

# Objects Across Oceans: Mobilising maritime Collections

## Organizer

Name: Corioli Souter  
Affiliation: Western Australian Museum  
E-mail: corioli.souter@museum.wa.gov.au

## Co-organizer

Name: Martijn Manders  
Affiliation: Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands (RCE) / University of Leiden

## Session Description

The Dutch East India company has a rich legacy of archives, art and artefacts, including shipwrecks and other archaeological sites across the globe from its history of encounter, trade, conquest and colonisation. The project Mobilising Dutch East India Company collections for new global stories which is supported by the Australian Research Council and consists of a group of international partners from Australia, Europe, Africa and Southeast Asia, aims to situate VOC collections within a global network through comparative research in museums and archives. The VOC is not the only internationally operating company of the past. More trading companies have connected places, people and cultures over long distances.

This session aims to connect the work done in this project with similar research, focussed on connecting collections of objects, archives and stories, to facilitate enriched interpretations and to create new insights into maritime history. We invite papers which seek to bring distributed maritime collections into conversation with each other to understand the making of place, the maritime landscapes and the networks of people involved. In connection with this, we are also interested in exploring the impact of maritime archaeological research on current historical analyses, including postcolonial and subaltern reconsideration of traditional narratives. Understanding the changing meanings that objects take on over time, provides an opportunity to create new, and at times, disrupting stories about our past.

## Keywords

Collections; VOC; Museums; Shipwrecks; Global Encounters; Comparative Histories; Object Biographies