

Pacific Circle Newsletter
Volume 3:11 (22 May 2023)

Circle Members' News

Congratulations to...

Dr. Vivek Neelakantan for publication of his edited volume, *The Geopolitics of Health in South and Southeast Asia: Perspectives from the Cold War to COVID-19* (Routledge, 2023)

Book Reviews

Michael A. Verney, *A Great and Rising Nation: Naval Exploration and Global Empire in the Early U. S. Republic*, American Beginnings, 1500-1900 Series, Chicago, IL: The University of Chicago Press, 2022, ISBN 978-0-226-81992-1

Reviewed by Laurie Dickmeyer (Angelo State University)

Published on H-Water (May 2023)

Commissioned by Yan Gao

In the early nineteenth century, the United States, a postcolonial nation separated from Great Britain for only a few decades, faced a daunting challenge— earning the respect and approval of the "great powers" in Europe. Many white US citizens wondered how they could repay their perceived intellectual and cultural debt to Europe and raise the status of the United States. In *A Great and Rising Nation: Naval Exploration and Global Empire in the Early US Republic*, Michael A. Verney considers how US antebellum "explorers" from the late 1820s to the 1850s sought to court European regard by encouraging and persuading the US public and the federal government to support

grand European-style missions of naval exploration.

For this study, Verney carefully selected seven out of seventeen antebellum US naval expeditions, each chosen to highlight different goals: "knowledge, commerce, religion, slavery, and diplomatic prestige" (p. 6). These missions also happened to be the most popular since Verney wanted to study the role of domestic politics in empire building. To craft this study, Verney makes excellent use of the official and unofficial accounts of the expeditions, newspaper articles, government records, and letters. Each chapter deftly profiles explorationists, investigating how they converted various interest groups or learned from their failures. Although each chapter could be read in isolation, the entire book is bound together by clear through lines and the overarching theme of coalition building.

Chapter 1 introduces readers to the ambitious newspaper editor, lecturer, and explorer Jeremiah Reynolds, who spent years attempting to convince Americans to support a national exploring and cartographic expedition to the South Pacific. Reynolds gained powerful allies such as President John Quincy Adams, Secretary of the Navy Samuel Southard, and other elites--primarily congressmen, naval officers, scientists, and sea captains. However, the lure of scientific advancement was insufficient to attract the support needed. In the late 1820s, an era dominated by factionalism, many US citizens opposed national expeditions of exploration, perceiving them as expensive, elitist, imperial projects that would put too much power in the hands of the federal government. From this failure, explorationists learned to make broader appeals.

Chapter 2 explains how resistant Jacksonian Democrats embraced a voyage of discovery to the Pacific with the United States Exploring Expedition of 1838-42 (popularly known as the "Ex Ex"). Explorationists reframed the proposed expedition as a solution to the problems and anxieties faced by US merchants and captains traversing the Pacific. For antebellum Americans, Pacific economic activities appeared to be threatened by incomplete maps, unruly sailors, and Oceanic Islanders, and an exploring expedition promised to counter these threats.

Chapter 3 tells the story of the Ex Ex following its return to the United States as the commander of the expedition, Lieutenant Charles Wilkes, and others crafted publications, popularizing global imperialism with white middle- and upper-class citizens. This

approach was tremendously successful, and many enthusiastically devoured Wilkes's account and visited the mission's specimens at the National Gallery. Both experiences "shifted public opinion in favor of federally directed global imperialism" in the 1840s and 1850s (p. 105).

Chapters 4 and 5 explore the addition of conservative Protestant Christians and pro-slavery expansionists to the explorationist coalition. In the mid-nineteenth century, conservative Protestant Christians felt that the United States faced a spiritual crisis caused by multiple threats: an influx of Catholic immigrants, intemperance, westward expansion, and the biblical skepticism of liberal Unitarians. The US Expedition to the River Jordan and the Dead Sea of 1847-48 offered an unusual solution. The expedition's commander, Lieutenant William Francis Lynch, motivated primarily by the defense of his faith and national honor, sought to prove that the Bible was "an infallible historical text" and bolster Protestant Christianity (p. 114). Ironically, this overtly Christian expedition relied upon the aid and guidance of Islamic actors, both urban Ottomans and Bedouin Arabs. Chapter 5 moves to 1850s pro-slavery expansionists' support of South American expeditions as a means to expand Southern slaveholding territory. For these individuals, US settlement in South America promised to resolve multiple issues by opening up fertile land for planting, providing a "safety valve" for the growing enslaved Black population, and skirting the sectional divide caused by westward US expansion. US imperial ambitions in South America were clear to all parties involved.

Chapter 6 sees the culmination of explorationists' wildest dreams with US-UK rapprochement. In the late 1840s, the famous British explorer Sir John Franklin and his expedition went missing in the Arctic. His wife, Lady Jane Franklin, tirelessly advocated for the organization of rescue missions both by the British Admiralty and foreign powers. Two expeditions were joint private-public ventures combining the financial resources of merchant Henry Grinnell and the personnel of the US Navy. The publications, newspaper articles, and lectures about the expeditions cultivated a sense of Anglo-Saxon racial unity and camaraderie between the United States and Great Britain. For explorationists, the expedition finally garnered much sought-after British praise for US efforts in the Arctic.

A concise, satisfying conclusion, the epilogue considers the fate of explorationism. Verney traces the fracturing of the explorationist coalition down the middle as the Civil War redirected naval personnel

and resources. In the latter half of the nineteenth century, there was less of a need for federal naval exploration as European powers increasingly considered the United States a "great power." *A Great and Rising Nation* carefully examines explorationists and their accounts, integrating key analysis of gender, race, and socioeconomic status. For example, many explorationists obsessed over the masculinity of explorers and their expeditions. Verney argues that Reynolds acquired an appreciation for the brawny masculinity he encountered during his childhood in Ohio, then part of the US frontier. This perhaps translated to his later respect for working-class mariners. Lynch, the commanding officer of the Dead Sea expedition, recruited men that matched his nativist, masculine, and martial vision, shipping "only 'young, muscular, native-born Americans of sober habits'" (p. 120). Explorer Elisha Kent Kane, who led the second Grinnell expedition to the Arctic, similarly wrote about the masculinity of Sir John Franklin's would-be rescuers. Verney suggests that Kane's cultivation of a heroic masculinity perfectly complemented Lady Jane Franklin's gendered, medievalist appeal to the British Admiralty, the press, and foreign leaders and explorers for chivalric aid to locate her lost husband. Such points of analysis, simply put, are persuasive and integrally tied to Verney's central arguments.

Verney also weighs in on a historiographical debate concerning US national identity and where it was forged. His answer is, everywhere: "It was the product of the entire national experience, which was unfolding simultaneously" in the United States, at sea, and abroad (p. 8). Historians such as Dane Morrison, Dael Norwood, Kariann Yokota, and others have similarly probed the ways that US activities abroad were informed domestic experiences (and vice versa), impacted domestic politics, and reflected anxieties about the postcolonial status of the United States.[1] Verney builds upon and makes a valuable contribution to this recent series of interpretations by taking a critical approach to the rich topic of antebellum naval expeditions.

A Great and Rising Nation showcases thorough research, up-to-date historiography, and well-written prose. As a strong work of scholarship with no notable weaknesses, it should easily find a place on the shelves of scholars of maritime history and the early republic. The transnational nature and goals of the expeditions means that scholars in diverse fields may also find individual chapters useful. With compelling prose, gripping anecdotes, and clear ties to the broader themes and narrative of US history, the book could be

assigned to students and be read by a broader audience.

Note

[1]. Dane A. Morrison, *True Yankees: The South Seas and the Discovery of American Identity* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2014); Dane A. Morrison, *Eastward of Good Hope: Early America in a Dangerous World* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2021); Dael A. Norwood, *Trading Freedom: How Trade with China Defined Early America* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2022); and Kariann Akemi Yokota, *Unbecoming British: How Revolutionary America Became a Postcolonial Nation* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010).

Citation: Laurie Dickmeyer. Review of Verney, Michael A., *A Great and Rising Nation: Naval Exploration and Global Empire in the Early US Republic*. H-Water, H-Net Reviews. May, 2023.

URL: <https://www.h-net.org/reviews/showrev.php?id=58546>

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Ryan Tucker Jones, *Red Leviathan: The Secret History of Soviet Whaling*, Chicago, IL: The University of Chicago Press, 2022. Illustrations. xvii + 269 pp. US\$30.00 (cloth), ISBN 978-0-226-62885-1.

Reviewed by Edward Armston-Sheret (Institute of Historical Research)
Published on H-Environment (May 2023)
Commissioned by Daniella McCahey

Red Leviathan, by Ryan Tucker Jones, is a well-researched and clearly written book of immense interest to scholars working in a variety of fields. Jones provides a detailed and insightful history of whaling in the Soviet Union. The book tells a fascinating story, not widely known in the West: it explains how and why the USSR killed more than half a million whales during the twentieth century, and why it ceased just in time to stop the complete extinction of numerous whale species.

Jones begins by situating Soviet activities in their broader historical context. The Russian Empire carried out comparatively little whaling in the nineteenth century, while American and western European fleets depopulated the oceans, including Russian waters. This experience of foreign exploitation (and the idea that the Russian Empire had been denied its rightful share of marine mammals) shaped Soviet attitudes toward the industry.

Soviet whaling, Jones shows, began during Joseph Stalin's five-year plans of the 1930s, but the Soviet Union remained a small player until the Nikita Khrushchev era. In the 1960s, the Soviets dramatically expanded their whaling fleet and the number of whales they killed. As Jones's archival research demonstrates, this often involved catching whales prohibited by the International Whaling Commission and the publication of fabricated (and much lower) whale-kill numbers. By the mid-1970s, the decimation of whale populations already threatened the viability of large-scale whaling in the longer term. But, as Jones shows, it was only a combination of international diplomacy, internal lobbying by Soviet scientists, and direct action from Western environmental organizations that led to the end of the practice in the Mikhail Gorbachev era.

An outline of the book's overall argument cannot do justice to the strengths of Jones's work and the various fascinating stories told within it. There are numerous interesting narratives to be found, and the book should be read by scholars working on a broad range of subjects (Soviet history, environmental history, ecological activism, and maritime history, to name but a few). *Red Leviathan* offers new insights on economic planning within the USSR and its approach to natural resources and the environment (particularly the importance of Khrushchev-era reforms).

Another fascinating story is around the relationship between whaling and Soviet science. We also learn about the cultural position of whales and whaling within Soviet society, the relationship between state-controlled and Indigenous whaling, labor and gender relations on board whaling ships, and the effect of Soviet hunting on whale populations. The book will also be of interest to scholars interested in the efforts to regulate whaling internationally and the role of environmental activism in political decision-making. Jones deserves immense credit for weaving multiple complex narratives together into such a concise and readable book.

Given the breadth of the work covered, it is inevitable that some topics would have benefited from greater attention. *Red Leviathan* frames the mass killing of whales as an act of "genocide." This framework--and the suggestion that Soviet whaling was "one of the greatest tragedies of the twentieth century"--made me feel uneasy. While Jones concedes that Soviet whalers "were hardly Nazis," I was left ruminating on whether such an approach might be offensive to human victims of genocide in the twentieth century (p. xii). That said, some critical animal studies scholars have forcefully argued that genocide is a useful term to refer to nonhuman death. But the book would have benefited from an engagement with these arguments, particularly as it will undoubtedly attract a readership beyond scholars familiar with such debates.

Another minor gripe is that Soviet whalers are often referred to as "Russians," despite the presence of other Soviet nationalities--mostly Ukrainians--on board whaling ships (p. 98). Though Jones's book was undoubtedly written before Vladimir Putin's invasion of Ukraine, it seems particularly important to stress the multinational nature of Soviet whaling crews in the context of recent Russian efforts to deny Ukrainian national identity.

Despite these minor issues, one of the strengths of Jones's account is his strong and subtle engagement with the lives and experiences of Soviet whalers and scientists. While never shrinking from describing the destructive effects of their actions, the book offers a nuanced picture of the people involved in the whaling industry. Indeed, throughout the book, one aspect that shines through is the depth of research on which *Red Leviathan* is based, including archival research, oral history interviews, and an analysis of films and literature on Soviet whaling.

Overall, *Red Leviathan* is an excellent book that tells an important story little known in the West. It is written in an engaging and accessible style, is well researched, and should be widely read by scholars working in numerous disciplines and subdisciplines.

Citation: Edward Armston-Sheret. Review of Jones, Ryan Tucker, *Red Leviathan: The Secret History of Soviet Whaling*. H-Environment, H-Net Reviews. May, 2023.

URL: <https://www.h-net.org/reviews/showrev.php?id=58714>

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David Grémillet, *The Ocean's Whistleblower: The Remarkable Life and Work of Daniel Pauly*, Georgia Froman, trans. Vancouver: Greystone Books, 2021 408 pp. US\$29.95 (e-book), ISBN 978-1-77164-755-7; \$29.95 (cloth), ISBN 978-1-77164-754-0.

Reviewed by Jennifer Hubbard (Ryerson University)

Published on H-Environment (May 2023)

Commissioned by Daniella McCahey

From Rags to Fishes: The Life of an Ocean Science Hero

The incredible life journey of Daniel Pauly (1946-), the Rachel Carson of the oceans, is recounted in *The Ocean's Whistleblower*, a captivating biography by David Grémillet. Thanks to Pauly's amazing career, it is also a nearly comprehensive tour through the biggest developments in fisheries science in the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries. Pauly advanced from studies as the first Black student at the Institut für Meereskund (Oceanographic Institute) in Kiel to become the first ocean scientist to assess the effects of fisheries globally. At almost every turn of his career, it appears, Pauly was able to pioneer new techniques and approaches to investigating local as well as global fisheries, and ocean environments. While his master's thesis was based on personal field studies of an artisanal coastal fishery in Ghana, his dissertation--"Gill Size and Temperature as Governing Factors in Fish Growth: A Generalization of Bertalanffy's Growth Formula"--in contrast, was based on sources in the Oceanographic Institute's library, from which he built a database of 515 species and 927 fish populations. Building "such a dataset in the field would have taken several lifetimes"; according to Grémillet, Pauly "never wasted time on fieldwork again" (p. 74). He was the first fisheries scientist to take this new approach.

In the late 1970s, he developed a new multispecies fish population analysis technique for tropical fisheries, since North Atlantic and Pacific fish assessment techniques were useless in the tropics, and oversaw the creation of ELEFAN (Electronic Length Frequency Analysis) software for multispecies analysis. He then distributed ELEFAN widely to researchers in the Global South. In the mid-1980s, he collaborated with doctoral student and computer programmer Rainer Froese at Kiel to pioneer FishBase. Providing scientific information about the world's fish species, this database began as a floppy-disc resource distributed to research institutions free of charge. Later it became an internet resource for researchers globally, predating the much-inferior Wikipedia.

Many brilliant contributions emanated from his work in the Philippines, at the Rockefeller-funded International Centre for Living Aquatic Resources (ICLARM) that he helped to establish. Under Pauly's leadership (1977-94), this nongovernmental organization (NGO) became a world-leading center for fisheries research, despite its unlikely headquarters in a Manila office tower (and periodic funding problems). ICLARM was tasked with developing sustainable artisanal and subsistence-based fisheries in the Global South. Achieving these goals took Pauly from Peru to Indonesia and Africa's coasts. He and his colleagues built research partnerships at each location, as well as with leading scientists in Germany, Canada, the United States, and elsewhere. Such contacts fueled his vast output, which included such computer programs as Ecopath (with Villy Christensen) to help scientists model fisheries' effects on ecosystems.

By the 1990s, he knew that government-subsidized industrial fisheries were creating the world's greatest environmental disaster. A pioneer of the principles of ecosystem-based fisheries management, he is perhaps most famous for introducing the concepts of "shifting baselines" and "fishing down the food web," which galvanized not only the fisheries science community and environmentalists but also the general public. His focus on overfishing and ecosystem degradation (the latter primarily a result of industrialized fishing, not pollution) led to coauthored articles in *Science* and *Nature*, which made Pauly a public figure in the early 2000s. He used his new platform to raise awareness of the swelling global fisheries crisis and the need for marine conservation. He also drew attention to the North Atlantic nations' and China's industrial exploitation of sea fisheries around Africa and other poor regions for the benefit of the Global North.

Having developed a fascination with Charles Darwin, Pauly's unrelenting work ethic led him to write a book, *Darwin's Fishes: An Encyclopedia of Ichthyology, Ecology, and Evolution* (2004), in his scanty spare time, while maintaining his jam-packed research and publication agenda. His master of science work had formed the basis of four published papers; according to *The Ocean's Whistleblower*, he had authored or coauthored over eight hundred papers and book chapters and multiple books by 2019. As of 2023, Pauly's website mentions over one thousand papers (plus thirty authored, coauthored, or edited books).[1] Following a stroke in 2006 his work slowed--and his private life improved--but his output still outstripped that of many scientists in their prime.

Grémillet, a marine ornithologist with an interest in fisheries, adeptly tells Pauly's story with great sympathy and verve, and Georgia Luon Froman has produced a superb translation. The presentation is chronological: one can actually read it for the "plot" alone. It is a gripping story. The reader often wonders, echoing Andrew Sharpless's book blurb, "How does a poor child of an unwed French mother and a Black American GI grow up to rock marine science with insights that will change the future of the world's oceans?" Pauly's "Oliver Twist" beginnings included being kidnapped as a toddler and subjected to child labor by a pair of petty criminals who raised him with their own children in a Swiss ghetto. Reading books helped him escape the

horrors of his early life. In pursuit of learning, he forged his "foster-parents'" signatures to gain admittance to middle school, but due to his rebelliousness, his business high school expelled him for being disruptive. Pauly did not display any early interest in science. How could anyone overcome such beginnings to become a world leader in fisheries science?

The author describes his own visits to the Philippines, Germany, France and Switzerland, Canada, the United States, and Africa to interview Pauly's family and scientific colleagues. He gives his personal impressions, including of the children of the couple who raised Pauly. The effect is not overly intrusive, but his account, in places, takes on a journalistic flavor. Nevertheless, it remains a scholarly work, with endnotes that cite a few histories but mainly works by Pauly and other scientists.

Grémillet provides a pleasing amount of background on the history of fisheries science, the state of various world fisheries, and some analysis of the constraints, limitations, and research expectations experienced by fisheries biologists in government institutions. He (and Pauly) makes it apparent that Pauly was able to avoid these pitfalls by working at ICLARM. In 1994, however, ICLARM became subject to an international government takeover, which led to bureaucratic control and a new focus on developing industrial fisheries. To maintain his research freedom, Pauly jumped to the just-established Fisheries Research Centre, affiliated with the University of British Columbia. There he helped found "The Sea Around Us" program--named for Rachel Carson's influential book that strongly influenced Pauly--to environmentally assess the oceans. He also launched EcoTroph software for modeling fisheries' impacts on the trophic levels of ecosystems and became more formally involved in training scientists.

One jarring note is Grémillet's mentions of the political leanings of people whose lives intersected with Pauly's. While Pauly's own political bent is pertinent--he embraced Marxism while at Kiel and a group he belonged to narrowly missed involvement with the Baader-Meinhof gang--generally this information is gratuitous. However, Grémillet draws a compelling portrait of Pauly as a man motivated by his racial background--especially following his visit to the United States to find his father and meet his father's family--by feminism, and by a singular focus on the myriad fisheries issues of his and our times. As a feminist, he hired, inspired, and trained women collaborators in such enterprises as the FishBase database. Maria "Deng" Palomares, whom he hired as a recent bachelor of science graduate to develop ELEFAN software, took her doctorate in fisheries science and became a leading researcher at the Fisheries Research Centre.

Brilliantly documented by Grémillet, this biography serves the double purpose of telling the astounding story of Pauly and reinforcing the need for action to curtail government-subsidized industrialized assaults on fish populations. It joins a corpus of works, including Carmel Finley's classic, *All the Fish in the Sea: Maximum Sustainable Yield and the Failure of Fisheries*

Management (2011), her *All the Boats in the Ocean: How Government Subsidies Led to Global Overfishing* (2017), and Kristin Wintersteen's *The Fishmeal Revolution: The Industrialization of the Humboldt Current Ecosystem* (2021), in exposing the destructive consequences of extreme government policies that include such high levels of subsidization that the industry never breaks even, nor generates more money than it absorbs--another insight Pauly has given us.

Note

[1]. Daniel Pauly, FRSC, University of British Columbia, Vancouver Campus, Institute for the Oceans and Fisheries,
<https://oceans.ubc.ca/daniel-pauly/>.

Citation: Jennifer Hubbard. Review of Grémillet, David, *The Ocean's Whistleblower: The Remarkable Life and Work of Daniel Pauly*. H-Environment, H-Net Reviews. May, 2023.
URL: <https://www.h-net.org/reviews/showrev.php?id=58298>

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Naomi Oreskes. *Science on a Mission: How Military Funding Shaped What We Do and Don't Know about the Ocean*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2021. 738 pages. US\$40.00 (cloth), ISBN 978-0-226-73238-1.

Reviewed by Penelope K. Hardy (University of Wisconsin-La Crosse)
Published on H-War (May 2023)
Commissioned by Margaret Sankey

Naomi Oreskes's objective for *Science on a Mission: How Military Funding Shaped What We Do and Don't Know about the Ocean* is explicit in the subtitle. More broadly, she tackles what she rightly identifies as a "serious question: what difference does it make who pays for science?" (p. 1). She examines these questions through the example of American oceanography, including marine geology and geophysics, which underwent massive growth in the wake of World War II thanks to patronage from the US Navy. Her conclusion that it does matter that the navy was footing the bill is perhaps unsurprising, but her unpacking of why it matters is more nuanced. Oreskes argues that patronage--who pays the bills--matters not only because funding guides researchers toward the patron's topics of interest, but also because it can steer researchers away from inquiries that are not of interest.

This is not a case of a patron's thumb on the scales, as in the examples she and Erik M. Conway previously elaborated in *Merchants of Doubt: How a Handful of Scientists Obscured the Truth on Issues from Tobacco Smoke to Global Warming* (2010). On the contrary, navy funding allowed Cold War oceanographers freedom to direct their own research because the navy needed accurate answers about the ocean environment but was neutral as to what those answers were. However, between the topical constraints around what the navy needed to know, the "psychic motivation" scientists received from the importance assigned to their knowledge and results, and their shared embrace of their patron's patriotic values and fears, navy funding still shaped the resulting knowledge--and ignorance--of the oceans (p. 499).

While both navy and oceanographers made some effort to cooperate before World War II, the fundamental transformation of the battlefield from a largely two-dimensional to a three-dimensional space during that war meant the navy needed to understand the ocean depths in new and urgent ways. They needed to map deep ocean terrain so that submarines could safely navigate underwater. They also wanted to understand the fundamental properties of seawater in order to predict and harness their effects on the transmission of sound underwater for sonar, navigation, and communications. Because these seem like a search for fundamental truths rather than the development of weapons systems, oceanographers often tell the story of the Cold War growth of their field as a golden age. Fundamental truths about nature were in fact

unveiled thanks to open contracts through which the navy essentially gave the major oceanographic institutions blank checks to investigate anything they found interesting, the story goes, though they sometimes had to "paint their projects blue" to give them a veneer of interest to the navy (p. 13).

According to Oreskes, this mythology misses a lot. While the period--and the funding model--did result in tremendous growth in our fundamental understanding of the sea, the navy only ever supported investigations that fit its "mission profile" (p. 296). Oceanographers, many of whom had served during the war and thus had strong ties to both the navy as an institution and to particular naval leaders, were enamored by the sense that their expertise was needed and that they were contributing to the important cause of national defense and the struggle against communism. But if their interests lay outside the "mission profile," the navy was uninterested. This funding environment, then, resulted in a particular vision of the ocean "as a medium through which sound and submarines might travel" rather than "as an abode of life" (p. 497). To go back to the book's subtitle, then, navy funding shaped what we do know--geophysics--but also what we don't know--largely biology, which with few exceptions was of little interest to the navy.

Oreskes lays out her argument over the course of nine chapters, throughout which we not only see the effects of naval funding, but also that plenty of people worried about those effects at the time, as chapters 1 and 3 demonstrate. Chapter 1 recounts how biologists at Scripps Institution of Oceanography (SIO) resisted efforts to engage navy funding in the late 1930s due to "concerns over the twin threats of secrecy and state control," but their resistance melted when war broke out (p. 28). This new support meant tremendous growth for the institution, such that postwar, they could not just return to the status quo antebellum, because "without Navy support, there would be little to go back to" (p. 52). By the late 1950s to early 1960s, though, as we see in chapter 3, some oceanographers were still concerned about how navy influence had grown, as shown by the 1961 "Palace Revolt" that took place at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI) when a newly appointed director embraced a vision of the institution that seemed to full embrace "integration of their sciences into the Cold War leviathan" (p. 133). The WHOI board backed the director and his vision, and the revolting scientists left.

The book is not a wholesale condemnation of military funding. Oreskes demonstrates that it could both stimulate and stymie scientific discovery. Sometimes the concentration on issues relevant to navy concerns led not just to large-scale data collection but even to theoretical breakthroughs, as shown in chapter 2, where Oreskes considers how Henry Stommel's focus on the navy's need to understand the thermocline led to his development, with Arnold Arons, of the Stommel-Arons Model of abyssal circulation. In this case, an approach that focused on the navy's operational concerns led directly to a theoretical breakthrough. On the other hand, the military instinct toward broad classification of data made collaboration

difficult and could impede the development of new ideas, even for those on the inside. Specifically, Oreskes argues in chapters 4 and 5, "Navy secrecy stood in the way of the emergence of modern global tectonic theory" (p. 142). Scientists needed clearance to access both ships and maps of the seafloor. Those with such clearance could not share data or consult the expertise of colleagues in fields like geology, who generally did not receive clearances because their land-based focus was of no interest to the navy.

Chapters 6 and 7 consider the famous deep-submergence vessel *_Alvin_*. Oreskes stands on its head the story of the mini sub as a tool for "basic" science that researchers successfully "painted blue" by convincing the navy to fund it. In fact, researchers were not terribly interested in a vessel like *_Alvin_*, and the WHOI director had trouble drumming up proposals for its use. The navy, on the other hand, wanted *_Alvin_* for tending underwater hydrophone arrays intended to listen for Soviet submarines; looking for objects like the hydrogen bomb lost in the Mediterranean off Palomares, Spain, in 1966; and investigating submarine accidents, such as the loss of USS *_Scorpion_* in 1968. By the late 1960s, the navy was ready to move on from *_Alvin_*; only the sub's transfer to the University-National Oceanographic Laboratory System in 1974 kept the program alive and available for its 1977 discovery of hydrothermal events. Telling this as a story of painting basic science blue, Oreskes writes, ignores that these "discoveries were the end product of a two-decade-long interaction" with navy concerns (p. 339).

Chapters 8 and 9 demonstrate some of the aftermath oceanographers faced as military funding waned by the 1970s. In chapter 8, we see how marine geologist Charles Hollister of WHOI tried to keep his seafloor studies alive by cultivating new patrons in the form of the Sandia National Laboratory and the Department of Energy (DOE). Hollister went so far as to set up a lobbying organization to convince Sandia, the DOE, Congress, and the public that the abyssal ocean provided the best storage site for nuclear waste. Neither international law nor biological concerns, nor even "substantial technical evidence" was sufficient to change his mind (p. 391). In chapter 9, as the navy's need to understand the ocean was satiated, oceanographers seeking another "big new question" that would require (and reward) their expertise developed a plan to measure anthropogenic climate change (p. 395). SIO pitched a plan to measure rising ocean temperatures with sound, again ignoring national and state law, biological concerns, and the fact that other fields had already shown evidence that the change was occurring. In both of these cases, Oreskes explains in her conclusion, oceanographers who had come of age with navy patronage were used to feeling that their work was important and contributed to events with global import, but they had never had to interact with the public, nor even with colleagues who did not have security clearances. This left them unprepared for public scrutiny, but also "cast them in a certain light" as secretive and militaristic (p. 484). Even when researchers' projects were not navy-backed, people assumed there was a link and wondered what the scientists were really up to.

Taken as a whole, *Science on a Mission* thoughtfully considers how funding matters, not by condemning military funding, but by demonstrating that such funding shaped which problems scientists approached, through which methods, and with which tools. Oreskes also suggests some threads unpulled because of lack of navy interest: the geologists and biologists not consulted; the fisheries science neglected; the climate science leadership that oceanographers could have, but did not, assume. Neglect of each of these cases continues to have a significant impact on our world today. While Oreskes has engaged with speculative history elsewhere, that is not her major point here.[1] Instead, this book is a case study, asking questions around one particular field and one particular patron, as a way of thinking through that larger question: What difference does it make who pays for science? Her answers will provide useful food for thought for those who direct and receive scientific funding, as well as for all of us who study them.

Note

[1]. Erik M. Conway and Naomi Oreskes, *The Collapse of Western Civilization: A View from the Future* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2014).

Citation: Penelope K. Hardy. Review of Oreskes, Naomi, *Science on a Mission: How Military Funding Shaped What We Do and Don't Know about The Ocean*. H-War, H-Net Reviews. May, 2023.

URL: <https://www.h-net.org/reviews/showrev.php?id=58331>

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Selected Recent Publications: Books and Chapters

Selected Publications: Articles

Michael Roche, “Andrew Clark’s *The Invasion of New Zealand by People, Plants And Animals in Review*,” *Historical Geography* 49, 1-26

Kiernan Edmond James, “Doing Ethnographic Research in the Fiji Islands: Research Method and Research Ethics Issues,” *Cultural Studies—Critical Methodologies*

[View online](#)

Siyu Fu and Kristian Nielsen, “The Humanist Challenge to China’s Dominant Policies for Popularizing Science and Technology (PST),” *Science as Culture* online

ABSTRACT

In the early 2000s, a group of Chinese scholars who often refer to themselves as scientific humanists (科学文化人, or 科学人文主义者) launched a critique of dominant approaches to science popularization known as ‘kepu’ or science popularization (科普). Their scientific humanism connects traditional Chinese ideas about scientism and humanism to Western philosophy and STS, in particular the sociology of scientific knowledge. Challenging science popularization policies, the scientific humanists in 2001 launched the so-called Critical School of Science Communication (CSSC), which combines scientific humanism with STS approaches to science communication, namely critical public understanding of science and public engagement with science. The CSSC criticized the Popularization of Science and Technology (PST) policy adopted by China’s government and main scientific institutions to promote her technoscientific and technocratic visions. The CSSC is in favor of science communication, rather than science popularization, aimed at reconciling science with the humanities, stimulating genuine dialogue between science and the public, and ultimately increasing civic empowerment. CSSC proponents have engaged in a series of public interventions where they challenged dominant views on the social role of technoscience and PST. China’s explicit emphasis on, even legislative commitment to PST provided a unique context to which the CSSC responded by appropriating scientific humanism, itself an assemblage of Chinese ideas and STS theory, and STS-related concepts about science communication.

Journal News

The British Journal for the History of Science – Themes

The BJHS-Themes is looking for “special editors” for theme-oriented issues.

Please visit the following for more information about the journal:

<https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/bjhs-themes>

BJHS Themes is a collaborative venture between the British Society for the History of Science and Cambridge University Press. *Themes* is an open access journal that is published annually.

Each issue focusses on a specific theme in the history of science, broadly defined. Past issues can be found here <https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/bjhs-themes/all-issues>

Deadline for proposals: 15 July 2023.

Further instructions for submitting proposals can be found here:

<https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/bjhs-themes/information/information-for-proposals>

We look forward to your proposals. Please get in touch with us for any questions you might have (themes_editor@bengaluru.sciencegallery.com).

Society and Association News



The Australian and New Zealand Society of the History of Medicine

What's On in Medical History*

May 2023

Don't miss the opportunity to present your research at the ANZSHM Biennial Conference "Second Opinions" (Adelaide 12-15 July 2023).



AUSTRALIA AND
NEW ZEALAND SOCIETY
OF THE HISTORY OF
MEDICINE

The 18th Biennial Conference
of the ANZSHM

Second Opinions

12-15 July 2023

University of Adelaide
Health & Medical Science Building

► **Call for Abstracts
now open. Submit via
anzshm2023.com**

Are you interested in the history of health and medicine? Do you have a fascinating health-related history to share? We look forward to you joining us to explore medical histories of all kinds, including re-examining long established historical opinions.

Grants for postgraduate students and early career researchers to attend the conference will be available.

For more
information visit
anzshm2023.com

To register your interest
or for more information
please contact **NC Events**
ncosta@ncevents.com.au



New South Wales

23 May Edina: RAHS Excursion

10.30 am- Located in Waverley in Sydney's Eastern Suburbs is 'Edina', one of the grandest private houses surviving in Sydney from the late Victorian era. A central feature of the War Memorial Hospital, few people are nevertheless aware that it exists. A historical gem, it is hiding in plain sight. The Royal Australian Historical Society is pleased to provide a rare opportunity for members to have a private viewing of this grand building in a two-hour tour by Michael Waterhouse, author of the new book *Family, Faith and Fortune in Victorian Sydney. The Edina Estate*. [More](#)

Victoria

22 '1000 Babies can't be Wrong': lecture by Dr Fallon Mody

May In January 1961, 50 mothers marched through the Victorian town of Healesville demanding their doctor be reinstated to the local hospital. Their placards declared '1000 Babies Can't Be Wrong'. These mothers were supporting Dr Arthur Deery, a Hungarian Jewish doctor and a person of interest to Australia's security services. Dr Fallon Mody from Melbourne University will present Dr Arthur Deery's migrant medical life which spanned 40 years. Hosted by National Archives of Australia

Where: Victorian Archives Centre, 99 Shiel Street North Melbourne, and online. [More...](#)

13 Royal Historical Society of Victoria: Book launch

June 'Failed Ambitions Kew Cottages and Changing Ideas of Intellectual Disabilities' 5.30 - 7 pm by Lee-Ann Monk and David Henderson with Christine Bigby, Richard Broome & Katie Holmes.

Where: RHSV Gallery Downstairs, 239 A'Beckett St Melbourne. [More...](#)

Calls for Papers - International

Abstracts due: **13th Genealogies of Memory 2023: Pandemics, Famines and Industrial Disasters of the 20th and 21st Centuries**
26 May. A conference presented by the European Network of Remembrance and Solidarity (ENRS). The aim of the conference will be to draw attention to the discourses of memory and non-remembrance of large-scale natural and human-induced disasters in 20th-century Europe. We want to bring to the fore the perspective of diverse social actors – both individual and collective, thus thematising the presence of such events in individual (family), regional and collective memory.

Conference dates: **22-24 Nov**
Where: Poland. [More...](#)

RESEARCH NOTES and COLLECTIONS

Royal Society (London)

[Science in the making](#), which offers access to over 30,000 items from our scientific journals. Also, don't miss our upcoming [scientific meetings](#), [Prize Lectures](#) and new [grant opportunities](#) in 2023.



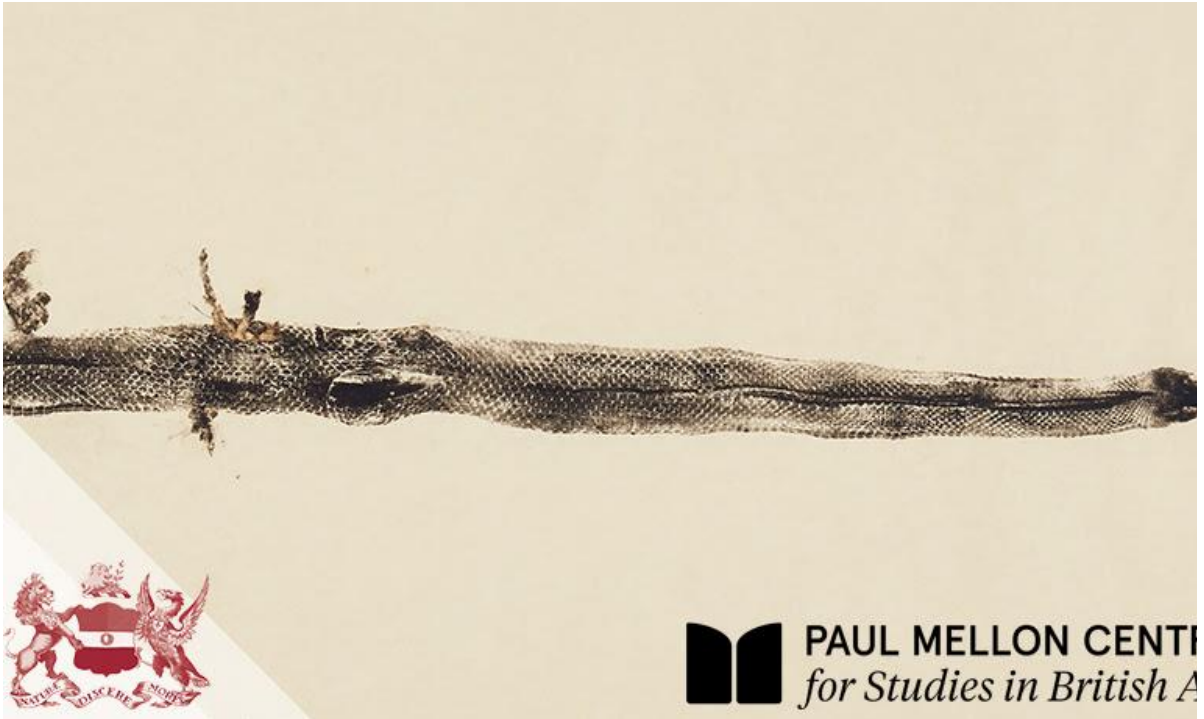
Introducing Science in the making

Archivists at the Royal Society have completed a [five-year project](#) to gather a treasure trove of material spanning 400 years of scientific publishing. Until now, these pages from history have only been accessible to visitors to the Royal Society in London.

Explore the complex material that lies behind the published articles including reviews by Darwin, doodles by Newton, astronomical observations, electrical experiments, anatomical illustrations and more, drawing from every branch of science.

[Explore archive](#)

Upcoming Conferences and Meetings



Symposium | Extinct: Empire, Art and Natural Histories | June 9, 10 am to 5 pm | Free

The symposium is organized by Emilia Terracciano and hosted by the Linnean Society, with generous support of the Paul Mellon Centre.

Extinct: Empire, Art, and Natural Histories will foreground the contributions of artists, curators, and scholars who create work inspired by vanishing landscapes, ecosystems, and ways of living. Specifically, it will prompt speakers to consider how empire, natural history, and the notion of extinction have shaped our relationship with the natural world and approaches to art, writing, and conservation from the twentieth-century up until the present day. Registration essential. [Book here.](#)

Indigenous Histories of Encounters in Asia-Pacific

University of Cambridge, 19–20 June 2023

Keynote speakers:

Lynette Russell (Monash University) & Michael T. Carson (University of Guam)

The field of global history has embraced a call for new histories that cross borders and emphasise migrations and connections across large scales. Yet, in doing so, the field has at times overemphasised the history of European empires. This conference will explore new decolonial approaches which emphasise the agency of Indigenous and other non-European actors within the bustling, cross-cultural worlds of Asia-Pacific. Taking inspiration from the field of Pacific history, we will explore entanglements across oceanic spaces, shifting the focus from the dominance of European traditions towards analyses of cross-cultural exchanges.

We seek to broaden the geographical focus to incorporate the worlds of both the Pacific and Maritime Southeast Asia and beyond, including Latin America. This wider scope will allow for an exciting, boundary-shifting dialogue between Pacific, Asian, and Latin American historians working within the fields of Indigenous history and non-European histories of globalisation and cross-cultural exchange. Papers and panels focus on all time periods but especially those focused on the pre-modern era, which has been underrepresented in scholarship. Contributions will cut across different methodologies and forms of historical evidence, including Indigenous studies, decolonisation, visual and material culture, ethnography, and archaeology.

The 32nd Annual World History Association Conference

To be held from June 22 - 24, 2023 at the University of Pittsburgh's World History Center. To learn about the keynote speakers and/or register at the early rate go to <https://www.thewha.org/conferences/2023-energies/>. If you have specific questions, email info@thewha.org

Inventing the Human

Conference, conversations, provocations, roundtables, and exhibition

30th November to 2nd December 2023

University of Melbourne (f2f and virtual)

Call for Papers

This interdisciplinary and hybrid conference sets out to place the (liberal-humanist) subject dispatched by posthumanism inside the much larger field of Enlightenment/Romantic thought on this topic—a field that, on the one hand, is no longer imagined as beginning and ending in Europe and, on the other hand, is always already in dialogue or conflict with non-European traditions, understandings, and discourses of the human. We take as our key themes the pasts, futures, and varieties of reason, imagination, liberty, and the body—terms crucial to modern understandings of the human. But we do this in order to ask, in a world where Europe is merely one centre among many, what of this legacy can be dispatched? What can be revised or extended by other traditions? What in the world's multiple humanities might open new possibilities for the future? And what does our answer to these questions mean for the methods, roles, and organising categories of the Humanities?

Confirmed Keynote Speakers / Provocateurs:

[Genevieve Bell](#), Director of the School of Cybernetics; Director of the 3A Institute (3Ai); Florence Violet McKenzie Chair at the Australian National University; a Vice President and a Senior Fellow at Intel Corporation.

[James Q. Davies](#), Professor of Music, University of California, Berkeley.

[Amanda Jo Goldstein](#), Associate Professor, English Faculty, University of California, Berkeley.

[Wantari 'Wanta' Pawu](#), Warlpiri Elder; and Professorial Fellow in Indigenous Studies, University of Melbourne, University of Melbourne.

[Delia Lin](#), Associate Professor, Chinese Studies, University of Melbourne.

[Sujit Sivasundaram](#), Professor of World History, University of Cambridge.

Topics include:

- Enlightenment-Romanticism and/or its legacies and the invention of the Human
- Indigenous, Asian, Southern Hemisphere traditions and knowledges about the human
- Re-inventing the human (or why developing an understanding of plural humanity matters)
- The pasts, futures, and/or varieties of
 - reason / critique • imagination / creativity • knowledge • literary arts / performing arts / visual arts • cosmopolitanism / worldliness • religion / faith / the secular / the post secular • the body • place • tradition

--- or topics not included in this list important for a particular tradition on the human.
- Life writing / Writing about the human
- Ability / disability / differently abled
- Gender / transgender / non-binary

BETWEEN NATIONS / ACROSS SEAS: THE TRANSNATIONAL AND TRANSCULTURAL PACIFIC

The 27th annual conference of the
New Zealand Studies Association (NZSA),
together with Stockholm University and the University of Turku

Stockholm, Sweden & Turku, Finland
26 – 30 June 2023



Les Sauvages de la Mer Pacifique, scenic wallpaper designed by Jean-Gabriel Charvet, manufactured by Joseph Dufour (1805)

Keynote Speakers:

- Professor Dominic Alessio
- Dr André Brett
- Associate Professor Patricia O'Brien
- Rena Owen
- Associate Professor Craig Santos Perez
- Professor Nicholas Thomas
- Dr Wonu Veys
- Susan Wilson

A special 5-day international conference

Includes an additional half-day free symposium for graduates & ECRs

Conference plan:

26 & 27 June - Stockholm; 28 June - ferry crossing; 29 & 30 June - Turku

Conference fee includes: coach transfers, ferry crossing and conference dinner

The New Zealand Studies Association has a long and strong history in promoting New Zealand and Pacific Studies, which for 11 years has been expanded through its twice-yearly *Journal of New Zealand and Pacific Studies*. The 2023 gathering builds on the successes of the conferences in Marseille (2022), Athens (2019), Aveiro (2018), Strasbourg (2017), Lugano (2016), Vienna (2015), Oslo (2014), Nijmegen (2013), Gdansk (2012), Frankfurt (2009), Florence (2008), London (2007), and Paris (2006).

Proposals for 20 minute papers to be sent by 29 January 2023 to Ian Conrich (ian@ianconrich.co.uk) or Mikko Myllyntausta (mijmyl@utu.fi). Abstracts need to be between 200 and 250 words with a bio added of 100-150 words. Interpretations of the theme are broad and papers can address a range of topics related to the Pacific and New Zealand.

Proposals for papers will be accepted within three main strands: 1) Oceania, 2) New Zealand and 3) Oceania/NZ in relation to any aspect of the Pacific Rim. We are particularly keen to receive papers on the third strand as we are hoping to extend the Association's interests into areas we have not widely explored before. Papers that explore relationships between New Zealand and/or the Pacific and Scandinavia are especially welcomed. The conference fee includes annual membership to the NZSA, which for 2023 includes a twice-yearly journal. A selection of papers from the conference will be published in the Scopus-indexed *Journal of New Zealand and Pacific Studies*, published by Intellect.

The conference will accept proposals on a range of subjects including the following: history, literature, film, music, art, cultural studies, media and communication, sociology, geography, tourism, war studies, politics, international relations, identity and multiculturalism, anthropology, Māori Studies, Pacific Studies, archaeology, heritage and museum studies.



Victorian Elements

VISAWUS 2023

Seattle Public Library (Seattle, WA), 10/19-10/21

Keynote Speaker: Jesse Oak Taylor (University of Washington)

We encourage papers across all disciplines. Suggested topics include, but are not limited to:

- Elements of style in the Victorian era (design, literary form, fashion, architecture, etc.)
- Braving the elements: weather, the environment, and climate change, then and now
- The periodic table of elements and its history
- The discovery of radium, polonium, and other “new” elements
- Classical elements: earth, water, fire, air, ether
- Elementals: gnomes, undines, sylphs, and salamanders
- Elementary education and educational reforms in the Victorian era
- Elements of detection and deduction in Victorian literature and culture
- Criminal elements in Victorian society
- Elements of Victorian art—landscape, portraits, narrative art, history painting
- Foreign and domestic elements that generated the rise of London’s art and literary markets
- Political, economic, and legal elements in Victorian literature and culture
- The exhibition, display, and interpretation of elements: chemical, natural, cultural, or social
- Elements and evolution, the elements of evolution
- Victorian Elements in the Modern Novel
- Elements of Victorian music (pitch, timbre, tonality, rhythm, volume, texture, tempo, etc.)
- Elements in the history of collecting: private and public museum collections, and curators’ and collectors’ motives at work.
- Rethinking what is elemental in Victorian Studies and in the Victorian Studies classroom
- Rethinking what is elemental in Victorian feminism and ideas about gender/sexuality



Submit a 300-word abstract and 1-page CV to visawus2023@gmail.com by April 30, 2023.
Graduate Students are eligible for the William H. Scheuerle Graduate Student Paper Award (\$600)