

EDITORIAL INTRODUCTION

The Editors are proud to present the second issue of the *Journal of Indian Ocean World Studies (JIOWS)* for 2022. This issue showcases three original research articles and the journal's second state of the field essay.

The research articles showcase many of the core themes of IOW Studies. Sundara Vadlamudi builds on a recent work on child slavery and bondage in the IOW, adding maritime perspectives and examining the experiences and conditions of child labourers aboard ships. Ayan Salaad's article represents the second article published in the *JIOWS* to analyse Ali Farah's *A Dhow is Crossing the Sea*. Salaad puts this text into conversation with a 'Waa Guuriheeynaa,' a Banaadiri Wedding Song, to show how women's bodies express different features of Indian Ocean culture. Finally, Purna Agarwal analyses the docks of Calcutta as an interconnected space, both with the urban hinterland and with the wider IOW, enabling new perspectives on the early twentieth-century strikes across several industries in Bengal. Incorporating research from literary studies and history, these articles add significant knowledge to our understandings of labour and culture in IOW Studies.

This year's state of the field essay is written by Rosabelle Boswell, who draws on her own research on southern Africa and nearby islands to examine the discipline of oceanic heritage in IOW Studies. In so doing, she shows how the discipline is challenging Eurocentric paradigms, most notably the so-called Anthropocene. Any response to the effects of global warming in the IOW, she points out, must take into account indigenous patterns of human-environment interaction that stand outside such monolithic frameworks. This will be a foundational text as cultural heritage studies continues to grow as an interdisciplinary field.

The *JIOWS* Editorial Team