

## EDITORIAL INTRODUCTION

The Editors of the *Journal of Indian Ocean World Studies* (JIEWS) are thrilled to present our first issue of 2024. This is an especially exciting time for our journal as this is the first issue to be published by Johns Hopkins University Press (JHP). Our partnership with JHP promises to enhance the profile of our journal and the wider scholarly field it showcases. It also follows hot-on-the-heels of our successful application to have the JIEWS indexed on SCOPUS last year. The JIEWS and Indian Ocean World (IOW) studies at large are gaining significant recognition for their contributions to interdisciplinary scholarship. We hope you will join us in celebrating these achievements.

This issue comprises two original research articles, two conversations pieces, and one book review. As a collective body of work, they stress the importance of the environment and ecology in the history of the IOW. In ‘Gender, drought, and foot and mouth disease,’ Mathew Ruguwa (University of Zimbabwe) revises understandings of a colonial-era environmental disaster in present-day eastern Zimbabwe. He emphasises the adaptive capacities of local populations in the face of drought and colonial oppression, showing how gendered roles and familial structures became re-organised in the process. Meanwhile, in ‘Slaving, colonial diplomacy, and resource extraction,’ Hans Hägerdal (Linnæus University) integrates historical understandings of slavery and resource extraction in the seventeenth-century Dutch East Indies (present-day Indonesia). The result is a nuanced analysis of the local consequences, including ecological consequences, of Dutch slavery in the region. The two articles add new perspectives to a growing body of work, including work being conducted at the Indian Ocean World Centre (IOWC),<sup>1</sup> that seeks to integrate environmental change and climatic variability into an understanding of the IOW.

The two Conversations pieces are transcribed interviews conducted by Philip Gooding (IOWC) with authors of new books in IOW studies. The first, with Daren Ray (Brigham Young University), is a discussion about *Ethnicity, Identity, and Conceptualizing Community in Indian Ocean East Africa*.<sup>2</sup> This book challenges spatial framings of both African and Indian Ocean World history, which tend to divorce the historical trajectories of the coast and littoral from those of inland regions. Ray uses a mixture of linguistic, archaeological, historical, and ethnographic methods to show how

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<sup>1</sup> See for example: Appraising Risk: <https://www.appraisingrisk.com/> [Accessed: 28 June 2024].

<sup>2</sup> Daren Ray, *Ethnicity, Identity, and Conceptualizing Community in Indian Ocean East Africa* (Athens, OH: Ohio University Press, 2023).

these ostensibly distinct zones have been integrated and have influenced each other since the first millennium of the common era. The second Conversation is with Patricia Irene Dacudao (Ateneo de Manila University), who discusses her book, *Abaca Frontier: The socioeconomic and cultural transformation of Davao, 1898-1941*.<sup>3</sup> She explains how she drew on her own memories and the experiences of her family to re-examine the colonial-era history of an understudied history region in the southern Philippines. Focusing on the production of a global commodity, she emphasises the importance of local dynamics in shaping colonialism and cosmopolitanism in the Philippines and the wider IOW.

Finally for this issue, Philip Gooding reviews Edward A. Alpers and Thomas F. McDow's *A Primer for Teaching Indian Ocean World History*.<sup>4</sup> Aimed at educators teaching high school and university students in North America, he concludes that the book is 'a valuable resource for developing innovative syllabi in Indian Ocean World history.'

Moving forwards, we continue to encourage submissions of original research articles and special issue proposals in the humanities and social sciences that focus on the Indian Ocean World and its constituent parts. To this end, we have organised an online workshop for early career researchers, which will be held on 11-12 December 2024. We hope that this workshop will help to turn preliminary research from the next generation of IOW studies scholars into polished research articles, which will be showcased in the JIOWS. The workshop will additionally provide a primer in academic publishing for early career researchers in the humanities and social sciences. We especially encourage scholars based in institutions in the IOW to apply; more details are available [here](#).<sup>5</sup> We also encourage new authors to reach out to the editors if they would like to discuss their books for the Conversations section, and scholars at any stage of their academic career (including graduate students) if they would like to review a book in Indian Ocean World Studies. You can contact us at [jiows@mcgill.ca](mailto:jiows@mcgill.ca).

The JIOWS Editorial Team

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<sup>3</sup> Patricia Irene Dacudao, *Abaca Frontier: The Socioeconomic and cultural transformation of Davao, 1898-1941* (Quezon City: Ateneo de Manila University Press, 2023).

<sup>4</sup> Edward A. Alpers and Thomas F. McDow, *A Primer for Teaching Indian Ocean World History: Ten design principles* (Durham: Duke University Press, 2024).

<sup>5</sup> Journal of Indian Ocean World Studies, "Call for papers: Early career researcher online workshop on Indian Ocean World studies": <https://indianoceanworldcentre.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/iowc-dec-2024-call-for-papers.pdf> [Accessed: 28 June 2024].