

International Hybrid Workshop

Bread, Butter, and Bacon On Shore

Gendered Perspectives on the Economic,
Social, and Cultural Dimensions of Food
and 'Feeding Relationships' in Maritime
Contexts in Modern Times
(18th–21st Centuries)

Venice

27–28 November 2025

Venice School of Management
Ca' Foscari University of Venice
Campus San Giobbe
Fondamenta S. Giobbe, 873
Saraceno Room

The workshop is open
to the public and it
will be held in hybrid
mode.

Link Zoom:

<https://unive.zoom.us/j/84460235480>

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The workshop is co-organised in the framework of the NextGenerationEU Project 'Ondine. Women's Labour and Everyday Life on the Upper and Eastern Adriatic Waterfronts, mid-19th century–mid-20th century' (Funded by EU; CUP E53C22002420001) hosted by the Department of History, Humanities and Society of the Tor Vergata University of Rome.

Image: J.C. Hook, A Sailor's Wedding Party (1862) – Royal Pavilion & Museums, Brighton & Hove (CC BY-SA)

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Programme

27 November 2025

02:15 p.m. CET – OPENING ADDRESSES

Anna Comacchio (Head of the Venice School of Management-Ca' Foscari University of Venice – Italy)

Giovanni Favero (VSM-Ca' Foscari University of Venice – Italy)

Erica Mezzoli (NextGenerationEU Project 'Ondine'-Tor Vergata University of Rome – Italy)

Lucia Ceci (Head of the Department of History, Humanities and Society, Tor Vergata University of Rome – Italy)

02:30 p.m. CET – 1st SESSION

Sardines' (H)Stories: Fish Processing Labour Inside and Outside the Factory in the *Longue Durée*

Chair: **Helen Berry** (University of Exeter, England – UK)

Erica Mezzoli (NextGenerationEU Project 'Ondine'-Tor Vergata University of Rome – Italy)

Catering Modernity: Gender Patterns of Fish Processing in the Upper and Eastern Adriatic from the Late 18th Century to the First Half of the 20th Century

Oskar Opassi (University of Ljubljana – Slovenia)

Female Employment on the Yugoslav Shore: Gender Relations at the 'Delamaris' Fish Canning Factory, 1960s–1990s

Kaitlin Howlett (Independent – USA)

The Real Fishwives of Gloucester: Grassroots Environmental Activists Navigating Feds and Family

Julia Laite (Birkbeck, University of London, England – UK)

Witnessing Catastrophe: the Newfoundland Cod Moratorium and the Entangled History of Labour Exploitation, Indigenous Dispossession, And Me.

DISCUSSION

03:45 p.m. CET – Coffee break

04:30 p.m. CET – 2nd SESSION

Navigating Ecological and Economic Crises: Communities'

Perspectives on Food and Maritime Security

Chair: **Giovanni Favero** (VSM-Ca' Foscari University of Venice – Italy)

John Odin Jensen (University of West Florida, Florida – USA)

'Oh, Mom, Not King Crab Again!' Reflections on Fishing, Eating, and Family in Alaska, 1970s–1980s

Bharti Chhibber (University of Delhi – India)

Preserving the Shoreline: Women, Food Security, and Resistance in India's Maritime Communities

Valerie Burton (Memorial University, Newfoundland – Canada)

Historicizing the Case for 'Fishy Feminism' as a Perspective on Ecological Crisis: Newfoundlanders, Capitalism, Colonialism, and Cod

DISCUSSION

28 November 2025

09:15 a.m. CET – 3rd SESSION

Daily Bread: Practices and Cultures of Food in Port-Cities

Chair: **Valentina Fava** (VSM-Ca' Foscari University of Venice – Italy)

Okan Keleş (Istanbul University – Turkey)

Bread, Fish, and Prayer: The Socio-Cultural Afterlife of Food in Ottoman Port Cities and Its Reflections in Lullabies, Prayers, and Legendary Narratives

Francesca Ferrando (University of Verona – Italy)

From Oven to Tavern: Women's Foodwork in the Port of Genoa (18th Century)

Kate Ferris (University of St Andrews, Scotland – UK)

Intersections of Gender, Class, Place and Politics in Eating and Drinking Practices in Fascist Venice

DISCUSSION

10:30 a.m. CET – Coffee break

11:00 a.m. CET – KEYNOTE LECTURE

Chair: **Erica Mezzoli** (NextGenerationEU Project 'Ondine'-Tor Vergata University of Rome – Italy)

Alejandro Colás (Birkbeck, University of London, England – UK)

Terraqueous Divisions of Labour: Social Reproduction and The Sea

DISCUSSION

12:00 a.m. CET – Visit to the Economic Campus San Giobbe (former 19th-century Venice's slaughterhouse) with **Giovanni Favero** (VSM-Ca' Foscari University of Venice – Italy)

01:00 p.m. CET – Light lunch

02:30 p.m. CET – 4th SESSION

Feeding Leviathan: Labour, Business, and Gender on the Waterfront

Chair: **Erica Mezzoli** (NextGenerationEU Project 'Ondine'-Tor Vergata University of Rome – Italy)

Helen Berry (University of Exeter, England – UK)

Subsisting on Ship and Shore: Female Traders and the Everyday Consumer Habits of English Sailors in the Eighteenth Century

Melina Teubner (University of Bern – Switzerland)

Feeding 'Second Slavery': Gendered Labour in 19th-Century Brazil

Maria Rosaria De Rosa (University of Naples 'Suor Orsola Benincasa' – Italy)

'Me, Who Was Passionate About the Shop': Being a (Woman) Ship Chandler In Naples

DISCUSSION

03:45 p.m. CET – Coffee break

04:30 p.m. CET – FINAL ROUND TABLE

Coordinated by **Vladi Finotto** (VSM-Ca' Foscari University of Venice – Italy) and **Alessandra Jacomuzzi** (FBC-Ca' Foscari University of Venice – Italy)



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KEYNOTE LECTURE

Alejandro Colás (Birkbeck, University of London, England – UK)

Terraqueous Divisions of Labour: Social Reproduction and The Sea

Seven tenths of the planet's surface that are the oceans remain today a critical source of edible protein and livelihood for millions across the world. Yet no more than 2% of the world's seafaring workforce is female. What accounts for this, and what is the relationship between social reproduction and the sea? How has capitalism's 'terraqueous predicament' conditioned gendered divisions of labour between land and sea in the modern period? I offer some general reflections, based on the book *Capitalism and the Sea* co-authored with Liam Campling, to identify frameworks of analysis and lines of inquiry that may help address these sorts of questions. I draw on the existing work of maritime historians and political economists to suggest that, despite variations across time and place, seafaring work has - like mining or forestry on land - been valorised as a male domain of capitalist development because of its association to remoteness, danger, isolation and instability. I also offer some illustrations of how this predicament plays out in consuming cultures, littoral foodways and economies of care on shore.

1st Session

**Sardines' (H)Stories: Fish Processing Labour
Inside and Outside the Factory
in the Longue Durée**

Erica Mezzoli (NextGenerationEU Project 'Ondine'-Tor Vergata
University of Rome – Italy)

*Catering Modernity: Gender Patterns of Fish Processing in the Upper
and Eastern Adriatic from the Late 18th Century to the First Half of
the 20th Century*

The final decades of the 18th century marked a particularly vibrant period for fishing, particularly in fish canning activities, in the Upper and Eastern Adriatic. This dynamism resulted from the intertwining of local and regional processes with broader European-scale transformations. Despite recurring economic difficulties, from the end of the 18th century and throughout the 20th century, the fish canning industry established itself as one of the most significant industries in the maritime economy of the northeastern Adriatic. In this context, it should be emphasised that this type of industry proved particularly receptive to the socioeconomic

changes within the framework of gender relations that the modern era brought to the fore. Through an analysis of the historical trajectory of this industry, the paper aims to highlight how economic and productive transformations in the fish canning sector were intertwined with the evolution of gender relations within industrial modernity.

Oskar Opassi (University of Ljubljana – Slovenia)

*Female Employment on the Yugoslav Shore: Gender Relations at the
'Delamaris' Fish Canning Factory, 1960s–1990s*

Fish canning factories have been a fundamental driver of the modernisation transition from agrarian to industrial society in the Upper and Eastern Adriatic coastal regions since the 19th century. In that context, labour mobility increased. New opportunities that broadened the perspectives of the workforce had a crucial impact on increasing the autonomy of the female workforce. However, work in the fish processing industry was extremely physically demanding. Under demanding circumstances and with a low payroll, 'marginalised workers' – such as unskilled women from the countryside looking for their first job outside of the household were employed in large numbers. The fish industry in the Yugoslav context opened the route to mass employment for the female workforce. In my presentation, I'll discuss gender roles and the process of female empowerment at Izola's (Slovenia) Delamaris Fish Canning Factory, during the 1960s-1990s. Following the empowerment of female workers inside the factory, as well as the balance between work and personal life. Given the specifics of the Yugoslav self-management system, where workers' active participation in decision making was, at least on paper, expected, a closer focus on the female workers' inclusion in it will be presented, allowing a view of the balance between the conceptual goals of socialist self-managing and the workers' actual day-to-day life. This paper thus highlights the gender relations and the empowerment potential specific to Yugoslav self-management.

Kaitlin Howlett (Independent – USA)

*The Real Fishwives of Gloucester: Grassroots Environmental
Activists Navigating Feds and Family*

Amid the tense struggle of the Cod Crisis along the North Atlantic waters of New England from the 1970s through the early 2000s, the Gloucester Fishermen's Wives Association (GFWA) emerged as steadfast environmental activists dedicated to the survival of the dying fishing industry of their city. The GFWA established themselves as a unique and essential organization, inevitably becoming the breadwinners of their community by providing desperate economic relief and lasting ecological rehabilitation that safeguarded their

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community's heritage, pride, and well-being. By means of their campaigns – publishing cookbooks, touring educational campaigns on sustainable consumer habits, and becoming skilled legislative lobbyists – the GFWA skillfully navigated their positionalities as simultaneous industrial experts, sensitively attuned environmental indicators, and domestic partners. Drawing upon a study of a diverse collection of sources from the GFWA's archive housed at the Schlesinger Library of the Harvard Radcliffe Center, ranging from manuscripts of the organization's eight editions of their cookbook, *The Taste of Gloucester*, to organizational documents, oral history collection, newspaper clippings, and congressional testimonies, this project provides a new historiography of GFWA's evolution from the 1976 Magnuson-Stevens Act through the 1990s, tracing the organization's birth as cookbook authors through their transformation into outspoken congressional advocates and eventually environmental justice advocates. I seek to answer a question absent in existing literature: what does it mean to be a grassroots environmentalist embedded in an extractive industry, and how do these activists utilize their niche positionality to shape reform from within? Utilizing labor, environmental, and gendered historical frameworks, I argue that the GFWA far exceeded their presumed roles as defenders of their husbands and of Gloucester's legacy of fishing; instead, they emerged as offensive architects of a potent future of ecological justice-based fisheries reform and management.

Julia Laite (Birkbeck, University of London, England – UK)

Witnessing Catastrophe: the Newfoundland Cod Moratorium and the Entangled History of Labour Exploitation, Indigenous Dispossession, And Me.

When I was twelve years old, I witnessed the collapse of one of the largest fisheries on the planet from my hometown of St John's, Newfoundland. After five hundred years of incredible hyper-extraction by Britain and other imperial powers, and later by global fisheries businesses, the northern cod population was on the brink of extirpation. I did not think, as I watched communities empty and fish plants close, as me and my friends struggled to find work, that I would one day be researching the entangled histories that led up to the moratorium. This paper will be a personal exploration of this moment in my own history, as well as a reflection on the longer-term historical contexts that are informing my new research. Setting my experience of the collapse of the Newfoundland cod stocks in 1992 against the Beothuk people witnessing the death of their world under colonialism two centuries earlier, the paper will consider how maritime capitalism and food production created chains of exploitation

and dispossession that stretched around the world and across time.

2nd Session Navigating Ecological and Economic Crises: Communities' Perspectives on Food and Maritime Security

John Odin Jensen (University of West Florida, Florida – USA)

'Oh, Mom, Not King Crab Again!' Reflections on Fishing, Eating, and Family in Alaska, 1970s-1980s

The catching, processing, eating, and selling of fish and shellfish have shaped family and community life and identity in coastal Alaska more than any other single factor. The modern Euro-American map of coastal Alaska cities, towns, and villages is, to a great extent, the result of the industrialization of salmon fisheries in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. In post-World War II Alaska, the industrial infrastructure created by the salmon industry became the outposts for exploration and exploitation of multiple species of crab, shrimp, and other fish and shellfish. What followed were dynamic periods of frontier optimism, dramatic expansion, and followed by the steep decline of specific fisheries that had direct effects on individual lives, families, and communities. In this presentation, I take a biographical and community-centered approach to this process, one based on my own observations growing up as part of a fishing family in Homer, Alaska, during the shellfish boom of the 1970s, and materials collected from area newspapers and other documentary records. This approach allows me to explore the personal interworkings of social class, community identity, ethnicity, and gender in the family fishing enterprise throughout the foodstuff's lifecycle.

Bharti Chhibber (University of Delhi – India)

Preserving the Shoreline: Women, Food Security, and Resistance in India's Maritime Communities

In India's coastal regions, women have long played a central yet underrecognized role in sustaining food security and resisting ecological and economic threats. This paper explores the gendered dimensions of food and feeding relationships in maritime environments through the lived experiences of women in fishing and coastal agrarian communities. These women have traditionally preserved food systems by engaging in drying, fermenting, pickling, and processing local staples such as fish, salt, and rice – activities that exist at the intersection of care, labour, and ecological stewardship. Their work extends beyond

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subsistence to political resistance. Women have mobilized against coastal industrialization, deep-sea fishing privatization, and port-led displacement, positioning themselves as defenders of both environmental sustainability and community livelihoods. This dual role reflects the entwined nature of breadwinning and caregiving in maritime spaces, where women's informal economic labour is inseparable from their role in household and community sustenance. Historically, this relationship between food, resistance, and gendered labour also shaped anticolonial movements. During the 1930 Salt Satyagraha, women in coastal areas participated in acts of civil disobedience by illegally collecting and producing salt, asserting their rights over food resources and challenging imperial control of maritime subsistence. Drawing on oral histories, documentary sources, and ethnographic accounts, this paper argues that Indian coastal women's food labour is both materially grounded and symbolically charged. It highlights how these women are not only producers and preservers of food but also active agents in resisting the erasure of traditional knowledge systems. By centring gendered labour and feeding relationships in maritime contexts, the paper contributes a Global South perspective to broader discussions on food security, ecological justice, and the terraqueous dimensions of modern capitalism.

Valerie Burton (Memorial University, Newfoundland – Canada)

Historicizing the Case for 'Fishy Feminism' as a Perspective on Ecological Crisis: Newfoundlanders, Capitalism, Colonialism, and Cod

While fish is missing from the trio in our conference title, its absence from 'Bread, butter and bacon' betokens what all of us know – that by ready access to fish Western coastal populations made it their dietary staple long ago. Yet, references to Atlantic Canada in the CfP encourage a presentation that conjures with women's access, absence and invisibility in the commercial fishing and fish-processing industry of Newfoundland and Labrador (NL). A feminist historical scholarship -- defined as one that sets importance upon the power relation modulated by the gender-binarity of past society -- should at this time of ecological disaster be counting for more. The Grand Banks is to be recognized a site of patriarchal, colonial and capitalist influence in a time before few other places could be so described. Across the fish trade's extensive commodity frontier of five centuries' duration successive rounds of accumulation and restructuring reconfigured the spatial hierarchies of gender, race and class. In each cycle the ideological and material mediation of the accumulation of capital and the work of social reproduction was rendered in the particulars that gave women's work invisibility while at the same time making it to be relied upon. An

expansive view is informative, but so too is the particular of how lives are made. As I come to ground in outport NL it is to elaborate on the two late 19th and early 20th century developments that left women less sentient of nature's recovery cycles and less able to prevail with a wake-up call to environmental stress. While market analysts know this period teleologically and androcentrically as the decline of trade, ecofeminists will find more traction in calling out women's dispossession. In the context of a more concentrated pattern of profit-making from the unsustainably large takings of a diminishing stock women lost ownership of even the most modest of fish-flakes used for salting and air-drying cod. Contemporaneously merchants were to exchange the seasonal delivery of salt-fish for an allowance against a household's annual provisions by a truck transaction made with its male head. Women's labour on the flakes imparted the greater part of salt-cod's value in trade while as home-makers its use value in sustaining life was made visceral in the daily measure of sugar and flour taken from those supplies. With these observations on the historical links between resource degradation, capitalism and patriarchy I plan to engage a larger participant discussion of what ecofeminism and feminist political ecology might mean to new ways of thinking out how to relate to and care for fish.

3rd Session

Daily Bread: Practices and Cultures of Food in Port-Cities

Okan Keleş (Istanbul University – Turkey)

Bread, Fish, and Prayer: The Socio-Cultural Afterlife of Food in Ottoman Port Cities and Its Reflections in Lullabies, Prayers, and Legendary Narratives

This paper examines the intersections between the economic circulation of food culture in Ottoman port cities (particularly Istanbul, Izmir, and Trabzon) and images of nutrition in popular literary and folkloric texts. In the Ottoman Empire, seafood and staple foods were not merely commercial commodities but also elements of socio-cultural memory. The circulation of fish, bread, and salt in multicultural markets in port cities, as well as their impact on social relations shaped around the dining table in daily life, are directly related to gendered divisions of labor. While men were in the position of 'breadwinners' through maritime and fishing activities, women took on the roles of 'nurturers' and 'protectors' through lullabies, prayers, and domestic narratives. The study focuses on the following questions in particular: How did the circulation of

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meanings attributed to food in popular literary texts (lullabies, legends, prayers) related to transformations in maritime and port economies? Is the image of bread or fish in a mother's lullaby merely an individual wish, or is it a reflection of a social quest for security through sustenance from the sea? In this context, the 'afterlife' of food – its journey from nature to the table, from the market to lullabies and legends – reveals both a material and symbolic transformation. In Ottoman port cities, food is not merely an economic factor but also a multi-layered indicator that shapes gender relations, religious rituals, and cultural memory.

Francesca Ferrando (University of Verona – Italy)

From Oven to Tavern: Women's Foodwork in the Port of Genoa (18th Century)

In the early modern period, staples such as bread, wine, and olive oil were essential for daily subsistence. For this reason, in many ancien régime cities their production and sale were strictly regulated by specific food supply magistracies (magistrature annonarie). In the capital of the Republic of Genoa, this task proved particularly challenging due to the sheer volume of goods and commercial exchanges linked to its busy port. The constant circulation of men and merchandise expanded opportunities for trade – but also for illicit exchanges and smuggling networks. This paper examines how lower-class women sustained themselves and their households by navigating the full 'lifecycle' of bread and wine – from procuring raw materials, to transforming them into marketable products, to circulating and selling them – often moving fluidly between licit and illicit practices. Drawing on criminal records from the Magistrato dell'Abbondanza (Bread) and the Provvisori del Vino (Wine), the research uncovers a variety of strategies. Some women obtained flour or wine through smuggling networks tied to maritime supply chains. Others baked bread in regulated or clandestine ovens, resold surplus loaves, or sold wine without a license in domestic spaces. These transactions often took place in taverns, market stalls, or private kitchens, spaces where breadwinning overlapped with caregiving and where economic exchange was intertwined with hospitality, neighbourly support, and mutual aid. By situating these activities in the gendered space of the port, the paper highlights how women's food-related labour challenged the binary of male breadwinners versus female caregivers. Such practices reveal that the Genoese shore was not merely a passive recipient of goods from the sea, but a site where maritime trade and urban life merged, producing hybrid economies deeply marked by gender.

Kate Ferris (University of St Andrews, Scotland – UK)

Intersections of Gender, Class, Place and Politics in Eating and Drinking Practices in Fascist Venice

Eating and drinking are, of course, fundamental to human existence. As such, they are supremely political, as well as economic, social, and cultural practices. Food and drink, and the spaces in which these are procured, prepared, and consumed, are key conduits and spaces of everyday sociability, interaction and exchange. They are also important sites of identity construction and of the negotiation and articulation of power. During the Italian fascist dictatorship (1922 – 1943/5), the fascist regime sought to mobilise producers and consumers in Italy and in East Africa as central planks in its interconnected autarkic and demographic policies that would achieve and reflect fascism's self-image as renovator of the Italian nation-empire. Many Italian producers and manufacturers made common cause with the regime priorities, positioning their product as thoroughly national products and fulfilling military and governmental contracts. Simultaneously, however, both regionally- and locally-based food/drink customs and transnational transfers in foodstuffs deemed fashionable, evident for example in the world of alcoholic drinks, had the potential to undercut regime intentions, working to shape tastes (especially among middle-class Italians). All of these factors in turn fed into the practices of Italian consumers who made myriad choices about what they ate and drank, many of these constrained, to differing degrees, by socio-economic priorities and later by war. This paper focuses on everyday consumption under fascism in the maritime space of Venice. It uses two sources/source types as 'miniatures' through which to explore the dynamics of how gendered- and class-based practices around eating and, especially drinking alcohol, were shaped by the politicised spaces and more broadly, the politics of food under fascism in Venice during the Ventennio. The first miniature exemplifies a burgeoning genre in early 20th-C Italy, the osteria guidebook (a burgeoning genre): *Osterie Veneziane* (1928) by Elio Zorzi helps reveal how gendered, class-bound and political practices and identities were refracted through the frame of venezianità in the city's drinking and eating spaces. The second, a memoir based on a contemporary diary, elucidates how the eating and drinking practices of the author, Marie Damerini, a key figure in Venice's fashionable set during the 'anni ruggenti', and her high-society friends were shaped by the multiple – sometimes compatible, sometimes competing – influences of fascist food politics, transnational mores and sense of venezianità.

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4th Session

Feeding Leviathan: Labour, Business, and Gender on the Waterfront

Helen Berry (University of Exeter, England – UK)

Subsisting on Ship and Shore: Female Traders and the Everyday Consumer Habits of English Sailors in the Eighteenth Century

Female entrepreneurs supplied credit, victuals, clothing and lodging to sailors and their families, and were a commonplace feature of the expanding British empire in the eighteenth century. One example is the female-owned lodging houses that were a regular feature of port towns on the south coast of England, and which also supplied sailors on board ships in dock. Similar business activities can be traced across overseas colonies under British rule, and were an essential means of distributing the quotidian 'necessaries' of life, ensuring men were provisioned (and relieved of their pay) in readiness for their next voyage. These forms of women's economic activity were often unregulated and run by women of low social rank with poor levels of literacy: consequentially, their lives and businesses are often invisible due to a lack of historical sources. The account books of Betty Wright surviving for the period 1742–45 are a rare exception, documenting the everyday running of a Gosport lodging-house business. This paper quantifies and assesses the borrowing and consumer spending of Betty's maritime clientele, enabling a picture to be constructed of the everyday operation of a female-run 'amphibious' business on ship and shore. A comprehensively revisionist account of the 'whole economy', as advocated by Macleod, Shepard and Ågren (2023), must take account of the maritime dimensions of 'amphibious' female employment.

Melina Teubner (University of Bern – Switzerland)

Feeding 'Second Slavery': Gendered Labour in 19th-Century Brazil

In the first half of the nineteenth century, Brazil remained deeply entangled in the transatlantic slave trade, despite its official prohibition. Until at least 1851, large numbers of enslaved people were brought to the country, supported by complex systems of labor, including ship cooks responsible for feeding captives during the Atlantic crossing. These labor practices underpinned the infrastructure of slavery, connected Rio de Janeiro to broader global networks of trade and coercion, and fostered the gradual professionalization of the port's food economy. Within this context, African women (Quitandeiras) played a central role in Rio de Janeiro's expanding port economy. They supplied food to harbor workers, ship crews, and enslaved captives, thriving in a market

largely unregulated by the state. Through collective organization, they gained protection, secured their livelihoods, reshaped urban spaces, and introduced diaspora food practices that contributed to the emergence of an African-American street food culture. By examining multiple forms of labor, this article highlights the intersections of slavery, gendered work, and urban economic life while advocating for a broader maritime labor history that recognizes women's often-overlooked contributions.

Maria Rosaria De Rosa (University of Naples 'Suor Orsola Benincasa' – Italy)

'Me, Who Was Passionate About the Shop': Being a (Woman) Ship Chandler In Naples

The documentation relating to company contracts signed in Naples after Italian unification shows the extraordinary protagonism of the so-called 'pubbliche mercantesse' (public women merchants) in the management of commercial activities. While women's involvement in more traditional sectors of activity may be expected, less predictable are the records of female management in those sectors where male presence was predominant, if only for reasons of propriety and safeguarding of honor. This is the case with trades connected to the life of the port of Naples, concentrated in a specific physical space of the city, the Piliero, which retained its strong identity and commercial vocation until the transformations that took place in the post-World War II period. In my presentation, I would like to reconstruct the story and activities of Dolphin Maria Alessandrina Gibson, who, together with a partner, practiced in 1900 the exclusive trade of 'ship chandler'—that is, supplying ships passing through the port of Naples with liquor, foodstuffs, and various goods. Dolphin's parents were English, but she was born in Alexandria, Egypt, and she exercised her financial independence by negotiating the opening and use of a bank account at the Banco di Napoli and by clearly defining the terms of the business she took over from her brother, Errico Gibson, a controversial merchant who went bankrupt in 1901. In the ensuing bankruptcy trial, both Dolphin and her partner would also be indicted, accused of having covered up Errico's frauds. By reconstructing the stages of the Gibson siblings' trial and analyzing the documents signed before Neapolitan notaries, I intend to piece together the voices of the mercantile community gravitating around 'the Piliero' district – suppliers, clients, financiers, and controversial brokers — who were called upon to judge the honesty of the defendants but in fact became unwitting witnesses of a segment of Neapolitan society, and of a specific physical place in the city. In the density of traffic connected to port activity, this place had found a source of identity, while also offering unprecedented spaces of protagonism for women in maritime trades.

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Speakers' Bio Profiles

Helen Berry is Professor of History at the University of Exeter, U.K. She has published extensively on the social and cultural history of Britain in the long eighteenth century, including studies of the family, gender and consumer culture. A prizewinning Fellow of the Royal Historical Society, her most recent book is *Orphans of Empire: the Fate of London's Foundlings* (Oxford University Press, 2019), which was shortlisted for the Cundill Prize (2020). It charts the occupational destination of 6,000 orphaned and abandoned children raised at the London Foundling Hospital within the context of British imperial and maritime history.

Valerie Burton, FRHistS has pursued a long-standing career as researcher, journal editor, award-winning teacher, and public historian on two sides of the North Atlantic. Her appointment as Professor of Maritime History at Memorial University of Newfoundland in 1989 followed appointments in Southampton and Liverpool. Canada's attraction was the massive holdings of nineteenth-century British imperial merchant seafarers' documents at the Maritime History Archive. A close knowledge of them has given her always-evolving project "Spanning Sea and Shore" a critical edge and has in turn primed her theoretical and methodological contributions to equity-seeking scholarship. As Chair of Memorial's Maritime Studies' Research Unit, she encouraged interdisciplinary collaboration, notably after the cod moratorium in Newfoundland and Labrador (1992-2024) gave humanists' concern with the seas more urgency. Her initiative in outreach digital pedagogy More than a List of Crew encouraged a variety of audiences to make more sophisticated use of maritime sources. Now based in England, her research into port communities continues alongside the encouragement provided to early career scholars as a co-organizer of the "New Horizons" workshops.

Bharti Chhibber is teaching in University of Delhi, India. Dr. Chhibber is a well-known author, socio-political analyst and an environmentalist. She is working, extensively writing, mentoring and speaking in India and abroad for many years in the wide-ranging areas of international relations, EU, US, Indo-Pacific, Comparative area studies, historical studies, SDGs, gender, culture, indigenous knowledge system and climate change. Dr. Chhibber has more than 200 published books, research papers and articles to her credit. She is regularly invited as an expert in electronic and print media interviews, discussions, international conferences and for capacity-building training of educators, and professionals of different countries. Dr. Chhibber has been honoured with international and national awards including Sustainability International

Award 2025, Indo-Pacific Outstanding Political Scientist Award 2022, International Distinguished Scientist Award 2021. She is on the Advisory Board of several organizations including honorary National Coordinator-Sustainability Education, India. Dr. Chhibber was a visiting faculty climate leader, Spain in 2021, Study of US Institutions Invited Scholar in America in 2023. Recently, Dr. Bharti Chhibber was invited to Europe to speak on India-EU, historical legacies, gender and climate change issues.

Alejandro Colás is Professor of International Relations at Birkbeck, University of London. He has written extensively in the historical sociology of international politics, most recently with Liam Campling, *Capitalism and the Sea: the Maritime Factor in the Making of the Modern World* (2021). He is also the author of *International Civil Society* (2002), *Empire* (2007) and a co-author of *Food, Politics, and Society* (2018). Alex has published articles on piracy, imperialism, Spanish responses to jihadist terrorism, and food and settler colonialism. He is a committee member for the Isaac and Tamara Deutscher Prize.

Maria Rosaria De Rosa, PhD, teaches Modern History and Public History at the University of Naples Suor Orsola Benincasa. Her research focuses on social history in the contemporary age, with particular interest in gender analysis in economic relations. She is a member of the editorial board of the journal *Quaderni storici* and has recently co-edited, with Sabine Effosse, a special issue of the journal dedicated to "Gendered Finance. Women and Banks in the 20th Century."

Valentina Fava is an Associate Professor of Economic History and Business History at the Venice School of Management, Ca' Foscari University. She received a PhD in Economic and Social History from Bocconi University in Milan (2004); she was a Max Weber Fellow at the European University Institute from 2006 to 2009. Before joining VSM, she held research and teaching positions at the Collegium for Advanced Studies, University of Helsinki, Technical University of Berlin, the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, and the Institute of Contemporary History. Her research interests focus on the history of the automotive industry and mobility practices in the 20th century; the history of the Cold War, specifically East-West economic and technical relations; and the business history of Central and Eastern Europe (former USSR and Czechoslovakia).

Giovanni Favero is Professor of Business History at the Venice

International Hybrid Workshop Bread, Butter, and Bacon On Shore

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Venice

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Venice School of Management
Ca' Foscari University of Venice

Campus San Giobbe
Fondamenta S. Giobbe, 873
Saraceno Room



Speakers' Bio Profiles

School of Management of the Ca' Foscari University, where he coordinates the PhD in Management. He was the Thomas K. McCraw Visiting Fellow in US Business History at Harvard Business School in 2018/2019. He works on historical methods, uses of the past and the history of quantification. See www.unive.it/persone/gfaverio

Francesca Ferrando is a postdoc researcher at the University of Verona. She obtained her Ph.D. in Historical, Geographical, Anthropological Studies at the University of Padua on 19th July 2020. In 2021 she was a post-doctoral scholar at the University of Genoa. She's interested in gender history and welfare in Early Modern Italian cities. She's author of articles on Italian scientific journals and books, including: (with Paolo Calcagno) *Practices of Sodomy in Port Spaces and Aboard Galleys in the Eighteenth-Century Mediterranean in Infamous Stains Unbridled Masculine Sexualities in Early Modernity* edited by Fernanda Alfieri, Vincenzo Lagioia; and *Assistere, recludere, rieducare. I ricoveri per mendicanti di Genova, Bologna e Venezia (secoli XVII-XVIII)* (2023).

Kaitlin Howlett is currently an independent scholar and a graduate of the College of Arts and Sciences at Boston University with a Bachelor's in Arts with honors in History and French Studies. Graduating May 2025, Kaitlin won the College Prize and was distinguished with the highest academic achievement from the history department for the honors program thesis she wrote from 2024–2025. Her thesis was on the environmental and labor activism of the Gloucester Fishermen's Wives Association through the North Atlantic Cod Crisis, spanning from the 1970s through the early 21st century. Kaitlin is currently preparing to apply to graduate school to further pursue intersections of labor relations and the environment as they apply to the modern New England maritime history. This upcoming year, she is serving as an English language assistant in Nantes, France, and is enthusiastic to cross-culturally study the North Atlantic fishing industry from across the ocean, master the French language, and build her application for higher degree programs in History.

Alessandra Iacomuzzi is a researcher at Ca' Foscari University of Venice, where she teaches General Psychology and Cognitive and Behavioral Neuroscience. Her work lies at the intersection of cognitive psychology, neuroscience, and the study of human decision-making. She has specialised in visual perception, focusing on how individuals interpret and organise visual information, and how perceptual mechanisms influence higher-order cognitive functions such

as attention, memory, and reasoning. Her interest in the psychology of thought developed from this foundation, leading her to examine cognitive biases, mental representations, and the ways in which perceptual and inferential processes interact in everyday judgment. Her teaching reflects this integrated perspective, highlighting the connections between neural processes, cognition, and behaviour. In recent years, Jacomuzzi has expanded her research to include the perception of novel foods, an emerging field that investigates how people respond to unfamiliar or innovative food products. She studies the cognitive and emotional factors that shape acceptance or rejection, focusing on perceptual cues, cultural expectations, and risk evaluation. Her work aims to clarify how individuals make sense of novelty in food contexts and what psychological mechanisms guide their decisions. Through her interdisciplinary approach, she contributes to understanding how perception and thought influence human behaviour, from basic cognitive processes to complex interactions with new technologies and evolving food systems.

John Odin Jensen was born into a Norwegian American seafaring family in Alaska and began working as a commercial fisherman with his father at the age of nine. As a fisherman, shipwreck survivor, boat captain, and scholar, he has experienced and studied coastal and maritime life from above and below the water's surface for over 50 years. He holds a Ph.D. in Social History, an M.S. in History and Policy from Carnegie Mellon University, and an M.A. in Maritime History and Underwater Archaeology from East Carolina University. He is a professor of history at the University of West Florida.

Okан Keleş is a Research Assistant at Istanbul University, Faculty of Theology, Department of Islamic History and Arts. He received his B.A. in Persian Language and Literature from Atatürk University (2016) and completed his M.A. in Turkish-Islamic Literature at Istanbul University (2023). He is currently pursuing his Ph.D. at the same institution. His research interests include Turkish-Islamic literature, Sufi texts, representations in classical poetry, cultural memory, and comparative studies with modern literature. He has contributed book chapters such as "Our Own Dome in Literature: Hagia Sophia" (2023) and "Sa'di Shirazi" (2022). He has also presented papers internationally: "Şeb-i Yelda in Turkish Literature" (Tehran, 2021), "The Cultural Legacies of Corruption in Europe, 1500–today" (Venice, 2025), and "Resistant, Resilient, and Resolute: Social Justice and Comics" (Michigan, 2025).

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Julia Laite is a Professor of History at Birkbeck, University of London. She publishes extensively on gender and women's history, migration and labour history, and historical methodology. Her most recent book, *The Disappearance of Lydia Harvey* (2021), won the Golden Dagger for Non-Fiction from the British Crime Writers' Association. Her new book project will explore the story of the Beothuk woman Shanawdithit, the dilettante ethnographer William Eppes Cormack, and the island of Newfoundland.

Erica Mezzoli holds a PhD in East European History from the University of Trieste. Her research interests include economic, social, labour, and gender history from Early Modern to Modern times. After completing a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowship at the University of Ljubljana with the project (acronym) WeCanIt (grant agreement: 894257), she is currently developing the NextGenerationEU Project "Ondine. Women's Labour and Everyday Life on the Upper and Eastern Adriatic Waterfronts, mid-19th century–mid-20th century" (Funded by EU; CUP E53C22002420001), hosted by the Department of History, Humanities and Society of the Tor Vergata University of Rome.

Oskar Opassi is a PhD student at the Faculty of Arts of the University of Ljubljana, Slovenia. His research focuses on social, labour and economic history of the Slovenian Littoral in the second half of the 20th century.

Melina Teubner, studied Iberian and Latin American History, Modern and Contemporary History, and Portuguese Literature and Linguistics at the University of Cologne (Germany) and as a guest student at the Universidade Federal do Ceará. She completed her PhD in Iberian and Latin American History at the same institution between 2014 and 2018. Her dissertation was funded by a scholarship from the Graduate School of the Faculty of Arts at the University of Cologne (a.r.t.e.s) and several travel grants from the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) to Brazil, Portugal, and the USA. In 2019, her research was awarded the Dissertation Prize of the German Labor History Association and in 2021 a special prize from the Society for Maritime and Naval History. In 2021, her book *Die «zweite Sklaverei» ernähren, Sklavenschiffsköche und Strassenverkäuferinnen im Südatlantik (1800–1870)* was published in the Campus Global History series. Since 2019, she has been working as a research associate at the Historical Institute of the University of Bern in the Department of Iberian and Latin American History and coordinates the interdisciplinary Master's program in Latin American Studies (LAS). In her postdoctoral (habilitation) project, she investigates the development of chicken

consumption in various cities of the Mercosur region within the context of global food regimes, c. 1990–2010. Her research focuses on maritime labor history as well as the history of food and consumption.