

CONFERENCE CALL for PROPOSALS

**Sociology at Sea.
Culture, Economy and
Society in a Maritime
Perspective**

Zadar, 27-29 September 2013

Place: Department of Sociology University of Zadar, Obala kralja Petra Krešimira IV, br. 2, 23000, Zadar, Croatia

Under the auspices of: European Sociological Association (Research Stream “Maritime Sociology), Croatian Sociological Association, Italian Sociological Association (Section “Environment and Territory), Mediterranean Association of Sociology of Tourism, Central European Initiative (CEI), Adriatic-Ionian Initiative (AII).

Local convenor: Emilio Cocco (ecocco@unite.it)

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Sociology is generally perceived as a “terrestrial” science. Even when they speak of de-territorialization, cyber-space or even liquid society, sociologists tend to refer to the absence of solid “ground”, assuming somehow that social relations dwell naturally on the land and not on the sea. A number of metaphors, used and abused in sociological theory describes the dynamic, mobile and ever changing nature of contemporary society *vis-à-vis* some traditional fixed and solid pre-

modern world. The well known dichotomies of classical sociology such as individual - collective, urban -rural, action - structure, association -

community, usually do not bring about a discussion of the distinction between land and sea, notwithstanding the theory of K. Schmitt.

From this standpoint, it is quite striking to recognize the lack of systematic sociological reflection on the theoretical and empirical implications of the sea, the ocean and the maritime realm for the development and the understanding of society. Such a gap is particularly relevant when one thinks of the economic, cultural and social relevance of the sea for the development and functioning of society, both in a historical and contemporary perspective.

This conference is the first attempt to fill this gap, by bringing together scholars and researchers from sociology and related fields, to start up a comparative and inter-disciplinary discussion on the different scientifically productive interrelations between society and the sea. The aim is on the one hand to explore the way that sociology and social science more generally can think of the sea as a significant object of study from different points of view. On the other, to reflect on the theoretical, methodological and empirical implications of a maritime perspective for sociological thought. That is to say, to leave some old paradigms “ashore” and stay temporarily away from “safe harbors” by putting sociology “at sea”.

Scientific Committee:

Emilio Cocco (Local Convenor – University of Zadar), Saša Božić (Croatian Sociological Association – University of Zadar), Andriela Vitić (University of Montenegro), Agnieszka Kolodziej-Durnas (Institute of Sociology Szczecin, Poland), Michael Doubrovsky (National Maritime University of Odessa, Ukraine), Everardo Minardi (University of Teramo), Agnese Vardanega (University of Teramo), Pamela Ballinger (University of Michigan, USA), Godfrey Baldacchino (University of Malta, Malta & Prince Edward University, Canada), Borut Kabljan (University of Primorska, Slovenia), Vanni D’Alessio (University of Rijeka, Croatia), Valter Zanin (University of Padova, Italy), Chiara Francesconi (University of Macerata), Asterio Savelli (University of Forlì-Bologna), Luigi Pellizzoni (University of Trieste), Moreno Zago (University of Trieste).

Conference fee (flat rate): 50 €

Conference dinner: 25 €

SECTIONS:

Section 1 (Theoretical implications of Maritime Sociology)

Section 2 (Ecology, Tourism and Maritime Environment)

Section 3 (Maritime Cities, Economy and Logistics)

Section 4 (Culture, Society and the Sea)

Please send the title and abstract (200 words) of your presentation or panel proposal by 17 May to ecocco@unite.it and ztonkovi@unizd.hr
If your paper or panel proposal is accepted, your payment should be made to:

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Conference Web page:

<http://www.unizd.hr/sociologija/SociologyatSea/tabid/5109/Default.aspx>