

Sea Changes: The fairytale Gothic of mermaids, selkies, and enchanted hybrids of ocean and river



6 September, 2025 to 8 September, 2025

Presenters and Papers

Presenter

- 1 Dr Ingibjörg Ágústsdóttir (University of Iceland)

Social Media Handles

Selkie transformations: Trauma, memory, and environmental exploitation in C. J. Cooke's A Haunting in the Arctic

Panel 6

- 2 Shabnam Ahsan (University of Hertfordshire)

Email: s.ahsan4@herts.ac.uk

Social Media Handles

Transgression And transformation: Mer-human relationships in the tales of Ruth Manning-Sanders

Panel 22

3 Andrin Albrecht (Friedrich Schiller University Jena,)

Email: andrin.albrecht@uni-jena.de

Social Media Handles

Instagram	@obsidiandrin
LinkedIn	Andrin Albrecht

Sirens in the city: On river spirits, politics, and the collapse of spatial limitations in Ben Aaronovitch's Rivers of London series

Panel 10

4 Dr Antonio Alcalá González (Tecnológico de Monterrey, Santa Fe Mexico City)

Email: antonio.alcala@tec.mx

Social Media Handles

Tlaloc and Chac Mool over Mexico City: The haunting of Aztec water deities on Mexico City

Panel 5

5 Allison Allen-Byrd (Independent scholar)

Social Media Handles

The metaphysics of Melusine: A tale of alchemy and initiation, reclaiming the Goddess

Panel 19

80 Dr Francesca Arnavas (University of Tartu)

Social Media Handles

Dark and watery metamorphoses: Mermaids, dystopian fiction, posthumanism

Panel 8

6 Dr Barbara Barrow (Lund University)

Email: barbara.barrow@englund.lu.se

Social Media Handles

Water, desire, and crisis in the Southern Bayou: Alice Dunbar-Nelson's 'Natalie' as a modern mermaid tale

Panel 8

7 Dr Karl Bell (University of Portsmouth)

Email: karl.bell@port.ac.uk

Social Media Handles

BlueSky

@karlbell.bsky.social

Remaking the mermaid: Comparing nineteenth-century depictions at sea and ashore

Panel 15

8 Fredrik Blanc (Manchester Metropolitan University)

Social Media Handles

The mercreature as metonym - Suspension and onto-epistemological resistance in the Blue Weird

Panel 1

9 Dr Tina Burger (Heinrich-Heine University of Düsseldorf)

Email: burgerb@hhu.de

Social Media Handles

Instagram

@speculativeaus1

The constant selkie and the changing sea: Fluid queer identities, interspecies kinship and ambivalent seascapes in Molly Knox Ostertag's The Girl from the Sea

Panel 23

10 Dr Daisy Butcher (University of Hertfordshire)

Social Media Handles

X/Twitter

@daisy2205

Tentacular Defiance: An exploration of Hans Christian Andersen's Sea Witch and female sexuality in 'The Little Mermaid' (1837)

Panel 13

11 Dr Anna Casablanques-Cervantes (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona)

Email: Anna.Casablanques@uab.cat

[Social Media Handles](#)

Habitat-fluid and water-bound: metamorphic characters in Mercè Rodoreda's 'The Salamander' and 'The River and the Boat' (1967)

Panel 10

12 Dr Monika Class (Lund University)

Email: monika.class@englund.lu.se

[Social Media Handles](#)

From sea horror to queer grief: Representations of the sperm whale and the colossal squid, 1851–2021

Panel 9

13 Dr Maria-Silvia Cohut (Brunel University London)

Email: mariacohut@gmail.com

Social Media Handles

Instagram

@mariac_phd

The Sirens' silence: Uneasy matriarchy in Lucile Hadžihalilović's Evolution

Panel 19

78 Ann Conmy (Technological University of the Shannon)

Email: annconmy@gmail.com

Social Media Handles

Instagram

@ann_conmy_

A littoral rubicon betwixt and between

Panel 14

14 Dr Joseph Crawford (University of Exeter)

Social Media Handles

'The girl whose eyes were like the ocean': yuri manga and queer monstrosity in This Monster Wants to Eat Me

Panel 21

77 Claire Cunningham (Lancaster University)

Email: c.reilly3@lancaster.ac.uk

Social Media Handles

Instagram

[@claire_cunning](#)

Wet brown graves: Irish Gothic bog bodies in Seamus Heaney and Miranda Carr

Panel 25

16 Dr Emma Dee (Early Career Researcher)

Email: Emma.dee1@btinternet.com

Social Media Handles

Mignonette: The last voyage of The Mermaid and the cannibal erotic

Panel 15

17 Dr Ryan Denson (University of Silesia in Katowice)

Email: R.Denson@exeter.ac.uk

Social Media Handles

Academia.edu

Academia.edu <https://silesian.academia.edu/RyanDenson/CurriculumVitae>

Wittgenstein's family resemblances and the hybridity of ancient sea monsters

Panel 1

19 Dr Andrew Elfenbein (University of Minnesota)

Email: elfen001@umn.edu

[Social Media Handles](#)

Burne-Jones's A Sea-Nymph and the displaced mermaid

Panel 26

20 Mariateresa Esposito (University of Iceland)

[Social Media Handles](#)

The Nykur: An Icelandic water spirit in folklore and cultural memory

Panel 17

21 Dr Kathryn Franklin (University of Toronto)

[Social Media Handles](#)

A Mari Usque Ad Mare: Phyllis Brett Young's Undine and the female grotesque in the popular Canadian imaginary

Panel 17

23 Dr Monica Germanà (University of Westminster)

Email: M.Germana@westminster.ac.uk

Social Media Handles

X/Twitter	@monicagermana
-----------	----------------

Instagram	@drmonicagermana
-----------	------------------

'Becoming with Seal': Mourning, separation, and kinship in contemporary selkie soundscapes

Panel 24

24 Jane Gill (University of Hertfordshire)

Social Media Handles

The Romantic Lamia and Anne Bannerman's 'The Mermaid' (1800)

Panel 20

25 Rebecca Greef (University of Hertfordshire)

Social Media Handles

Poor unfortunate souls: The Faustian bargain of 'The Little Mermaid'

Panel 13

27 Marci Heatherly (Pittsburg State University, KA)

Social Media Handles

Femme fatale, occult waters, and siren Silencing in Louise Erdrich's 'Fleur'

Panel 14

28 Dr Lizanne Henderson (University of Glasgow)

Social Media Handles

X/Twitter	@HLizanne
-----------	-----------

Instagram	@padeapix
-----------	-----------

Preternatural phocids: seals, selkies and the imagined sea

Panel 6

29 Dr Charles Hoge (Metropolitan State University of Denver)

Social Media Handles

When enchantment Is made flesh: An exploration of the Steller's Sea-ape

Panel 15

30 Fred Hook (Queen's University, Kingston)

Email: 16fah1@queensu.ca

Social Media Handles

The struggle of one thing twisting into another and back again': The re-enchantment of the sea lung in Julia Armfield's Our Wives Under the Sea Panel 25

31 Dr Bill Hughes (Open Graves, Open Minds Project)

Email: bill.enlightenment@gmail.com

Website: www.ogomproject.com

Social Media Handles

X/Twitter	@ogomproject
X/Twitter	@BillBloodyHughe
BlueSky	@BillBloodyHughes.bsky.social
Threads	@drbillhughes
Academia.edu	https://sheffield.academia.edu/BillHughes
Humanities Commons	https://hcommons.org/members/billhughes/
ORCID ID	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-1557-9460

Genre and gender in contemporary selkie fiction: Patriarchy, utopia, instrumentalism, enchantment Panel 24

32 Victoria Hurtado (Independent scholar)

Social Media Handles

Academia.edu

<https://uam.academia.edu/VickyHurtado>

The fantastical narratives of Friedrich de la Motte Fouqué and Richard Wagner, featuring undines, illustrated by Arthur Rackham. Are those realms of enchantment under threat?

Panel 26

33 Dominique Ionnone (University of Salerno)

Social Media Handles

Undulant shapes of murderous femininity: Tennyson's aquatic creatures

Panel 20

35 Alex Judkins (University of Sheffield)

Social Media Handles

Dis/enchantment and Enlightenment: Fish-men, folklore and fact in eighteenth-century Spain

Panel 16

36 Alexa Keough (University of Hampshire.)

Email: alexa.keough@unh.edu

Social Media Handles

Slipping off the sealskin: Examining the nuances of intimate partner violence in selkie mythology Panel 7

37 Shahrukh Khan (The English and Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad)

Social Media Handles

Indian ocean studies: Transoceanic memory in postcolonial Gothic sea fiction

Panel 22

38 Jubby Kumar (Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya)

Social Media Handles

Breaking the shell: How modern mermaid fiction rewrites the Disney Princess

Panel 7

39 **Scarlette-Electra LeBlanc (University of Hull)**

Email: S.C.LEBLANC-2022@hull.ac.uk

Social Media Handles

X/Twitter

@gothicwells

Changelings in the water: Folktales, folk beliefs and a literary afterlife

Panel 16

40 **Beth Lettington (University of Hull)**

Email: b.m.lettington-2022@hull.ac.uk

Social Media Handles

'Touch with chaste palms moist and cold, / Now the spell hath lost his hold': Sabrina, Nymph of the River Severn in Milton's A Maske Presented at Ludlow Castle (1634)

Panel 11

41 **Agnieszka Łowczanin (University of Łódź)**

Social Media Handles

Water nymphs in Polish Romanticism: Pagan justice and feminine power

Panel 19

42 Rachel Martin (Harvard University)

Social Media Handles

Into the depths: Reading queerness in the water-horse tradition

Panel 16

43 Protyasha Mazumdar (University of Hertfordshire)

Email:
protyashamajumdar30@gmail.com

Social Media Handles

'Part of Your world': The reinterpretations and retellings of 'The Little Mermaid' (1837) based on the history and society of the human world,

Panel 7

44 Helena McBurney (King's College, London)

Email: helena.mcburney@kcl.ac.uk

Social Media Handles

Instagram

@helenamcburney

Submersive subversives: Encoded sexual fluidity in Hans Christian Andersen's other mermaid story

Panel 18

45 Shareed Mohammed (University of the West Indies)

Social Media Handles

The Haitian Voodoo river gods: The shamanic call in Wilson Harris's The Secret Ladder

Panel 8

46 Deborah Moumane (University of Hertfordshire)

Social Media Handles

Exploring female sexual expression through merfolk encounters in The Cruel Prince and A Court of Silver Flames

Panel 18

47 Dr Izumi Nagai (Osaka Metropolitan University)

Email: izu@dp.u-netsurf.ne.jp

Social Media Handles

'A girl who came from the bottom of the sea': Gothic and feminist aspects in Hiroko Katayama's Tanka poetry Panel 21

50 Dr Ivan Phillips (University of Hertfordshire)

Social Media Handles

X/Twitter

@ivanphillips

We heard the sweet bells over the bay': What links Matthew Arnold's 'The Forsaken Merman', Robert Rampling's landscape art and the legend of Jinny Greenteeth? Panel 20

81 Dr Amanda Potter (Open University)

Email: amandapotter@caramanda.co.uk

Website: www.21stcenturyclassics.co.uk

Social Media Handles

From birdwomen to mermaids: The divergent evolution of Sirens and Harpies'

Panel 14

53 Cecilia Rose (University of Exeter)

Social Media Handles

X/Twitter

@CeciliaRoseNS

Feminism and spiritualism in Evelyn De Morgan's Little Mermaid triptych (1886–1914)

Panel 9

54 [Raymond Rugg \(Bridgewater State University\)](#)

Social Media Handles

Facebook	Raymond K. Rugg
Instagram	@raymondkrugggenrefiction
BlueSky	@rkrugg.bsky.social

Love, Atlantean style: Portrayals of merfolk sex, love and marriage in adult cartoon series

Panel 2

55 [Madelaine Sacco \(University of Newcastle, NSW\)](#)

Social Media Handles

X/Twitter	@sacco_madelaine
-----------	------------------

Making waves: The fluidity of gender in merfolk mythology

Panel 2

56 [Dr Francesca Sawaya \(College of William & Mary\)](#)

Email: fsawaya@wm.edu

Social Media Handles

Mermaid ballets in the twentieth century

Panel 26

79 Dr Elena Emma Sottilotta (University of Cambridge)

Social Media Handles

Cola Pesce and the Gothic Mediterranean: Hybrid bodies and haunting waters in contemporary reimaginings Panel 12

57 Dr Silvia Storti (Early Career Researcher)

Email: silviaestorti@gmail.com

Social Media Handles

X/Twitter	@silviaelisa22
-----------	----------------

Instagram	@drsilviaestorti
-----------	------------------

BlueSky	@silviaelisa22
---------	----------------

Threads	@drsilviaestorti
---------	------------------

Venture where you will: the aquatic Other in fairy-tale retellings Panel 12

59 Dr Per Elben Svelstad (NTNU in Trondheim)

Email: per.svelstad@ntnu.no

Social Media Handles

The maiden in the mountain lake: Becoming-woman in Sigrid Undset's Kristin Lavransdatter Panel 9

60 Dr Maria Szafrńska-Chmielarz (University of Warsaw)

Email: m.szafranska@uw.edu.pl

[Social Media Handles](#)

An impossible outsider: Singaporean mermaid in Amanda Lee Koe's Siren

[Panel 22](#)

61 Colleen Taylor (Boston College)

Email: taylorft@bc.edu

[Social Media Handles](#)

Mermaid love and seal hunting: The complexities of the Irish seal skin

[Panel 6](#)

62 Stefanie Tegeler (University of Münster)

Email: stegele1@uni-muenster.de

[Social Media Handles](#)

Dead in the water: Narrating trauma through Tolkien's dead in the marshes and Rowling's Inferi [Panel 25](#)

63 Dr Kwasu Tembo (Lancaster University)

Social Media Handles

The machine in the monster and the monster in the machine: Towards a teratology of technology through the techno-monstrosity of Nemo's Nautilus

Panel 1

65 Prof. Judith Thompson (Dalhousie University)

Social Media Handles

Let 'brooks and echoing falls repeat': John Thelwall's Fairy of the Lake

Panel 4

66 Harley Tillotson (University of Hertfordshire)

Email: harleytillotson@gmail.com

Social Media Handles

X/Twitter

@HarleyTillotson

Selkies and adolescence: An eco-Gothic reading of anxieties in Tides

Panel 23

67 Sinead Tobin (Lancaster University)

Social Media Handles

Mysterious fathoms below: Exploring the depths of Disney's Gothic mermaids

Panel 13

68 Georgia Toumara (Independent Scholar)

Email: g.toumara@gmail.com

Social Media Handles

X/Twitter	@GToumara
-----------	-----------

BlueSky	@georgia.toumara.bsky.social
---------	------------------------------

'[O]h, love, at last!': Dangerous nereids and deadly encounters in George Horton's Aphróaessa: A Legend of Argolis, and Other Poems (1897)

Panel 18

69 Amanda Trainham (SUNY)

Social Media Handles

'Farewel, ye Fair Illusions': The Distorted siren's song in Dryden's King Arthur and Shadwell's Psyche

Panel 4

70 Marion Troxler (University of Bern)

[Social Media Handles](#)

Merfolk and the beach: Resisting dualisms with tooth and scales

[Panel 23](#)

71 Agelika Velissariou (ATh, School of Primary Education, Thessaloniki)

Email: a_velissariou@yahoo.com

[Social Media Handles](#)

The tale of the Mermaid of Thermaikos

[Panel 5](#)

72 Heru Wang (Lingnan University)

Email: heruwang@ln.hk

[Social Media Handles](#)

Selkie without seal skin: Mythmaking and storytelling in Fiona Macleod's rewriting of selkie tales [Panel 24](#)

73 Dr Amy Waterson (Royal Holloway, University of London)

Social Media Handles

'This modern world is a world where the wonderful is utterly commonplace': Dangerous disenchantment in H. G. Wells's The Sea Lady (1902)

Panel 11

75 Dr Jie Zhuang (University of California, Irvine)

Email: zhuangj@uci.edu

Social Media Handles

Forging the literati self: The merbeing in 'Bai Qiulian'

Panel 2

76 Valentýna Žiřková (Charles University/Sapienza Università di Roma)

Email: valentynaziskova@seznam.cz

Social Media Handles

The transgression of boundaries: Urban's Hastrman between folklore and eco-Gothic

Panel 17