



UNIVERSITÀ DI NAPOLI  
L'ORIENTALE

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AFRICA E MEDITERRANEO



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NILGIRI  
MICROBIOLOGICAL PRODUCT

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20-21  
November 2025

Palazzo Corigliano  
Sala delle conferenze, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor  
Piazza San Domenico Maggiore, 12 - Napoli

International  
Conference  
**From Coast  
to Coast:**  
Folklore and  
the Cultural  
Lives of the  
Western Indian  
Ocean



## Wednesday, 19 november

19.00 – Welcome drink at Palazzo Venezia

## Thursday, 20 november

9:30-9:45 – Institutional greetings

10.00 – Greetings & introduction

**9:45-10:45 Keynote lecture: Sadhana Naithani, Jawaharlal Nehru University**

*Waters Carry Shores. Cultural Loops and Folklore in Western Indian Ocean*

10:45-11:00 Coffee break

### 11:00-13:00 Nautical lexicons and creolised vocabularies

**Shadi Kalantar,**

University of Naples L'Orientale  
*Boats of Iran: A Nautical Glossary*

**Mohammad Bin Naser,**

Kuwait University  
*Nautical Navigation: The Ecolinguistic Analysis of Kuwaiti Maritime Proverbs*

**Antonia Soriente and Horst Liebner,**

University of Naples L'Orientale  
*Naming the Ship and the Sea: Konjo Maritime Terminology as Folkloric Archive and Indian Ocean Epistemology*

**Stefania Cavaliere,**

University of Naples L'Orientale  
*Preliminary Notes on a Compendium of Nautical Phraseology from the Indian Subcontinent*

13:30-14:30 Lunch break

### 14:30-16:00 Folklore as Archive: Performance, Resistance, and Maritime Networks

**Maryam Nourzaei,** Uppsala University

*Tracing Origins Through Song: Afro-Baloch Lullabies of Sistan and Balochistan*

**Mette Rudvin,** University of Palermo  
*Ancestral memory in a post-slavery coastal community in Pakistan: Recreating Sheedi social identity through music*

**Cezary Galewicz,** Jagellonian University and **Elena Mucciarelli,** University of Groningen

*Songs of the sea, songs of the land: On two living archives of displacement from North Malabar*

16:00-16:30 Coffee break

# From to



# Coast

**16:30-18:00 Narratives of the  
Sea across the Indian Ocean**

**Burkhard Schnepel**, Martin Luther  
University Halle-Wittenberg  
*Princess Beti: Shifting Existential  
Modes in the early modern,  
archipelagic Indian Ocean world*

**Tareq Alrabei**, Gulf University–Kuwait  
*The Sons of Sinbad': Orientalist  
and Modern Arabic Literary  
Representations of Maritime  
History in the Gulf*

**Annalisa Bocchetti**,  
University of Naples L'Orientale  
*Navigating Wonder: The Sindbād's  
Motif in Urdu Literary Networks*









**Friday, 21 november**

**9.30-11:00 Material Cultures  
and Maritime Worlds**

**Serena Autiero**, Thammasat  
University Bangkok  
*Wooden Doors across the Indian  
Ocean: Tracing mercantile  
communities from South Southeast  
Asia to the Swahili Coast*

**Daniela De Simone**, Ghent University  
*Where the Forest Meets the Sea:  
Material Culture From the Andaman  
Islands and the Making of Oceanic  
Worlds*

**Emilio Cocco**, University of Teramo, and  
**Jirayudh Sinthuphan**, Chulalongkorn  
University, Thailand  
*The Lost Vessel: Exploring the  
Endangered Ocean-Based Life of the  
Moken in the Andaman Sea through  
the Lens of Symbolic Technology*

11:00 -11:30 *Coffee break*

**11:30-13:00 Transitions  
of repertoires and traditions**

**Brenda E.F. Beck**, University of Toronto  
*The Seven Pleiad Sisters: A Tale That  
May Have Found A Home In Tamil  
Nadu Due to Arabian Sea Boat Traffic  
Four Millennia Ago*

# Folklore

**Christophe Vielle**, FNRS, Belgium  
*Saints Brigid and Genevieve in the  
theatrical folklore of Malabar: what  
they tell us*

**Lara Scaiola**, University of Naples  
L'Orientale  
*Sufism at the border: the shared legacy  
of coastal shrines in Sindh and Kutch*

13:00-14:00 *Lunch break*

**14:00-16:00 Maritime symbolism  
and ritual practices**

**Sabir Badal Khan**, University of Naples  
L'Orientale  
*Gwāt or "Wind-Spirits": Possession  
and Healing Rituals of Psychosomatic  
Disorders among the Baloch in  
Southern Pakistan and Southeastern  
Iran*

**Michael Boivin**, CNRS-EHESS, Paris  
*Devotion and the Aquatic Elements in  
the Material Culture of Sindh*

**Ahasan Imam**, Jahangirnagar  
University Savar, Dhaka  
*Endangered wildlife on the sea and  
coast and the beliefs and practices  
of sea-going fishermen: Perspectives  
from Bangladesh*



**Anupama Mohan**, IIT Jodhpur  
*Charting the Blue Humanities: Oceanic Literatures and the Flows of History in a World-System Framework*

16:00-16:30 *Coffee break*

**16:30-17:30 Guest lecture: Ananya Jahanara Kabir**, King's College, London  
*Performing Creolisation's Archipelagic Memory: Quadrilles of the Western Indian Ocean*

**19:00 Music Concert by Stefano Saletti Band: "Singing the Sabir: Soundscapes of Maritime Frontiers" at Lega Navale Italiana**

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*Scientific and Organizing Committee:*  
**Sabir Badal Khan**, University of Naples  
 "L'Orientale"  
**Annalisa Bocchetti**, University of Naples  
 "L'Orientale"  
**Stefania Cavaliere**, University of Naples  
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**Daniela De Simone**, Ghent University

