



# FRONTIERS OF HUMANITY AND BEYOND

TOWARDS NEW CRITICAL  
UNDERSTANDINGS OF BORDERS

## P04 - CROSSING BORDERS AT SEA

### ORGANISERS

**Ryan Jones** (United States of America)<sup>1</sup>, **Brooke Grasberger** (Canada)<sup>4</sup>, **Jason Colby** (Canada)<sup>3</sup>  
& **Nadin Hee** (Germany)<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>University of Oregon; <sup>2</sup>Freie Universität; <sup>3</sup>University of Victoria; <sup>4</sup>Brown University

### ABSTRACT

This panel examines the way that engagement with the living sea encouraged and sometimes forced humans to cross various borders, including those of nation, history, culture, law, and species. Individual papers consider migratory marine animals including whales, tuna, and salmon, creatures which took little notice of human borders. The humans who tried to exploit, study, or manage these creatures were drawn into their lifeworlds, often with transformative impact on animal and human histories.

**Ryan Tucker Jones** is Ann Swindells Associate Professor of History at the University of Oregon. He is author of *Empire of Extinction: Russians and the North Pacific's Strange Beasts of the Sea, 1742 – 1867* (Oxford UP) and the forthcoming *Red Leviathan: The Soviet Union and the Secret Destruction of the World's Whales* (Chicago UP).

**Brooke Grasberger** is a doctoral candidate in history at Brown University. Her research investigates the spiritual worlds of sailors in the nineteenth-century Atlantic, with an emphasis on environmental relationships and the shape of religion far outside of institutional contexts. She is currently also attaining an MA in religious studies through Brown's Open Graduate education program.

**Jason M. Colby** is professor of history at the University of Victoria in British Columbia. He specializes in the marine environmental history of the Pacific Coast of North America. He is the author of *Orca: How We Came to Know and Love the Ocean's Greatest Predator* (Oxford University Press, 2018) and *The Business of Empire: United Fruit, Race, and U.S. Expansion in Central America* (Cornell University Press, 2011).

**Nadin Heé** is Associate Professor for Global History of Knowledge at the Freie Universität Berlin and at the Max-Planck Institute for the History of Science. She has a background in Empire Studies and a focus on East Asia, and her critical engagement with postcolonial theory and theories of violence and trans-imperial aspects of colonial history has been published as *Imperiales Wissen und koloniale Gewalt. Japans Herrschaft in Taiwan 1895-1945*, (Campus Verlag, 2012), which was awarded the JaDe-Prize.