



Since antiquity, sea travels have been at the same time a time for discovery, for exploring unknown worlds and for testing oneself. Travelers challenged themselves, their competences and their knowledge, as they set out into new and distant lands, often relying only on their own skills and experience in navigating and making the right choices in the face of unforeseen weather, attacks from other crews, or damages to the structure of their ships.

This workshop aims to consider the technical and scientific knowledge that made the great transoceanic voyages possible, and the people who were protagonists of such voyages in the Early Modern Period. Rather than on the figures of the conquerors, the focus will instead be on scientists, physicians, shipbuilders, engineers, explorers, and sailors who, thanks to their experience and technical and scientific knowledge, were able to make structural improvements in the ships' projects and scientific advances in navigational instruments and techniques, thus facilitating the crossing of the Atlantic Ocean. At the same time, the focus will be on the navigators who were able to exploit these technical and scientific enrichments, make them their own and reach the hoped-for or unexpected destinations, and finally on these innovations themselves. The expected proposals will range from all the humanistic or scientific disciplines that can touch on these themes, favouring the interdisciplinary nature of the dialogue, and they will be able to highlight technical, structural or scientific characteristics of the Atlantic voyage.

With regard to navigation techniques, and possibly construction and instrumentation details, studies that consider the views of Latin American peoples of the time, how they approached ocean voyages, with which systems and which vessels, and the impact that European navigation had on their customary practice, will be particularly welcome.

Please submit a one-page pdf with abstract for an unpublished contribution and short bio by November 30, 2024, at the following address: [maddalena.bellavitis@gmail.com](mailto:maddalena.bellavitis@gmail.com). Presentations will be in English, French, Spanish or Portuguese and will last a maximum of 20 minutes. The organizers, Maddalena Bellavitis, Corinne Mencé-Caster, and José Manuel Santos Pérez, will notify the selected proposals by the second week of December 2024.



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