

English abstract

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Winds of change and the sea: Cultural perspectives on marine studies

The ongoing environmental crisis highlights the need to study the multitude of different ways in which people interact with the sea and marine environments, as well as the meaning people give to the sea.

This multidisciplinary volume introduces cultural perspectives on marine and maritime studies. Chapters discuss the relationship between humans and the sea at different levels from local to global, and from different disciplinary angles, drawing on conceptualizations and methodologies used in various humanistic fields. The focus of analysis is on the human-sea interactions and the changes that occurred in these interactions since the 19th century. This work scrutinizes how changes in both the human cultural and marine environments have affected human experiences together with various interpretations and meaning given to the sea. Special attention is paid to the evolution of time, place and social relations with the above changes, and the impact this may have for the relationship of humans with the sea. The geographical focus of the book is in Finland and the Finnish coasts of the Baltic Sea. The chapters decipher a great variety of cultural perspectives from which the sea and its relations and interactions with the human being can be analyzed. Different types of knowledge, including experience-based knowledge and scientific knowledge from different disciplinary fields, come together and intertwine in this work. With its multidisciplinary contents, this book illuminates the sea as a research object, which is fluid and in constant motion. This fluidity has particular methodological and conceptual implications, as the chapters of the volume demonstrate. Finally, this publication envisions future changes in the relationship of humans with the sea and makes recommendations for addressing the implications of these changes.