

NAS Part III Research Module

Introduction to the Social History of Ships

Course Outline

This course will explore, from an archaeological perspective, 17th and 18th century maritime activities on both local and global scales of analysis. Shipwrecks and their contents will be considered as the material expression of people's activities and these will be discussed from a theoretical point of view. You will then analyse these activities in practice from a material culture perspective, mainly through the identification of patterns of production and consumption of goods. People activities will be explored through local case studies discussing how these help to construct people's social history. These histories will be contextualised with broader social forces, providing a crucial understanding of the multi-varied and complex human relations.

Teaching Outcomes

Upon completion of this course you will be better able to integrate local and global scales of analysis, going beyond the descriptive analysis of wrecks and cargoes by interpreting them as the embodiment of social relations.

NAS Part III point allocation:

Research module: 6 points maximum

Suggested Reading:

- **Adams J. 2001. Ships and Boats as Archaeological Source Material. *World Archaeology* 32: 292-310**
- **Dellino-Musgrave V. 2005. British Identities through Pottery in Praxis: The Case Study of a Royal Navy Ship in the South Atlantic. *Journal of Material Culture* 10: 219-243**
- **Nash M. 2002. The Sydney Cove Shipwreck Project. *International Journal of Nautical Archaeology* 31: 39-59**
- **Staniforth M. 2003. *Material Culture and Consumer Society: Dependent Colonies in Colonial Australia*. New York: Kluwer Academic/Plenum Publishers**