

International Society for the First World War Studies Conference

SEAS

1-3 October 2025

Thessaloniki, University of Macedonia

All panels will be held at Koykouvelis Conference Hall (1st floor) University of Macedonia

Day 1. Wednesday, 1 October

10-00 – 10-15 Welcome

10-15 – 11-45

Keynote Lecture

Chair: Sofya Anisimova (University College Dublin)

Heather Jones (University College London)

The First World War and the Radicalisation of Warfare in the Mediterranean

11-45 – 12-00

Coffee break

12-00 – 13-30

Panel 1. Port Cities and Coastal Defences

Chair: Chris Kempshall (President of the Society)

Willem Bekers (Ghent University)

Deep Mapping the Military Construction Site: German Building Activity at the Kaiserliche Marinewerft Brügge (1915–18)

Despoina Charitou (University of Macedonia)

Port Cities and Naval Fortifications on the Salonika Front: Securing Supply Lines and Supporting Military Operations via the Sea

Melis Doeh (King's College London)

Between Geography and Strategy - The Triple Puzzle: Ottoman Maritime Defence and Tactical Adaptation in the Dardanelles Campaign Under Escalating Allied Pressure

Manas Dutta (Aliah University)

Beyond Eurocentric Narratives: Port Cities and Liquid Geographies of South Asia and the First World War

13-30 – 14-30

Lunch

- 14-30 – 16-00 **Panel 2. Survival Routes: Maritime Shipping and Blockade**
Chair: Heather Jones (University College London)
- Eirini Anesti** (University of Crete, École française d'Athènes)
From Karaburnu to Itea: The Allied Effort Towards the Security of Maritime Transport to and from Salonika during WWI
- Apostolis Tonti** (University of Crete)
Greek Merchant Shipping Losses during World War I (1914-1918),
- Knut Strøm** (Norway Defence Academy)
Allied Maritime Transport in 1918
- 16-00 – 16-15 Break
- 16-15 – 17-45 **Panel 3. Presences and Absences in Writing about the Naval Aspects of the First World War**
Chair: Ellie Lemonidou (University of Patras)
- Jean de Preneuf** (University of Lille, Service historique de la Défense)
& **Thomas Vaisset** (University of Le Havre Normandy)
Writing the History of the First World War at Sea: An Assessment of a Century of French Historiography
- David Monger** (University of Canterbury, New Zealand)
What is the Navy Doing? The Curious Absence of the Royal Navy in British First World War Propaganda
- Andrew Frayn** (Edinburgh Napier University)
The Silent Seas: Trawling for the Oceans in British Creative Texts About the First World War
- Connie Ruzich** (Robert Morris University)
Tides of War, Floods of Refugees, and First World War Poems of the Sea

Day 2. Thursday, 2 October

- 10-00 – 11-00 **Panel 4. Aspects of Maritime Neutrality**
Chair: Vanda Wilcox (John Cabot University)
- Marina Perez-de-Arcos** (University of Venice/University of Oxford)
Shipping Aid: Sea, Neutrality, and Humanitarianism During and After the Great War
- Flavia de Lucia Lumeno** (Niccolò Cusano University, Rome)
Silent Allies: Italy's Submarine Transfers to Neutral Spain during the First World War
- 11-00 – 11-15 Coffee break
- 11-15 – 11-45 Journal of the First World War Studies Q&A

11-45 – 13-15	<p>Panel 5. Maritime Journeys and Soldiers' Experiences Chair: Jenny Macleod (University Hull)</p> <p>Qianyi Zhang (University of Oxford) The Chinese Labour Corps at Sea: British Management, Tensions, and Novel Experiences</p> <p>Selena Daly (University College London) Entering and Leaving the 'Haunted Mediterranean': The Maritime Journeys of Italy's Emigrant Soldiers in the First World War</p> <p>Charalampos Minasidis (Yale University) In the Service of the Entente: Greek Paramilitaries at the Aegean Front during the Great War (<i>presenting online</i>)</p>
13-15 – 14-15	Lunch
14-15 – 15-45	<p>Panel 6. Post-War Waves of Uncertainty: The Heimei Maru and the Crossroads of Diplomacy and Human Experience Chair: Rob Nelson (University of Windsor)</p> <p>Mahon Murphy (Kyoto University) The Heimei Maru: Testing Japan's Post-War Internationalism</p> <p>Vanda Wilcox (John Cabot University) Turkish Prisoners at Asinara: The Italian Government, the <i>Heimei Maru</i> and Post-war International Relations</p> <p>Yücel Yanıkdağ (University of Richmond) Ottoman Passengers of <i>the Heimei Maru</i> and Their Experiences in Pireus</p>
15-45 – 16-00	Coffee break
16-00 – 17-30	<p>Panel 7. Strategy, Operations and Naval Planning Chair: Hew Strachan (University of St Andrews)</p> <p>Vlasis Vlasidis, Dimitra Patronidou (University of Macedonia) Trying to open a new front? Entente 's naval operations in Aegean sea (1916-1918)</p> <p>Sofya Anisimova (University College Dublin) Russia's Role in the Entente Negotiations of Alexandretta Landing, 1915-1917</p> <p>Alan Wakefield (Imperial War Museum) 'Twisting the Dragon's Tail' – the Place of the Zeebrugge Raid in the battle against Germany's Flanders Flotilla</p> <p>Fabio Sappino (London School of Economics) This Sea Ain't Big Enough for Both of Us: Imperial Competition in the Red Sea during First World War</p> <p>Conference Dinner</p>

Day 3. Friday, 3 October

09-00 – 10-30

Panel 8. Memory and Identity in the Naval War

Chair: Santanu Das (University of Oxford)

Rowan Thompson (Northumbria University)

The First World War at Sea: Death, Commemoration, and Cultural Memory

Lisa Aref (Edinburgh Napier University)

Britishness in First World War Naval Magazines

Alex Holowicki (San Diego Mesa College)

German Pirates and Hawaiian Patriots: The Sinking of the SS Aztec and the United States Entry into the First World War

10-30 – 10-45

Coffee break

10-45 – 11-45

Panel 9. From Port to Front: Wartime Experiences in the Eastern Mediterranean

Chair: Heather Perry (University of North Carolina, Charlotte)

Julia Stryker (Memorial University of Newfoundland)

First Make Sure of Your Toothbrush: Seafaring Women Working Through War on Ships in Civilian and Military Service (*presenting online*)

Allison Bennett (Memorial University of Newfoundland)

Servicemen's Sexual Encounters in Seaport Salonika, 1915-1919

11-45 – 12-45

Annual General Meeting of the Society Members

12-45 – 13-45

Lunch

13-45 – 15-15

Keynote Lecture

Chair: Vlas Vlasidis (University of Macedonia)

Hew Strachan (University of St Andrews)

The Strategic Consequences of the Gallipoli Campaign

Guided Visit to the Allied Military Cemetery in Zeitenlik

The conference is founded by the University of Macedonia Research Committee and the ISFWWS.

