



## 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      **Panel 5. Maritime Journeys and Soldiers' Experiences**  
 Chair: Jenny Macleod (University Hull)
- Qianyi Zhang** (University of Oxford)  
 The Chinese Labour Corps at Sea: British Management, Tensions, and Novel Experiences
- Selena Daly** (University College London)  
 Entering and Leaving the 'Haunted Mediterranean': The Maritime Journeys of Italy's Emigrant Soldiers in the First World War
- Charalampos Minasidis** (Yale University)  
 In the Service of the Entente: Greek Paramilitaries at the Aegean Front during the Great War (*presenting online*)
- 13-15 – 14-15      Lunch
- 14-15 – 15-45      **Panel 6. Post-War Waves of Uncertainty: The Heimei Maru and the Crossroads of Diplomacy and Human Experience**  
 Chair: Rob Nelson (University of Windsor)
- Mahon Murphy** (Kyoto University)  
 The Heimei Maru: Testing Japan's Post-War Internationalism
- Vanda Wilcox** (John Cabot University)  
 Turkish Prisoners at Asinara: The Italian Government, the *Heimei Maru* and Post-war International Relations
- Yücel Yanıkdağ** (University of Richmond)  
 Ottoman Passengers of *the Heimei Maru* and Their Experiences in Pireus
- 15-45 – 16-00      Coffee break
- 16-00 – 17-30      **Panel 7. Strategy, Operations and Naval Planning**  
 Chair: Hew Strachan (University of St Andrews)
- Vlasis Vlasidis, Dimitra Patronidou** (University of Macedonia)  
 Trying to open a new front? Entente 's naval operations in Aegean sea (1916-1918)
- Sofya Anisimova** (University College Dublin)  
 Russia's Role in the Entente Negotiations of Alexandretta Landing, 1915-1917
- Alan Wakefield** (Imperial War Museum)  
 'Twisting the Dragon's Tail' – the Place of the Zeebrugge Raid in the battle against Germany's Flanders Flotilla
- 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
- Conference Dinner

### 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: Vlasis 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.*

