

## OCEANIC HUMANITIES FOR THE GLOBAL SOUTH WORKSHOP #3: THINKING UNDERWATER

The third annual workshop of the *Oceanic Humanities for the Global South* research network will be held on 24-28 June 2020 in Jamaica. The workshop will be an experiment in interdisciplinary conversation across literary and cultural studies, black histories, and marine biology. Hosted by the University of the West Indies, the workshop will engage Caribbean human and natural histories and their submarine connections to southern Africa and the global South.

Our first workshop, "Thinking Materially", took place in Durban, drawing together the first interdisciplinary conversation of the network in the South African port city, with its well-known beachfront and aquarium providing glimpses of the changing coastline and seafront. The second workshop, "Thinking Oceanically", was held on Ilha de Mocambique/Mozambique Island, a world heritage site with a centuries-long history as the key port for East African maritime trade. Surrounded by submarine shipwrecks, the island enabled a conversation across maritime archaeology and the arts.

This third workshop, "Thinking Underwater," raises a new set of questions, about marine science and black imaginaries. The intersection between these two areas of inquiry is increasingly moving centre stage as black studies takes an underwater turn. This work explores the submarine afterlives of the Middle Passage, in literature, art, dance, critical theory and other forms which grapple with questions of scale, moving from the molecular and microbial to the planetary. A similar turn is apparent in southern Africa where scholars explore the African oceans as a realm of the ancestors and environmental aesthetics. The workshop provides opportunity to draw these two fields and regions closer together, exploring the uniqueness as well as the connectivity of the oceans as exemplified by Jamaica's motto—"out of many, one people". We investigate the marine natural history of the island, its challenges as well as its pioneering interventions aimed at environmental preservation, including the fusion of arts and the sea by artists and conservationists.

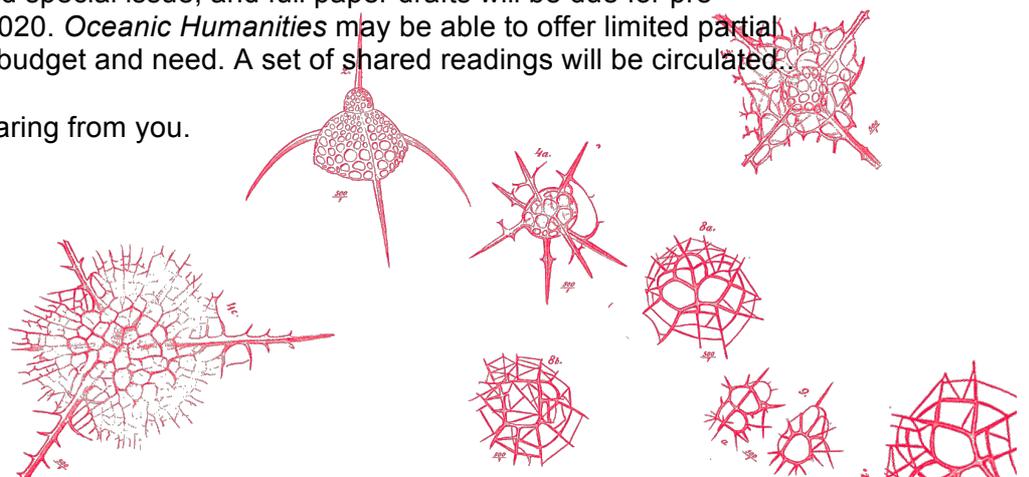
The workshop will be based at the Discovery Bay Marine Lab, and may include marine encounters including snorkel, dive, wet lab and beach-combing activities to explore local habitats and species (like the echinoderms that inspire artist Anne-K Cuffe). There will be opportunities to engage the tainted beauty of Port Royal and the Kingston harbor, their mangrove forests and submerged histories, as well as the underwater sculptures and marine art at Alligator Head Marine Lab.

Please send us an expression of interest, and a title and abstract, by **15 February 2020**. Acceptance is partially space-dependent and so will be considered on a first come-first serve basis. Attendance will be taken as a commitment to contribute a paper to the associated special issue, and full paper drafts will be due for pre-circulation on 1 May 2020. *Oceanic Humanities* may be able to offer limited partial grants, depending on budget and need. A set of shared readings will be circulated.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards,

Isabel Hofmeyr  
Charne Lavery



Mona Webber