robert Roupail (Susquehanna University, USA) & Rory Walshe (University of Cambridge, UK): “A Werewolf from Lallmatie: Cultures of Disaster in Mauritius”
- Jonathan Walz (SIT Graduate Institute, USA) & Rowan Sharkey (Denison University, USA): “Climate Change in Zanzibar: The Outcomes, Factors, and Origins of an Unnatural Disaster”

All panels are freely available on the IOWC's Youtube Channel: [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCd7T\\_p-XZ6R\\_3RnUGAAQCpQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCd7T_p-XZ6R_3RnUGAAQCpQ)

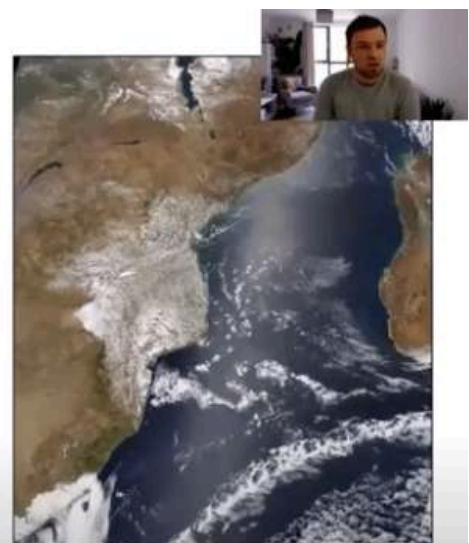
### *Still from Panel 3*

## Drought and the crisis of the early-nineteenth century in southeast Africa

Matthew Hannaford

School of Geography & Lincoln Centre for Water and Planetary Health, University of Lincoln

[mhannaford@lincoln.ac.uk](mailto:mhannaford@lincoln.ac.uk)



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## IOWC & MCRI Conferences 2011-20

- 2019** “Celts in the Atlantic and Indian Ocean Worlds,” IOWC, McGill University
- 2018** “Forced Migration and the Environment in the Indian Ocean World,” IOWC, McGill University
- \_\_\_\_\_ “Pirates, Brigands and Smugglers in the Indian Ocean World,” IOWC, McGill University
- 2017** “Labour, Working Animals, and Environment in the Indian Ocean World,” IOWC, McGill University
- 2016** “Disease Dispersion and Impact in the Indian Ocean World,” IOWC, McGill University
- 2015** “Currencies of Commerce in the Greater Indian Ocean World,” IOWC, McGill University
- 2014** “Trade in Animals and Animal Products in the Indian Ocean World from early times to c.1900,” IOWC, McGill University
- \_\_\_\_\_ “Forced Labour flow to the Mascarenes, c.1834-43,” CNRS, Paris
- \_\_\_\_\_ “Zheng He’s Maritime Voyages (1405-1433) and China’s Relations with the Indian Ocean World from Antiquity,” University of Victoria, British Columbia, Canada.
- 2013** “East Africa and Early Trans-Indian Ocean World Interchange,” IOWC, McGill University
- \_\_\_\_\_ “The European Impact on the Indian Ocean World,” IOWC, McGill University
- \_\_\_\_\_ “Histories of Medicine in the Indian Ocean World,” IOWC, McGill University
- 2012** “The Dimensions of the Indian Ocean World Past: Sources and Opportunities for interdisciplinary work in Indian Ocean World History, 9th-19th Centuries,” Fremantle, Australia
- \_\_\_\_\_ “Textile Trades and Consumption in the Indian Ocean World, from Early Times to the Present,” IOWC, McGill University
- \_\_\_\_\_ “Crossroads between Empires and Peripheries – Knowledge Transfer, Product Exchange and Human Movement in the Indian Ocean World,” Ghent University, Belgium.
- 2011:** “Enslavement, Bondage and the Environment in the Indian Ocean World,” IOWC, McGill University



***IOWC members at the  
Graduate Student Conference,  
2014***

Pictured (left to right): Top:  
Hideaki Suzuki, Rashed  
Chowdhury, Thabit A. J.  
Abdullah Sam, Gwyn  
Campbell, Peter Hynd, Deika  
Mohamed, Christopher Wade.  
Bottom: Anna Winterbottom,  
Alberto Tiburcio, Erin Bell,  
Yoshina Hurgobin.



# Workshops

IOWC Workshops are smaller and more focussed in topic than IOWC conferences, so generally engender greater depth of debate and insight. They can incorporate presentations, - and may result in publications depending on the quality of the work presented. The uniqueness of our workshops are their focus on IOW studies, and notably within that context on human-environment interaction.

## IOWC Workshops Since 2011

- 11 Dec 2020** International Partnership Team Workshop, IOWC, McGill University.  
**22 May 2019** “Data and Global History” Workshop, IOWC, McGill University.  
**7-8 Dec 2018** Graduate Workshop on “*Forced Migration and Environment in the Indian Ocean World, past to present*”, IOWC, McGill University.  
**8-9 Sep 2017** Workshop on Partnership Research project, IOWC, McGill University.  
**17-30 May 2016** *Madagascar Workshop: "The Sacred and the Profane: Society, Cosmology and Environment in Madagascar, from Early Times to the Present Day"*, Avignon, France.  
**21 May 2015** *Madagascar Workshop: "Language, Land, and Labour"*, IOWC, McGill University  
**21-22 Nov 2015** Workshop on “*East Africa and Early Trans-Indian Ocean World Interchange,*” IOWC, McGill University  
**9-10 Oct 2013** *FQRSC-ANR Workshop, “Research Goals and Aims of Bonded Labour Project”*, EHESS, Paris  
**29-30 Apr 2013** *Madagascar Workshop*, IOWC, McGill University  
**17-18 Feb 2013** *IOWC-Eurasian Workshop*, IOWC, McGill University  
**18-22 Apr 2012** *FQRSC-ANR Workshop, “Research Goals and Aims of Bonded Labour Project”*, IOWC, McGill University  
**1-2 May 2011** *Madagascar Workshop*, IOWC, McGill University

## Excursion in the Rhone Valley

Madagascar Workshop, “The Sacred and the Profane: Society, Cosmology and Environment in Madagascar from Early Times to the Present Day”, Avignon, France, 17-30 May 2016



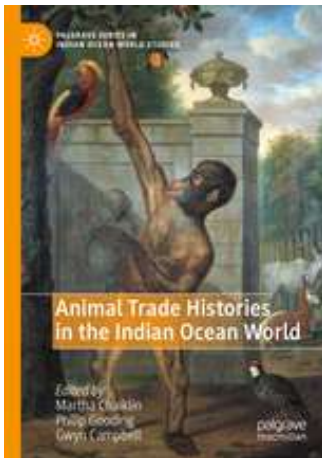
# Palgrave Series in Indian Ocean World Studies

palgrave  
macmillan

Inaugurated by Gwyn Campbell, this is the first scholarly series devoted to the study of the Indian Ocean world from early times to the present day. Encouraging interdisciplinarity, it incorporates and contributes to key debates in a number of areas including history, environmental studies, anthropology, sociology, political science, geography, economics, law, and labour and gender studies. Because it breaks from the restrictions imposed by country/regional studies and Eurocentric periodization, the series provides new frameworks through which to interpret past events, and new insights for present-day policymakers in key areas from labour relations and migration to diplomacy and trade.

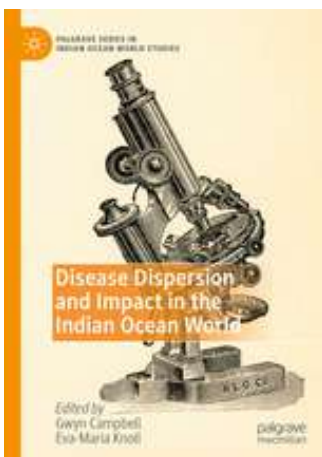
*"IOW studies is a relatively new field of studies, hitherto much neglected, as generally is the focus on human-environment interaction, rather than purely human action, as the catalyst of historical development – a perspective that challenges conventional academic spatial and temporal paradigms. I realised the need for an academic series that would reflect elements of both - so entered negotiations with Palgrave, that finally bore fruit - permitting me to recruit an ace board of advisors - and launching a series that has been highly productive and successful. As a result, I believe the overall aim, of widening interest in IOW studies, and in human-environment interaction, is steadily gaining ground."*

- Gwyn Campbell



## Martha Chaiklin, Philip Gooding, and Gwyn Campbell (eds.), *Animal Trade Histories in the Indian Ocean World* (2020)

**Abstract:** This book examines trades in animals and animal products in the history of the Indian Ocean World (IOW). An international array of established and emerging scholars investigate how the roles of equines, ungulates, sub-ungulates, mollusks, and avians expand our understandings of commerce, human societies, and world systems. Focusing primarily on the period 1500-1900, they explore how animals and their products shaped the relationships between populations in the IOW and Europeans arriving by maritime routes. By elucidating this fundamental yet under-explored aspect of encounters and exchanges in the IOW, these interdisciplinary essays further our understanding of the region, the environment, and the material, political and economic history of the world.



## Gwyn Campbell and Eva-Maria Knoll (eds.), *Disease, Dispersion, and Impact in the Indian Ocean World* (2020)

**Abstract:** This volume views the study of disease as essential to understanding the key historical developments underpinning the foundation of contemporary Indian Ocean World (IOW) societies. The interplay between disease and climatic conditions, natural and manmade crises and disasters, human migration and trade in the IOW reveals a wide range of perceptions about disease etiologies and epidemiologies, and debates over the origin, dispersion and impact of disease form a central focus in these essays. Incorporating a wide scope of academic and scientific angles including history, social and medical anthropology, archaeology, epidemiology and paleopathology, this collection focuses on diseases that spread across time, space and cultures. It scrutinizes disease as an object, and engages with the subjectivities of afflicted inhabitants of, and travellers to, the IOW.



**Steven Serels and Gwyn Campbell (eds.), *Currencies of the Indian Ocean World* (2019)**

**Abstract:** This book is the first to trace the unique monetary history of the Indian Ocean World. Long-distance trade across the region was facilitated by a highly complex multi-currency system undergirded by shared ideas that transcended ethno-linguistic, religious and class divisions. Currencies also occupied key roles in local spiritual, aesthetic and affective practices. Foregrounding these tensions between the global/universalistic and the local/particularistic, the volume shows how this traditional currency system remained in place until the middle of the twentieth century, and how aspects of the system continue to inform monetary practices throughout the region. With case studies covering China, India, the Arabian Sea, the Red Sea, East Africa, Zanzibar, Madagascar and Mauritius from the thirteenth to the twenty-first centuries, this volume explores the central role currencies played in economic exchange as well as in establishing communal bonds, defining state power and expressing religious sentiments.



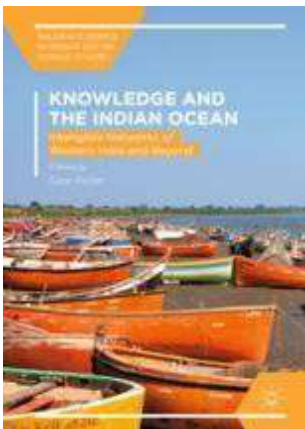
**Angela Schottenhammer (ed.), *Early Global Interconnectivity across the Indian Ocean World, Volume I: Commercial Structures and Exchanges* (2019)**

**Abstract:** This volume investigates the emergence and spread of maritime commerce and interconnectivity across the Indian Ocean World—the world’s first “global economy”—from a longue durée perspective. Spanning from antiquity to the nineteenth century, these essays move beyond the usual focus on geographical sub-regions or thematic aspects to foreground inter- and trans-regional connections. Analyzing multi-lingual records and recent archaeological findings, volume I examines mercantile networks, the role of merchants, routes, and commodities, as well as diasporas and port cities.



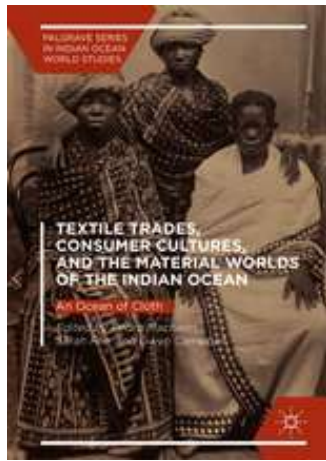
**Angela Schottenhammer (ed.), *Early Global Interconnectivity across the Indian Ocean World, Volume II: Exchange of Ideas, Religions, and Technologies* (2019)**

**Abstract:** This volume investigates the emergence and spread of maritime commerce and interconnectivity across the Indian Ocean World—the world’s first “global economy”—from a longue durée perspective. Spanning from antiquity to the nineteenth century, these essays move beyond the usual focus on geographical sub-regions or thematic aspects to foreground inter- and trans-regional connections. Focusing on the role of religion in the expansion of commerce and exchange across the region, as well as on technology and knowledge transfer, volume II covers shipbuilding and navigation technologies, porcelain production, medicinal knowledge, and mules as a commodity and means of transportation.



**Sara Keller (ed.), *Knowledge and the Indian Ocean World: Intangible Networks of Western India and Beyond* (2019)**

**Abstract:** This volume examines Western India’s contributions to the spread of ideas, beliefs and other intangible ties across the Indian Ocean world. The region, particularly Gujarat and Bombay, is well-established in the Indian imaginary and in scholarship as a mercantile hub. These essays move beyond this identity to examine the region as a dynamic place of learning and a host of knowledge, tracing the flow of knowledge, aesthetic sensibilities, values, memories and genetic programs. Contributors traverse the fields of history, anthropology, agriculture, botany, medicine, sociology and more to offer path-breaking perspectives on Western India’s deep socio-cultural impact across the centuries. Western India emerges as a pivotal region in the maritime world as a transmitter of knowledge.



**Pedro Machado, Sarah Fee, and Gwyn Campbell (eds.), *Textile Trades, Consumer Cultures, and the Material Worlds of the Indian Ocean: An Ocean of Cloth* (2018)**

**Abstract:** This collection examines cloth as a material and consumer object from early periods to the twenty-first century, across multiple oceanic sites—from Zanzibar, Muscat and Kampala to Ajanta, Srivijaya and Osaka. It moves beyond usual focuses on a single fibre (such as cotton) or place (such as India) to provide a fresh, expansive perspective of the ocean as an “interaction-based arena,” with an internal dynamism and historical coherence forged by material exchange and human relationships. Contributors map shifting social, cultural and commercial circuits to chart the many histories of cloth across the region. They also trace these histories up to the present with discussions of contemporary trade in Dubai, Zanzibar, and Eritrea. Richly illustrated, this collection brings together new and diverse strands in the long story of textiles in the Indian Ocean, past and present.



**Gwyn Campbell (ed.), *Bondage and the Environment in the Indian Ocean World* (2018)**

**Abstract:** Monsoon rains, winds, and currents have shaped patterns of production and exchange in the Indian Ocean world (IOW) for centuries. Consequently, as this volume demonstrates, the environment has also played a central role in determining the region’s systems of bondage and human trafficking. Contributors trace intricate links between environmental forces, human suffering, and political conditions, examining how they have driven people into servile labour and shaped the IOW economy. They illuminate the complexities of IOW bondage with case studies, drawn chiefly from the mid-eighteenth century, on Sudan, Cape Colony, Réunion, China, and beyond, where chattel slavery (as seen in the Atlantic world) represented only one extreme of a wide spectrum of systems of unfree labour. The array of factors examined here, including climate change, environmental disaster, disease, and market forces, are central to IOW history—and to modern-day forms of human bondage.



**Alessandro Stanziani, *Labor on the Fringes of Empire: Voice, Exit, and the Law* (2018)**

**Abstract:** After the abolition of slavery in the Indian Ocean and Africa, the world of labor remained unequal, exploitative, and violent, straddling a fine line between freedom and unfreedom. This book explains why. Unseating the Atlantic paradigm of bondage and drawing from a rich array of colonial, estate, plantation and judicial archives, Alessandro Stanziani investigates the evolution of labor relationships on the Indian subcontinent, the Indian Ocean and Africa, with case studies on Assam, the Mascarene Islands and the French Congo. He finds surprising relationships between African and Indian abolition movements and European labor practices, inviting readers to think in terms of trans-oceanic connections rather than simple oppositions. Above all, he considers how the meaning and practices of freedom in the colonial world differed profoundly from those in the mainland. Arguing for a multi-centered view of imperial dynamics, *Labor on the Fringes of Empire* is a pioneering global history of nineteenth-century labor.



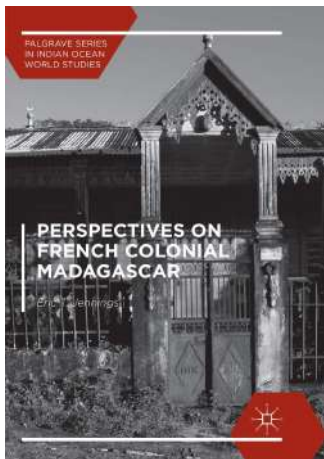
**Steven Serels, *The Impoverishment of the African Red Sea Littoral, 1640–1945* (2018)**

**Abstract:** The African Red Sea Littoral, currently divided between Sudan, Eritrea, Ethiopia, and Djibouti, is one of the poorest regions in the world. But the pastoralist communities indigenous to this region were not always poor—historically, they had access to a variety of resources that allowed them to prosper in the harsh, arid environment. This access was mediated by a robust moral economy of pastoralism that acted as a social safety net. Steven Serels charts the erosion of this moral economy, a slow-moving process that began during the Little Ice Age mega-drought of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries and continued through the devastating famines of the twentieth century. By examining mass sedentarization after the Second World War as merely the latest manifestation of an inter-generational environmental and economic crisis, this book offers an innovative lens for understanding poverty in northeastern Africa.



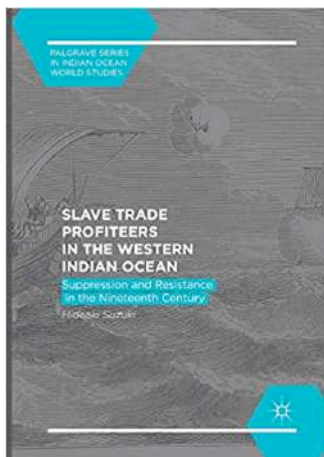
**Burkhard Schnepel and Edward A. Alpers (eds.), *Connectivity in Motion: Island Hubs in the Indian Ocean World* (2018)**

**Abstract:** This original collection brings islands to the fore in a growing body of scholarship on the Indian Ocean, examining them as hubs or points of convergence and divergence in a world of maritime movements and exchanges. Straddling history and anthropology and grounded in the framework of connectivity, the book tackles central themes such as smallness, translocality, and “the island factor.” It moves to the farthest reaches of the region, with a rich variety of case studies on the Swahili-Comorian world, the Maldives, Indonesia, and more. With remarkable breadth and cohesion, these essays capture the circulations of people, goods, rituals, sociocultural practices, and ideas that constitute the Indian Ocean world. Together, they take up “islandness” as an explicit empirical and methodological issue as few have done before.



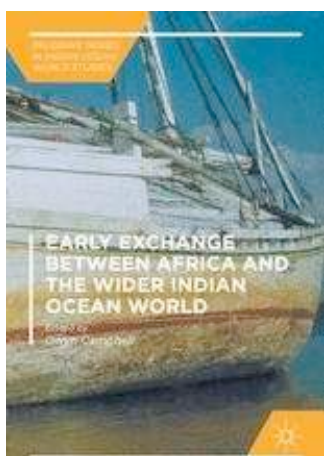
**Erik T. Jennings, *Perspectives on French Colonial Madagascar* (2017)**

**Abstract:** This book is a vivid history of Madagascar from the pre-colonial era to decolonization, examining a set of French colonial projects and perceptions that revolve around issues of power, vulnerability, health, conflict, control and identity. It focuses on three lines of inquiry: the relationship between domination and health fears, the island’s role during the two world wars, and the mystery of Malagasy origins. The Madagascar that emerges is plural and fractured. It is the site of colonial dystopias, grand schemes gone awry, and diverse indigenous reactions. Bringing together deep archival research and recent scholarship, Jennings sheds light on the colonial project in Madagascar, and more broadly, on the ideas which underpin colonialism.



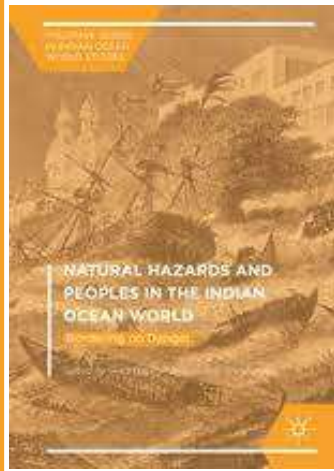
**Hideaki Suzuki, *Slave Trade Profiteers in the Western Indian Ocean: Suppression and Resistance in the Nineteenth Century* (2017)**

**Abstract:** This book examines how slave traders interacted with and resisted the British suppression campaign in the nineteenth-century western Indian Ocean. By focusing on the transporters, buyers, sellers, and users of slaves in the region, the book traces the many links between slave trafficking and other types of trade. Drawing upon first-person slave accounts, travelogues, and archival sources, it documents the impact of abolition on Zanzibar politics, Indian merchants, East African coastal urban societies, and the entirety of maritime trade in the region. Ultimately, this ground-breaking work uncovers how western Indian Ocean societies experienced the slave trade suppression campaign as a political intervention, with important implications for Indian Ocean history and the history of the slave trade.



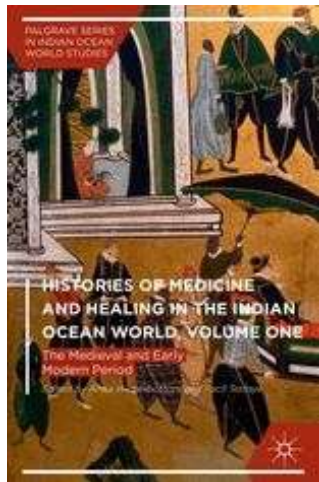
**Gwyn Campbell (ed.), *Early Exchange between Africa and the Wider Indian Ocean World* (2016)**

**Abstract:** This volume comprises a selection of essays by scholars from a variety of disciplines that discuss the exchange relationship between Africa and the wider Indian Ocean world (IOW), a macro-region running from East Africa to China, from early times to about 1300 CE. The rationale for regarding this macro-region as a “world” is the central significance of the monsoon system which facilitated the early emergence of long-distance trans-IOW maritime exchange of commodities, peoples, plants, animals, technologies and ideas.



**Greg Bankoff and Joseph Christensen (eds.), *Natural Hazards and Peoples in the Indian Ocean World: Bordering on Danger* (2016)**

**Abstract:** This book examines the dangers and the patterns of adaptation that emerge through exposure to risk on a daily basis. By addressing the influence of environmental factors in Indian Ocean World history, the collection reaches across the boundaries of the natural and social sciences, presenting case-studies that deal with a diverse range of natural hazards – fire in Madagascar, drought in India, cyclones and typhoons in Oman, Australia and the Philippines, climatic variability, storms and flood in Vietnam and the Philippines, and volcanic eruptions, earthquakes and tsunamis in Indonesia. These chapters, written by leading international historians, respond to a growing need to understand the ways in which natural hazards shape social, economic and political development of the Indian Ocean World, a region of the globe



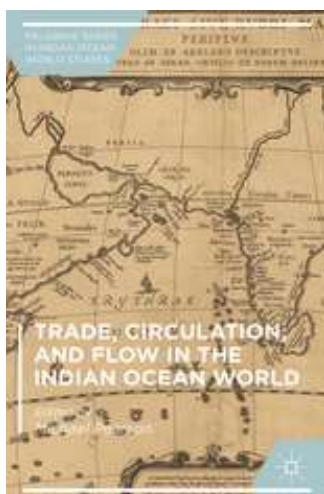
**Anna Winterbottom and Facil Tesfaye (eds.) *Histories of Medicine in the Indian Ocean World, Volume I: The Medieval and Early Modern Period* (2016)**

**Abstract:** This interdisciplinary work, the first of two volumes, presents essays on various aspects of disease, medicine, and healing in different locations in and around the Indian Ocean from the ninth century to the early modern period. Themes include theoretical explanations for disease, concepts of fertility, material culture, healing in relation to diplomacy and colonialism, public health, and the health of slaves and migrant workers. Overall, the books argue that, throughout the period of study, the Indian Ocean has been the site of multiple interconnected medical interactions that may be viewed in the context of the environmental factors connecting the region. The two volumes are the first to use the Indian Ocean World as a geographical and conceptual framework for the study of disease. It will appeal to academics and graduate students working in the fields of medical and scientific history, as well as in the growing fields of Indian Ocean studies and global history.



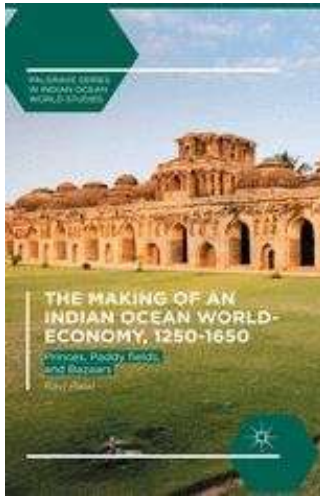
**Anna Winterbottom and Facil Tesfaye (eds.), *Histories of Medicine in the Indian Ocean World, Volume II: The Modern Period* (2016)**

**Abstract:** The Indian Ocean has been the site of multiple interconnected medical interactions that may be viewed in the context of the environmental factors connecting the region. This interdisciplinary work presents essays on various aspects of disease, medicine, and healing in different locations in and around the Indian Ocean from the eighteenth century to the contemporary era. The essays explore theoretical explanations for disease, concepts of fertility, material culture, healing in relation to diplomacy and colonialism, public health, and the health of slaves and migrant workers. This book will appeal to academics and graduate students working in the fields of medical and scientific history, as well as in the growing fields of Indian Ocean studies and global history.



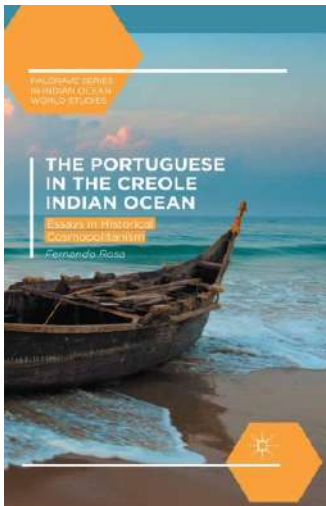
**Michael Pearson (ed.), *Trade, Circulation, and Flow in the Indian Ocean World* (2015)**

**Abstract:** *Trade, Circulation, and Flow in the Indian Ocean World* is a collection which covers a long time span and diverse areas around the ocean. Many of the essays look at the Indian Ocean before Europeans arrived, reminding the reader that there was a cohesive Indian Ocean. This collection includes empirical studies and essays focused on particular area or production. The essays cover various aspects of trade and exchange, the Indian Ocean as a world-system, East African and Chinese connections with the Indian Ocean World, and the movement of people and ideas around the ocean.



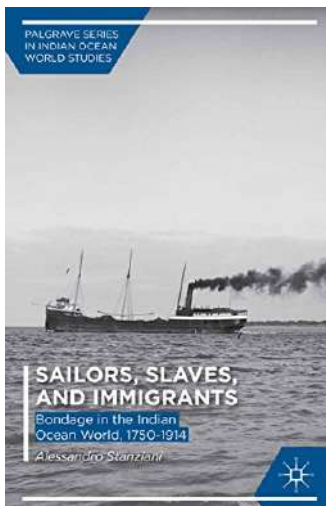
**Ravi Palat, *The Making of an Indian Ocean World - Economy: Princes, Paddy Fields, and Bazaars* (2015)**

**Abstract:** To counter Eurocentric notions of long-term historical change, Wet Rice Cultivation and the Emergence of the Indian Ocean draws upon the histories of societies based on wet-rice cultivation to chart an alternate pattern of social evolution and state formation and traces inter-state linkages and the growth of commercialization without capitalism.



**Rosa Fernando, *The Portuguese in the Creole Indian Ocean World: Essays in Historical Cosmopolitanism* (2015)**

**Abstract:** This monograph is an exploration of the historical legacy of the Portuguese in the Indian Ocean, in particular in Goa, Macau, Melaka, and Malabar. Instead of fixing the gaze on either the colonial or the indigenous, it attempts to scrutinise a creole space that is rooted in Indian Ocean cosmopolitanism.



**Alessandro Stanziani, *Sailors, Slaves and Immigrants: Bondage in the Indian Ocean World, 1750 – 1914* (2014)**

**Abstract:** Slaves, convicts, and unfree immigrants have traveled the oceans throughout human history, but the conventional Atlantic World historical paradigm has narrowed our understanding of modernity. This provocative study contrasts the Atlantic conflation of freedom and the sea with the complex relationships in the Indian Ocean in the long 19th century.



**Steven Serels, *Starvation and the State: Famine, Slavery, and Power in Sudan, 1883-1956* (2013)**

**Abstract:** Sudan has historically suffered devastating famines that have powerfully reshaped its society. This study shows that food crises were the result of exploitative processes that transferred resources to a small group of beneficiaries, including British imperial agents and indigenous elites who went on to control the Sudanese state at independence.



# Journal of Indian Ocean World Studies

The *Journal of Indian Ocean World Studies (JIOWS)* is the creation of the Indian Ocean World Centre (IOWC) at McGill University. It is published by the McGill University Library and is the preeminent journal in Indian Ocean World studies, a growing, interdisciplinary field that engages scholars from across the social sciences and humanities. Its Open Access policy ensures increased accessibility to all scholars across the globe, including those located in the Indian Ocean World (IOW).

The *JIOWS* was founded in 2017 as an annual publication with Gwyn Campbell, IOWC Director, as Editor-in-Chief. Since 2019, it has published two issues a year and significantly expanded its editorial team, to include, for example, an Associate Editor. This expansion reflects recent advances in IOW studies and central contribution of the *JIOWS* to such developments.

The *JIOWS* has taken several steps to ensure its pre-eminence moving forwards. In 2021, it launched a Book Reviews section, and will soon publish its first commissioned 'State of the Field' essay. These will place the *JIOWS* at the centre of discussions about past, present, and future developments in IOW historiography. Additionally, the *JIOWS* is working on a number of projects with potential partners. We hope to be able to break news of these collaborations in the near future.

Everything *JIOWS*-related is available at [jiows.mcgill.ca](http://jiows.mcgill.ca). In this report, we provide a snapshot of its outputs, including a longer description of the journal and its mandate, and editorial summaries of each issue. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to write us at: [jiows@mcgill.ca](mailto:jiows@mcgill.ca)

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Masashi Haneda (University of Tokyo)

Isabel Hofmeyr (University of the Witwatersrand)

Yoshina Hurgobin (Kennesaw State University)

Pierre-Yves Manguin (École Française d'Extrême Orient)

Renisa Mawani (University of British Columbia)

Michael Pearson (University of New South Wales)

Burkhard Schnepel (Martin Luther University of Halle-Wittenberg)

Alessandro Stanziani (EHESS)

Lakshmi Subramanian (Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta)

Nigel Worden (University of Cape Town)

Awet Weldemichael (Queen's University)

Robin Yates (McGill University)

Nurfadzilah Nahaya (National University of Singapore)



# Current Issue and Archives

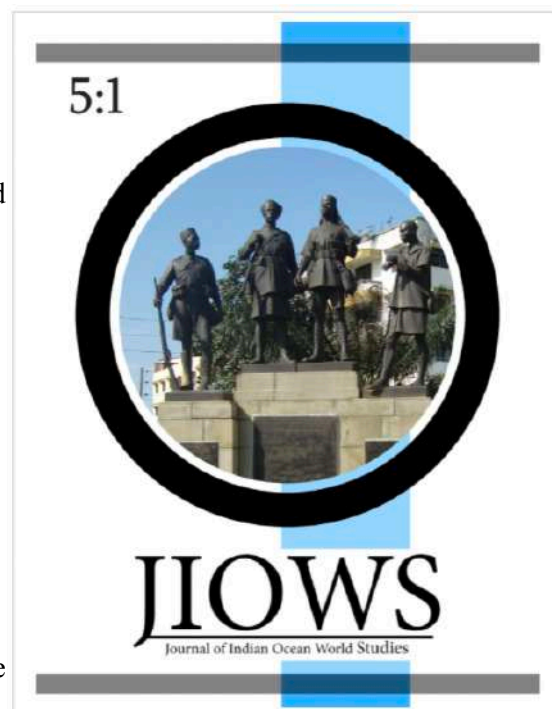
## Volume 5: Issue 1

The Editors are proud to present the first issue of the fifth volume of the *JIOSWS*. This issue represents a number of innovations in IOW studies and for our journal.

Firstly, we present a special feature on port-towns in the IOW, organized and guest edited by Vidhya Raveendranathan and Duane Corpis. This special feature stems from an interdisciplinary conference held at NYU Shanghai in 2019 and adds perspectives focusing on labour and infrastructure to our understanding of the IOW's port-towns, past and present. Raveendranathan has written a historiographical primer and has introduced the four articles contained within the feature in the Guest Editors' Introduction. We are thrilled to announce that she has since agreed to join the permanent editorial team as a Managing Editor. We look forward to continuing our work together moving forwards.

Secondly, we present two articles dealing with separate issues in IOW studies. Nancy Wright engages the work of Lindsey Collen, a Mauritian novelist, to challenge the thematic paradigms of 'centre' and 'margins' in the literature of the IOW. She argues that, through using the English language and folklore in her writing, Collen brings the margins to the centre, thereby obviating an assumed analytical dichotomy. Collen's work transforms this and other dichotomies by narrating the human condition across gender, class, and nation. Meanwhile, Heena Mistry re-visits the repatriation debate in India following the abolition of indenture in 1917. By drawing on the work of an 'ocean-crossing activist' and a journalist with significant links to South Africa, she sheds new light on Indian diasporic perspectives of late colonial India and the IOW. Here, the IOW perspective challenges better-known histories of Indian Nationalism and anti-colonialism that focus largely on developments occurring within India itself.

Finally, we are proud to launch the Book Reviews section of the *JIOSWS* with Zozan Pehlivan as Book Reviews Editor. As Pehlivan is a former postdoctoral fellow at the IOWC, we are especially excited to renew our formal collaboration with her in this new role. In this issue, we present reviews of two exciting publications in IOW studies: Wilson Chacko Jacob's *For God or Empire* and Laleh Khalili's *Sinews of War and Trade*. We hope to build on and expand our Book Reviews section moving forwards, making the *JIOSWS* the prime location in which scholarship pertaining to the IOW is discussed and analysed.



### Special Feature: Port Cities and the Indian Ocean World (5:1)

Daniel Steinbach	Shifting Tides: The Port City of Mombasa and the First World War
Laura Yan	"Owned them like a Father": Labor Contractors, Port Workers, and the Making of Ethnicity in Singapore
Hasan H. Karrar	The Indus Delta between the Past and Future: Precarious Livelihoods and Neoliberal Imaginaries in a Parched Coastal Belt
Kaustubh Mani Sengupta	William Tolly and his Canal: Navigating Calcutta in the Late Eighteenth Century
<b>Other Articles</b>	
Nancy Elaine Wright	Central Margins: Paradox and Transformation of Dichotomies in Two English Language Novels by Lindsay Collen
Heena Mistry	The Repatriation Debate after the Abolition of Indenture
<b>Book Reviews</b>	
Abdul Jaleel Shakeel Anjum	Review of Wilson Chacko Jacob, <i>For God or Empire: Sayyid Fadl and the Indian Ocean World</i> . Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 2019.
Joseph McQuade	Review of Laleh Khalili, <i>Sinews of War and Trade: Shipping and Capitalism in the Arabian Peninsula</i> . London: Verso, 2020.

4:2



**JIOWS**  
Journal of Indian Ocean World Studies

The editors of the *Journal of Indian Ocean World Studies (JIOWS)* are proud to present the first of two special issues organised by anthropologists Iain Walker and Martin Slama on diasporas and transnationalism in the Indian Ocean World (IOW). This first special issue challenges scholars to refocus our understandings of the meaning of ‘diaspora,’ a term whose wide usage in recent years has diminished its analytical utility, by conceiving the IOW as a macro-region in which diasporas ‘come into being, endure, and sustain themselves.’ Building on both classic and more recent works, the contributors to this issue examine the ways in which the development of diasporas has facilitated the maintenance of networks – commercial, religious, kinship, and more – around the IOW. They do so partly through the conceptualisation of the ‘diaspora for others.’ This concept rejects recent approaches that conflate ‘groups of

migrants’ with diasporas. Instead, it conceives the diaspora as a ‘spatially dispersed community’ that functions ‘as a community,’ despite the sometimes large distances between its members. The emphasis is not merely on what diasporas are as an abstract phenomenon, but what they do for the people within them. This enables the contributors to incorporate communities whose ‘diasporic’ identity might be brought into question if the focus on the ‘group of migrants’ in diaspora studies were to continue. They additionally do this from a variety of disciplinary backgrounds, including anthropology, literary studies, history, ethnography, and cultural heritage studies. They thus both refine and expand how the concept of ‘diaspora’ should be understood, highlight the interdisciplinary focus of the *JIOWS*, and show the ‘diaspora for others’ as a potentially ground-breaking feature of diaspora studies in the IOW and beyond.

**Volume 4 : Issue 2**

Iain Walker & Martin Slama	The Indian Ocean as a Diasporic Space: A Conceptual Introduction
Frederica Guccini & Mingyuan Zhang	‘Being Chinese’ in Mauritius and Madagascar: Comparing Chinese Diasporic Communities in the Western Indian Ocean
Shanaaz Mohammed	Reimagining the Aapravasi Ghat: Khal Torabully’s Poetry and the Indentured Diaspora
Harun Rasiah	An Imagined Diaspora: The Making of Shi’I Muslim Ethnicity in Sri Lanka
Fatimah Husein	Preserving and Transmitting the Teachings of the Thariqah ‘Alawiyah: Diasporic Ba’ Alawi Female Preachers in Contemporary Indonesia
Iain Walker	The Hadrami Diaspora: A ‘diaspora for others’ in the Indian Ocean

**Volume 4 : Issue 1**

4:1



**JIOWS**  
Journal of Indian Ocean World Studies

James Francis Warren	In Search of Julano Taupan: His Life and His Times
Kelsey McFaul	Burcad Badeed as Grounds and Method of Literary Expressions of Somali Piracy
Marek Pawelczak	British Jurisdiction and legal Protection of Non-Europeans in the Sultanate of Zanzibar, 1841-1888

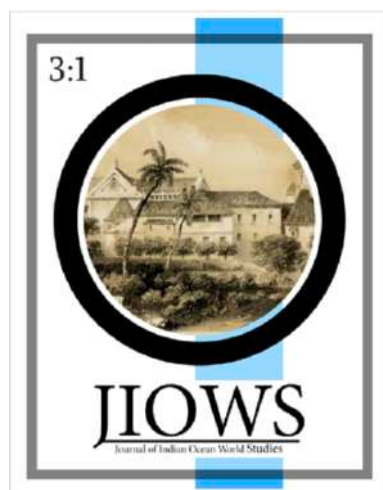
Volume 2 and 3 of the *JIEWS* are special collections of Festschrift essays in honour of Michael Pearson, a formative figure in Indian Ocean World (IOW) studies.

Pioneer IOW scholar K.N. Chaudhuri was largely responsible for adapting Braudelian concepts to the IOW, a macro-region running from the Red Sea to East Asia. Thus he established the central significance of environmental factors, notably the monsoon system, in IOW history. He also challenged conventional histories that for traditional IOW societies stressed the primacy of non-economic factors, ones that slowed or retarded economic development. Such conventional histories argued that the advent into the IOW from 1500 of Europeans dominated by capitalist ideology that placed to the fore the primacy of individual enterprise, the profit motive, and protection of private property quickly established European economic, technological, military and political dominance – one cemented by the widespread imposition of European colonial rule in the late nineteenth century.

Other scholars have followed Chaudhuri’s challenge

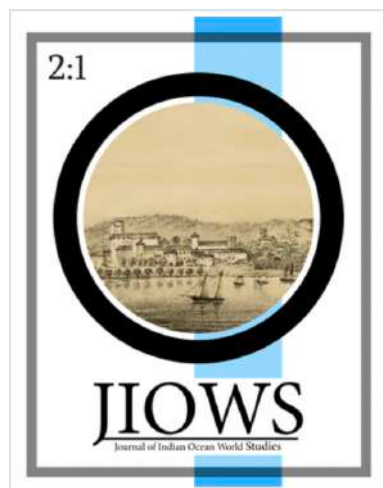
toconventional Eurocentric interpretations of IOW history. However, Michael Pearson has greatly advanced the frontier of Indian Ocean world studies in new and highly significant ways. Firstly, albeit by training a historian of India, Pearson eschewed the Asia-centric tendencies of Chaudhuri and his immediate followers by including Africa as an integral part of the IOW, and of Africans as not merely passive spectators of an IOW history created by Asians, or worse, victims of a slave trade organised initially by Arabs and later also Europeans, but as making vibrant positive contributions to IOW history. The second major way in which Pearson has helped advance IOW studies is through a subtle and profound study of the historical interplay between the peoples of the maritime spaces of the IOW, its littorals, and its terrestrial (island and continental) hinterlands. Pearson’s contributions, of course, go beyond these salient issues, as the following essays – some more personal in nature than others –make clear. It is our hope that these two special editions will encourage readers who have yet to explore Michael’s works, to do so.

**Volume 3: Issue 1**



Teotónio R. de Souza	Michael N. Pearson: A Partnership Across the Oceans
Markus Vink	From Cape Town to Canton: The Dutch Indian Ocean World, 1600-1800 – A Littoral Census
Rhadhika Seshan	The Port City of Chaul
Julia McClure, Amitava Chowdhury, Sarah Easterby-Smith, Norberto Ferreras, Omar Gueye, Meha Priyadarshini, Steven Serels & Jelmer Jos	Inequality and the Future of Global History: A Round Table Discussion
JIEWS Editors	Michael Pearson: A Bibliography

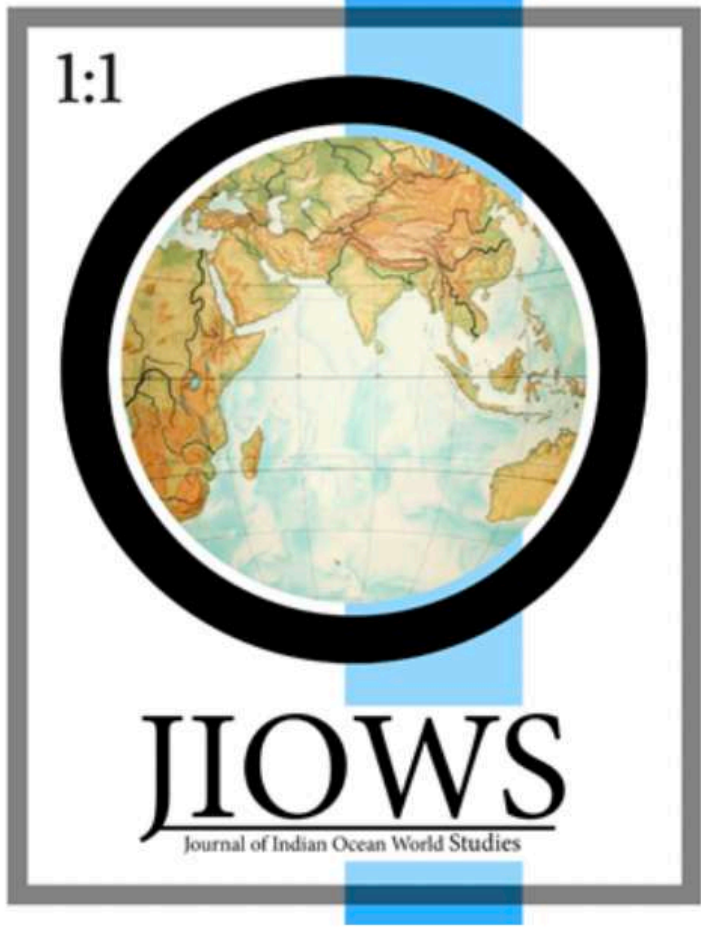
**Volume 2: Issue 1**



Lakshmi Subramanian	Introduction: The Indian Ocean Historian
Edward A. Alpers	From Littoral to Ozone: On Michael Pearson’s Contributions to Indian Ocean History
Pamila Gupta	Of Ports and Portugal: Keywords in Honour of Michael Pearson
Søren Mentz	Merchants and States: Private Trade and the Fall of Madras, 1746
Rila Mukherjee	Maritime – Aquatic; Territorial – Territoriality: Tracing Michael N. Pearson’s Work on the Sea
Hideaki Suzuki	Agency of Littoral Society: Reconsidering Medieval Swahili Port Towns with Written Evidence

## Volume 1: Issue 1

This inaugural issue of the *JIEWS* focuses on various instances of interaction in the IOW. From commercial exchange between otherwise opposing commercial enterprises, to personal interactions between Europeans and peoples indigenous to the IOW, to the experiences and strategies of slaves, the issue explores various instances in which categories of “foreign” and “indigenous” come into alignment or conflict in historiography, colonial narratives, or commercial enterprises.



Michael Pearson	Places in the Indian Ocean World
Gwyn Campbell	Africa, the Indian Ocean World, and the ‘Early Modern’: Historiographical Conventions and Problems
Michael Laffan	From Javanese Court to African grave: How Noriman became Tuan Skapie, 1717-1806
Edward A. Alpers & Matthew S. Hopper	Speaking for Themselves? Understanding African Freed Slave testimonies from the Western Indian Ocean, 1850s-1930s
Mahmood Kooria	An Abode of Islam under a Hindu King: Circuitous Imagination of Kingdoms among Muslims of Sixteenth-Century Malabar
Carey McCormack	Collection and Discovery: Indigenous Guides and Alfred Russel Wallace in Southeast Asia, 1854-1862
Rafaël Thiébaud	An Informal Franco-Dutch Alliance: Trade and Diplomacy between the Mascarenes and the Cape, 1719-1769

### *Peer Review Process*

Following a double-blind process, each manuscript is evaluated on the following criteria:

- 1) The manuscripts are original in research content or offer comprehensive reviews and evaluations of key literature in a given field**
- 2) The manuscript is relevant to the journal's scope and aim**
- 3) The manuscript meets all applicable standards of ethics**
- 4) The manuscript conforms to the grammatical and stylistic conventions of the journal**

The editors take the reviewers' recommendations into consideration in determining revisions and publications. All final decisions regarding publication ultimately lie with the Editorial Board.



Established in 2016, the **Indian Ocean World Centre Working Paper Series (IOWC-WPS)** explores the past and contemporary history, geography, economy, environment and politics of the Indian Ocean World. We encourage contributors to adopt a transnational approach which scrutinises the links and interactions within the larger Indian Ocean World. However, we also welcome more focussed studies concentrating on specific events and areas in the Middle East, East Africa, the Indian subcontinent, East and Southeast Asia. This Series acknowledges generous contributions from the Major Collaborative Research Initiative (MCRI), funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC). It also thanks the tireless efforts of the editorial team, made up of present and former postdoctoral fellows at the IOWC.

The IOWC-WPS is reviewed and edited by an in-house team, rather than being peer-reviewed. It provides immediate open access to its content on the principle that making research freely available to the public supports a greater global exchange of knowledge. Copyright is vested in the author of a working paper, which may be cited, quoted or distributed only with the author's permission. Those interested in making a submission to the IOWC-WPS, should contact our lead editors, found on the Series' web page: <https://iowcwp.mcgill.ca/>

*Working Paper Series 2016-21*

Author	Title	Working Paper
Mareike Pampus	Multiple Motives and a Malleable Middleman: The Founding of George Town (Malaysia) – No.11 (2021)	11 (2021)
Abdul Fikri Angga Reksa	Beyond Technology; Investigating Socio-Cultural Aspects of the Indonesian Tsunami Early warning Systems (InaTEWS) in Central Sulawesi, Indonesia	10 (2021)
James Wong Kang Shing	Beyond Making Waves; radio Broadcasting in 1920s Hong Kong	9 (2020)
Renée Manderville	Wetland Management, Development, and Degradation; A Comparative Study of the South Vietnamese Mekong Delta and the Mozambican Zambezi Delta	8 (2020)
Ben Wong	The Climate Coup: An Examination of Mamluk Ascendancy in the Ayyubid Period in Relation to the medieval Climate Anomaly	7 (2019)
Teneille Arnott	Gendered Silence: Female Slave Imports and Khoikhoi Women in the Dutch Cape Colony	6 (2019)
Rahma Wiryomartono	The Origins and Experiences of Female Indonesian Migrant Domestic Workers to Indian Ocean World Destinations, 1970-2018; A case of Modern Indian Ocean World Bondage?	5 (2019)
Eléonore Paré	Sudan and Somalia: Human-Environment Dynamic in the Horn of Africa, 1970-2000	4 (2018)
Rebekah McCallum	Altered Allegiances: Indian Soldiers, Non-Combatants, and Revolutionaries during the Balkan and First World Wars	3 (2017)
Zahra Sabri	Three Shi'a Poets: Sect-Related Themes in Pre-Modern Urdu Poetry	2 (2016)
Tyler Yank	“Our Little Practical Intentions”: Select Narratives of British Abolition in East Africa, 1849-1873	1 (2016)

# IOWC Speaker Series

The IOWC Speaker Series was inaugurated by Gwyn Campbell in 2008. Held at McGill University's Peterson Hall, these weekly events gather researchers and academic guests from around the world to present their research on the past and present Indian Ocean World. The Speaker Series is particularly important in providing emerging scholars and PhD students with the opportunity to showcase their work on multidisciplinary issues and engage with junior and senior researchers specializing in the field. Each speaker event engenders lively discussion between the presenter on the one hand, and the McGill and wider academic community on the other.

Following the Covid-19 outbreak, the Speaker Series was temporarily halted and a socially distanced **Indian Ocean World Podcast Series** inaugurated. However, we hope to resume the IOWC onsite Speaker Series in early 2022. If you are researching themes that investigate the intersectionality of the environment and the social sciences in the Indian Ocean World, and are interested presenting your work at the IOWC, please contact us at [iowc@mcgill.ca](mailto:iowc@mcgill.ca).

## *IOWC Speaker Series Since Fall 2017*

2020		
Date	Speaker	Title
26 Feb	Naivoharisoa Patrick Ramamonjisoa, Author	Exploring the Narratives around the Menamaso Endeavours, Excesses, and Fate in Nineteenth Century Madagascar
19 Feb	Emre Amasyali, PhD Candidate, Department of Sociology, McGill University	The Fight for Eden: A GIS Analysis of Historical Educational Competition and its Legacies in Ottoman Anatolia
12 Feb	Peter Hynd, PhD Candidate, IOWC & Department of History, McGill University	Mapping the Census of India, 1872-1911
5 Feb	Akbar Zaidi, Visiting Professor, Department of International and Public Affairs, Columbia University	Zillat: Nostalgia, Melancholy, and Muslim Agency in Nineteenth Century North India
29 Jan	Husseina Dinani, Visiting Professor, Department of History, University of Toronto	Developmental Colonialism, African Mobility, and Regionalisation in Colonial Southern Tanzania, 1930s-1950
22 Jan	Mahmoud Elewa, PhD Candidate, Department of History, Concordia University	Towards an Urban History of Muscat: Enslaved African Pearl Divers, Resistance, Translocality, and British Manumission in the Twentieth Century
15 Jan	Andrea Marion Pinkney, Associate Professor, School of Religious Studies, McGill University	Trigonometry, Cartography, and the 4-Dham Pilgrimage: Imperial Infrastructure in Northern India (1808-2013)
2019		
Date	Speaker	Title
27 Nov	Gwyn Campbell, Director, IOWC, McGill University	Western Policy to Slavery in the Indian Ocean World, 1807-1945
20 Nov	Archisman Chaudhuri, Postdoctoral Fellow, IOWC. McGill University	Droughts and Famines in Coromandel from 1658-1660, and in Southeast Asia in 1674: Questions for the Seventeenth-Century Climate Crisis in the Indian Ocean
13 Nov	Ishita Tiwary, Horizon Post-Doctoral Fellow, Department of Cinema, Concordia University	The Ranjesh Cult and the Video Sermon
6 Nov	Michael Ferguson, Department of History, Concordia University	Survival and Scared: Food Histories of Enslaved and Emancipated African Women in the Late Ottoman Empire
30 Oct	Zozan Pehlivan, Assistant Professor, Department of History, University of Minnesota	The History of Global Climate in the Middle East

23 Oct	Samantha Moyes, PhD Candidate, Department of History, Concordia University	Human Rights, Internationalism and Trusteeship; Distrust in Late Colonial Tanganyika (Tanzania)
16 Oct	Veysel Simsek, Institute of Islamic Studies, McGill University	All Roads Lead to Mecca and Medina: Mapping the Pilgrimage Routes to the Muslim Holy Land in the Indian Ocean World, c.1500-1900
9 Oct	Philip Gooding, Postdoctoral Fellow, IOWC, McGill University	Environmental and Political Crisis in East Africa, c. 1877-84
25 Sep	Joseph Howard, PhD Candidate, IOWC & Department of History & Classical Studies, McGill University	Africa and Indian Ocean Christianity
18 Sep	Zahra Sabri, PhD Candidate, Institute of Islamic Studies, McGill University	The Rise of Imran Khan: Religion, State, and Society in Today's Pakistan
10 Apr	Gwyn Campbell, Director, IOWC, McGill University	The LMS, Regicide, and Sex: Aspirations and Disillusionment of William Ellis in Madagascar, 1861-63
3 Apr	Anna Winterbottom, Postdoctoral Research Associate, IOWC, McGill University	Aloe: From the Indian Ocean to the Caribbean
27 Mar	Katherine Lemons, Professor, Department of Anthropology, McGill University	Peregrinations of Islamic Law
20 Mar	Steven Rockel, Associate Professor, Department of History, University of Toronto	Slave Redemption in Western Tanzania, 1882-1925: The Slave Trade, Missionary Practice, and African 'Orphans'
13 Mar	Joseph McQuade, Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Toronto	State Violence and Violence Against the State in Burma's Border Worlds
27 Feb	Megha Sharma Sehdev, Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Anthropology, McGill University	Figures and Ground: Negotiating Divorce Settlements in a Delhi Court
20 Feb	Sherman Lai, Adjunct Professor, Queen's University	The Indian Ocean and China
6 Feb	Rachel Sandwell, Department of History, Concordia University	Fantasy, Utopia and Intimacy in the 1950s Anti-Apartheid Movement
30 Jan	Luka Miro, Undergraduate Student, Department of Geography & IOWC, McGill University	Locating the Past: Landscape as Archive in Remote Sensing
16 Jan	Christopher Miller, Independent Scholar	New Evidence for the Origin of Brahmi and the indic

**2018**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Speaker</b>	<b>Title</b>
5 Dec	Isacar Bolaños, PhD Candidate, Department of History, Ohio State University	Integrating the Frontier Tribes: Food and Famine in Nineteenth Century Iraq
28 Nov	Philip Gooding, Postdoctoral Fellow, IOWC, McGill University	East Africa's Great Lakes and the Indian Ocean World during the Nineteenth Century
21 Nov	Rachel Berger, Department of History, Concordia University	Clarified Commodities: food as substance and product in India, circa 1930
14 Nov	Rebekah McCallum, PhD Candidate, IOWC & Department of History & Classical Studies	The Push of Famine: Business and Tea Estate Labour in Early Twentieth Century India and Sri Lanka
7 Nov	Jennifer Craig, PhD Candidate, Department of Anthropology & IOWC, McGill University	Blue Space: Mapping Ancient Shipping Activities. A Case Study of Beads on Shipwrecks
31 Oct	Jesse James Pisanelli, MA Candidate, Department of History, Concordia University	Interactions Surrounding the Establishment of the First British Joint Stock Bank in the Gulf

*IOWC Speaker Series Since Fall 2017: Continued*

24 Oct	Sarah Carson, PhD Candidate, Department of History, Princeton University	Stubborn, Wayward, and Uncertain: The Problem of the Monsoon for the Bureaucratic Imperial State
17 Oct	Renisa Mawani, Department of Sociology, University of British Columbia	Across Oceans of Law
3 Oct	Vanessa Mass, Environmental Consultant, VMC Environment	Biodiversity Management in the Mining Context
19 Sep	Alastair McClure, Postdoctoral Research Fellow, IOWC, McGill University	Sovereignty, Law and the Politics of Forgiveness in Colonial India
11 Apr	Thomas Kuehn, History Department, Simon Fraser University	Managing the Hazards of Yemen's natural environment: Nature & imperial governance in Ottoman Southwest Arabia, 1872-1914
28 Mar	Michael Ferguson (History Department, Concordia University	New Findings on the History of Enslaved and Emancipated Africans in the Ottoman Empire
21 Mar	Dzovinar Derderian, PhD Candidate, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor	Movement and Mobilization of Belongings in Ottawa in the Ottoman East, 1850s - 1870s
14 Mar	Peter Hynd, PhD Candidate, IOWC & Department of History & Classical Studies	CONFIDENTIAL: Notes on the Smuggling of Excisable Articles, Madras, 1915
7 Mar	Aimee Genell, Department of History, University of West Georgia	Autonomy and Sovereignty in the late Ottoman Empire and the Indian Ocean World: A Comparative Perspective
28 Feb	Alastair McClure, Postdoctoral Research Fellow, IOWC, McGill University	The Experience of British Subjecthood: Deportation and Repatriation in Colonial Aden
21 Feb	Devika Shankar, PhD Candidate, History Department, Princeton University	A Coast of Curiosities: Changing Perceptions of Nature and the Development of Cochin's Harbour 1860-1900
14 Feb	Caroline Seagle, PhD Candidate, Department of Anthropology & IOWC, McGill University	Mining, conservation and the politics of aesthetics in Madagascar: The case of the Canadian Sherritt/Ambatovy "nickle mine"
7 Feb	Omri Bassewitch, Research Associate, IOWC, McGill University	Cash Crop Transplantation in Late Sixteenth Century Spanish Philippines: A missed opportunity or an unnecessary investment?
28 Jan	Wilson Jacob, History Department, Concordia University	The Sufi Sea: God, Government, and Empire in the 19 <sup>th</sup> Century Indian Ocean World
17 Jan	John Shufelt, Department of Foreign Languages & Literature, Tunghai University, Taiwan	British and American Entanglements in the Early Chinese Coolie Trade
<b>2017</b>		
<b>Date</b>	<b>Speaker</b>	<b>Title</b>
4 Dec	Urvi Desai, PhD Candidate, Department of History & Classical Studies, McGill University	Domesticity and Modernity in Colonial Gujarat
27 Nov	Jessica Rose, PhD Candidate, Department of History & Classical Studies, McGill University	The Cosmopolitan Tipping Point: The Port and the Growth of Colonial Bombay
20 Nov	Joseph Howard, PhD Candidate, IOWC & Department of History & Classical Studies, McGill University	The College at Cottayam and Indian Ocean Christianity



*IOWC Speaker Series Since Fall 2017: Continued*

13 Nov	Jennifer Craig, PhD Candidate, Department of Anthropology & IOWC, McGill University	Origins of Cargo: Laboratory Analysis of Stone and Glass Beads from Philippine Shipwrecks
30 Oct	Ayça Tomaç, Muslim Societies Global Perspectives Initiative, Queen's University	From Erdogan to Trump: Neoliberal Populism and Its Discontents
23 Oct	Elizabeth Elbourne, Associate Professor, Department of History & Classical Studies, McGill University	San Genocide, the British Empire and War Captive Children in Nineteenth-Century Southern Africa
16 Oct	Steven Serels, Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Middle Eastern Studies, Harvard University	Migrants, Pilgrims and Ex-Slaves: The Uncredited Agents of Agricultural Development in Colonial Africa
2 Oct	Deanne Van Tol, Assistant Professor, Department of History, Redeemer College	Humanitarianism and Violence: Volunteering in Britain's Gulag in Kenya, 1956-60
25 Sep	Rebekah McCallum, PhD Candidate, IOWC & Department of History & Classical Studies, McGill University	Mastering Tea and Managing Labour: The Contested Nature of Labour Standardization on Early 20th Century Indian Tea Plantations
18 Sep	Christopher Miller, Independent Scholar	The Order of Alphabets

*Winter on McTavish Street, McGill University, where the IOWC is located*



# The Indian Ocean World Podcast Series

Inaugurated by Renée Manderville (MA) as a socially distant alternative to the IOWC Speaker Series at the outset of the Covid-19 pandemic in May 2020, the IOWC Podcast Series has managed to transcend geographical boundaries by inviting renowned academics from around the world to speak on environmental anomalies and human-environmental interactions occurring in the past and present Indian Ocean World (IOW). The podcast series, which is now finishing its second season, operates through a reach-out and research paradigm. Its hosts, Renée Manderville, Philip Gooding, Archisman Chaudhuri, and Julie Babin, reach out to, ranging from internationally renowned researchers to emerging scholars and doctoral candidates, specialising in the binary relationship of environmental histories (animal, disease, natural disasters, botany) and human histories (human developments, refugee movements, migration). The podcasts are edited and thereafter uploaded onto our two streaming platforms: The [Appraising Risk Website](#) and Spotify under "[The Indian Ocean World Podcast](#)."

2021		
Date	Speaker	Title
12 Oct	Mikko Toivanen, Research Fellow, Munich Centre for Global History, Ludwig Maximilian University, Munich	Nineteenth Century Transcolonial Tourism
2 Sep	Ling Zhang, Associate professor, Department of History, Boston College	The Yellow River's Shifting Course and its Impact on 11th Century Northern Song China
25 Aug	Patrick Slack, PhD candidate, Department of Geography, McGill University	'Black Cardamom is Forever': Ethnic Minority Livelihoods in the Western Sino-Vietnamese Borderlands
29 Jul	Chandni Singh, Senior Research Consultant – Practice, Indian Institute for Human Settlements, Bangalore, & Roger Few, Professorial Research Fellow, School of International Development, University of East Anglia	Recovery with Dignity in South Asia
23 Jul	Lisa Schipper, Environmental Social Science Research Fellow, Environmental Change Institute, University of Oxford	Vulnerability, Adaptation, and Maladaptation to Climate Change
13 Jul	Jakobina Arch, Associate Professor, Department of History, Whitman College	Coastal Shipping of Tokugawa Japan
27 May	Alexandra Kelly, Assistant Professor, Departments of History & Anthropology, University of Wyoming	Consuming Ivory
6 Apr	Emily Brownell, Lecturer in Environmental History, School of History, Classics & Archeology, University of Edinburgh	Gone to Ground
12 Mar	Annu Jalais, Assistant Professor, South Asian Studies Programme, National University of Singapore	Tigers, Tiger Food, and Mental Health in the Sundarbans
25 Feb	Jenny Goldstein, Assistant Professor, Department of Global Development, Cornell University	Indonesia's Peatlands and Environmental Politics
18 Feb	Rosabelle Boswell Research Chair in Ocean Cultures & Heritage, Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University	Ocean Cultures and Heritage
3 Feb	Mustafa Emre Günaydı, PhD Candidate, Department of History, Iowa State University	Contextualising Environmental Contingencies
13 Jan	Gwyn Campbell, Director, IOWC, McGill University	The Travels of Robert Lyall

**2020**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Speaker</b>	<b>Title</b>
17 Dec	Joseph McQuade, Postdoctoral Fellow, Asian Institute, Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy, University of Toronto	A Genealogy of Terrorism
2 Dec	Angela Schottenhammer, Professor, History Department, KU Leuven	Maritime Disasters, Risk Appraisals, and Exchanges of Medicinal Knowledge in Maritime East Asia
16 Nov	Alexander Jost, Senior Scientist, & Xu Zhexin, Department of History, University of Salzburg	Tang-Song Transition Era and Maritime Activities in East and Southeast Asia
29 Oct	Shaila Seshia Galvin, Assistant Professor, Graduate Institute of International Development Studies, Geneva	Sustainable Organic Farming and Questions of Value
22 Oct	Meera Muralidharan, Administrator, New Zealand India Research Institute, & Teaching Fellow in History, Victoria University of Wellington	Hortus Malabaricus
14 Oct	Anna Winterbottom, Research Associate, IOWC, McGill University	‘Becoming Traditional’: A Transnational History of Neem and Biopiracy Discourses
7 Oct	Thomas Kuehn, Associate Professor, department of History, Simon Fraser University	Managing the Hazards of Yemen’s Natural Environment
30 Sep	Christopher Low, Assistant Professor, Department of History, Iowa State University & Research Fellow for the Study of the Arab World, NYU Abu Dhabi	Imperial Mecca
22 Sep	Steven Serels, Research Fellow, Leibniz-Zentrum Moderner Orient, Berlin	Animal Diseases as Threats to State Power in the SRSR
16 Sep	Akash Ondaatje, Research Associate, Know History	Animal Ascension
11 Sep	Radhika Govindrajan, Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology, University of Washington	Animal Intimacies
3 Sep	Philip Gooding, Postdoctoral Fellow & Martha Chaiklin, Research Affiliate - IOWC, McGill University	Animal Trade Histories in the Indian Ocean World
31 Aug	Margaret Kalacska, Associate Professor & Head, Applied Remote Sensing Lab (ARSL), Department of Geography, McGill University & Oliver Lucanus, Co-founder, Fish & Forest Project & Member of the ARSL	Land Cover and Freshwater Fish in Madagascar
21 Aug	Jon Unruh, Associate Professor, Department of Geography, McGill University	Conflict and Humanitarian Crisis in Yemen
19 Aug	James Warren, Emeritus Professor, Asia Research Centre, Murdoch University	Colonial Monocrops and Global Climatic Oscillations in the Philippines
27 Jul	Brian Tomaszewski, Associate Professor, School of Interactive Games and Media, Rochester Institute of Technology	Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and Disaster Management
16 Jul	Jon Unruh, Associate Professor, Department of Geography, McGill University	Land Rights and Conflict
14 Jul	Debjani Bhattacharyya, Associate Professor, Departments of History & Global Studies and Modern Languages, Drexel University	Empire and Ecology
18 Jun	Archisman Chaudhuri, Postdoctoral Fellow, IOWC, McGill University	Climatic History of Late Seventeenth Century Coromandel and the VOC Sources
12 Jun	Philip Gooding, Postdoctoral Fellow, IOWC, McGill University	Tsetse flies, ENSO, and Murder

**2019**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Speaker</b>	<b>Title</b>
26 Nov	Gwyn Campbell, Director, IOWC, McGill University	Introduction to the Indian Ocean World



## *Renée Manderville (2019 - Current)*

### *Current Roles at IOWC:*

Project Manager

*JIOS* Editorial Assistant

Indian Ocean World Podcast Production Manager

“The Indian Ocean World podcast was initially a series started by Peter Hynd and Gwyn Campbell to provide general information about the IOW to a student target audience. It has come leaps and bounds since then. The unique topics and geographical areas that we have been able to cover, as well as the diverse range of guests that we have had throughout the series, have allowed us to present to our audience the mosaic reality that *is* the Indian Ocean World. I feel very proud that I have been able to assist in promoting the wealth of knowledge contained within the IOW, a vast region that is generally understudied in Western curriculums. The series explores issues within IOW political boundaries, as well as transcending them, as illustrated, for

example, through the impact of environmental events, or trans-national trade. Working at the IOWC and under Gwyn's guidance has been quintessential to my growth as a woman in academia. Gwyn encourages his employees to use their voices, to speak up, to ask questions. He is patient and kind - and always interested in the random creative ideas that I have to make the centre more accessible to students. His support and the environment that he created for me at the IOWC largely influenced my choice to apply to law school, with hopes of one day advocating for the rights of the up swell of environmental refugees whose numbers can only increase. Thanks for everything Gwyn, congratulations on your successes and on the 10th Anniversary of the IOWC”.



# The IOWC-McGill Alumni Webinar Series

Finally, in the Fall of 2021, in collaboration with David Syncox, Director of McGill University's Alumni Communities, and his team, the IOWC have initiated a limited series of webinars that reach out to thousands of McGill alumni across the world. In recognition of the increasing challenges posed by global warming, the single most important issue of the day for humanity as a whole, these webinars gather international experts to discuss major Partnership research priorities. These focus on the past-to-present nature and impact of adverse environmental and climatic events on the Indian Ocean world (from eastern Africa to China) - the macro-region most vulnerable to the impact of climate change - and the implications for Canada. Webinar discussions will cover issues such as climate change, disease, drought and conflict, forced migration, modern slavery, data collection and analysis, and impact on local IOW communities. The first webinar can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gv5PGQnOH1Y>.

2021		
Date	Panel	Title
10 Sep	<b>Gwyn Campbell</b> , Director, IOWC, McGill University <b>Vinita Damodaran</b> , Director of the Centre for World Environmental History, University of Sussex <b>Jon Unruh</b> , Associate Professor, Department of Geography, McGill University <i>Moderator: Philip Gooding</i> , Postdoctoral Fellow, IOWC	Environmental Crisis in the Indian Ocean World: Past-to-Present Patterns
23 Nov	<b>Rob Allan</b> , Scientific Manager, International ACRE Initiative. <b>Daniel Olago</b> , Associate Professor & Chair, Department of Earth and Climate Sciences, and Research Director, Institute for Climate Change and Adaptation, University of Nairobi <b>Sapna Sharma</b> , Associate Professor, Department of Biology & York Research Chair in Global Change Biology, York University <i>Moderator: Rebekah McCallum</i> , Humanities in the World/ Mellon Just Transformations Postdoctoral Fellow, Humanities Institute, Penn State	Climate Change in the Context of the COP26 – Its Implications for the Indian Ocean World and Canada