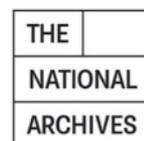


# The Prize Papers LUNCH TALKS

An Online Lecture Series

Prize Papers Project (Oldenburg/London)  
November 23 - February 15  
Mondays, online on Big Blue Button  
Carl von Ossietzky University Oldenburg  
Göttingen Academy of Sciences and Humanities  
organized by Dagmar Freist & Lucas Haasis



The London Prize Papers are a unique source and treasure trove for research. Since its discovery, the collection has already inspired numerous groundbreaking projects in various fields of study and many countries around the globe.

In this online lecture series of the Prize Papers LUNCH TALKS, we will hear seven short lectures from some of the leading experts on and pioneers of working with the collection and discuss with them about their most recent work. The lecture series aims at bringing together renowned scholars, international early-career researchers, master's students as well as the interested public to discuss with us in a relaxed setting - over lunch.

The Prize Papers LUNCH TALKS will take place between November 23, 2020, and February 15, 2021, every other **Monday, at 1-2 pm** (CET).

The event is open to the public, with advance registration requested.

Links to the meeting rooms via the user-friendly platform **BigBlueButton** will be provided after registration. Please contact *lucas.haasis@uni-oldenburg.de* to subscribe to the mailing list and for registration.

## Programme

**23 November: Patrick Schmidt** (Rostock University, GER)

“[B]ut he refus'd to go, calling me old dog with many more base ill names”.  
Disobedient officers in the late 17th- and early 18th-century Royal Navy

**14 December: 3-4 pm: Margaret E. Schotte** (York University, Toronto, CA)  
Navigation Lessons from the Prize Papers

**21 December: 3-4 pm: Thomas M. Truxes** (NYU, US)  
The Bordeaux-Dublin Letters, 1757: Time Capsule Extraordinaire

**18 January: Margaret Hunt/Leos Müller** (Uppsala/Stockholm University, SWE)  
Scandinavian peoples, colonies and ships in the Prize Papers

**25 January: Jelle van Lottum** (Radboud University Nijmegen, Huygens, NL)  
Socio-economic approaches to the Prize Paper Archives: an investigation into early modern labour migration

**01 February: Xabier Lamikiz** (University of the Basque Country, UPV/EHU)  
Prize Papers taken at the Battle of Vigo Bay (23 October 1702)

**15 February: Marijke van der Wal** (Leiden University, NL)  
International trade, an instructive journey and linguistic practices revealed in the Heusch correspondence (1664-1665)

**Detailed information and abstracts regarding each Talk will be provided via the mailing list and on our twitter feed [https://twitter.com/prize\\_papers](https://twitter.com/prize_papers)**



**23 November: Patrick Schmidt** (Rostock University, GER)

**“[B]ut he refus’d to go, calling me old dog with many more base ill names”. Disobedient officers in the late 17th- and early 18th-century Royal Navy**

While full-blown mutinies aboard ocean-going ships during the age of sail have received a good deal of attention in academic and popular literature (the *Bounty* being the most prominent case), the same can’t be said for minor cases of disobedience to command committed by individual crew members. The research project presented here looks into such cases with respect to the late 17<sup>th</sup>- and early 18<sup>th</sup>-century Royal Navy. By investigating situations in which the political and social order aboard ship was contested, it aims at achieving a better understanding of the functioning of this order. Rather surprisingly, court martial records from the period under research tell us more about disobedient officers than about disobedient sailors. Accordingly, lieutenants, masters, boatswains and chaplains who defied superior officers will be at the centre of this paper.

---

**14 December: 3-4 pm: Margaret E. Schotte** (York University, Toronto, CA)

**Navigation Lessons from the Prize Papers**

In researching her recent book, *Sailing School: Navigating Science and Skill, 1550-1800* (Johns Hopkins UP, 2019), Margaret E. Schotte spent many hours with the Prize Papers collection. Her book is a compelling comparative study of navigators in early modern Europe and investigates how early modern sailors developed mathematical and technical expertise in the age of exploration and the print revolution. The book just recently won the Leo Gershoy Award for the best 2019 book in 17/18c European history. In her Lunch Talk, Margaret E. Schotte will highlight a few puzzles about early modern navigational education that the Prize Papers helped to solve.

---

**21 December: 3-4 pm: Thomas M. Truxes** (NYU, USA)

**The Bordeaux-Dublin Letters, 1757: Time Capsule Extraordinaire**

In his book *The Bordeaux-Dublin Letters, 1757* (OUP/British Academy, 2013), Thomas M. Truxes, together with his co-editors Louis Cullen and John Shovlin, presents 125 letters carried aboard a ship, the *Two Sisters of Dublin*, captured at sea in 1757, in the midst of the Seven Years War (1756-1763). Most of the letters lay unopened for 250 years until they were rediscovered in the National Archives in 2011. The letters from members of the Irish community in Bordeaux and their relatives, friends and trading partners in Ireland communicate the concerns and understandings of ordinary people in a diasporic community during wartime. Written by sailors, merchants, servants, prisoners of war, priests, clerks, and many women, the letters vividly illustrate social and economic structures familiar to historians of early modern trade and the expatriate communities of the Atlantic world.

**18 January: Margaret Hunt/Leos Müller** (Uppsala/Stockholm University, SWE)

### **Scandinavian peoples, colonies and ships in the Prize Papers**

In their VR project *The Scandinavian Prize Papers: Global and maritime History in the Early Modern Period*, funded by a grant from the Swedish Research Council/Vetenskapsrådet, Margaret Hunt and Leos Müller use the Prize Papers collection to explore knowledge and knowledge transfer between non-elite people (sailors, skippers, ocean travellers) in an age of global trade and travel. In their Lunch Talk they will provide insight into and present some of the results of their four-year project to inventory the Scandinavian Prize Papers and study them in depth with a view toward a better understanding of Scandinavian shipping, local and global knowledge networks and non-elite culture.

---

**25 January: Jelle van Lottum** (Radboud University Nijmegen, Huygens, NL)

### **Socio-economic approaches to the Prize Paper Archives: an investigation into early modern labour migration**

In his research, Jelle van Lottum has used the varied material from the Prize Paper archive in multiple ways, using different methods from the social sciences. In his presentation he will discuss some of the approaches he has used in the last 15 years which vary from the use of a (basic) biographical approach to get an insight in the position of female migrants in Amsterdam, the application of econometric methods to analyse the link between human capital and labour productivity, to the use of GIS techniques to uncover changes in labour mobility in the maritime sector. In his Lunch Talk, he will also explain how these different approaches have one shared goal: trying to better understand the role of labour migration in the early modern economy and society.

---

**01 February: Xabier Lamikiz** (University of the Basque Country, UPV/EHU)

### **Prize Papers taken at the Battle of Vigo Bay (23 October 1702)**

In June 1702, a Spanish commercial fleet consisting of eighteen ships left the port of Veracruz for Cádiz guarded by a French squadron. The War of Spanish Succession had broken out the year before. The fleet carried a large amount of Mexican silver consigned to both the merchant community of Cádiz and the king of Spain. The English and Dutch knew about this treasure and were hoping to intercept the fleet. But, in an attempt to avoid the enemy, the Spaniards decided to call at the port of Vigo, in northern Spain, instead of Cádiz in the south. Their efforts were in vain. On 23 October 1702, the English and Dutch navies attacked the fleet at Vigo Bay and burnt most of the Spanish vessels. They also managed to capture the private papers of three merchants. These papers are a rarity that shed valuable light on the functioning of the Spanish colonial trade in the second half of the seventeenth century. In his Lunch Talk, Xabier Lamikiz will tell us more about this intriguing story and provides us with insights into his fantastic new project.

**15 February: Marijke van der Wal** (Leiden University, NL)

**International trade, an instructive journey and linguistic practices revealed in the Heusch correspondence (1664-1665)**

The Heusch correspondence (*Koopmanszoon Michiel Heusch op Italiëreis*, Uitgeverij Verloren, 2019), which was found among the Prize Papers, comprises a collection of Dutch letters, written mainly by merchant Michiel Heusch senior, and addressed to his son Michiel junior, who was travelling in Italy on his European grand tour. The letters give us a view on daily life at home during a pandemic (the plague), Michiel junior's instructive journey and his experience in international trade. They also allow us to trace linguistic practices and communication patterns both abroad and in the language contact setting of the city of Hamburg.

---



TNA, HCA 30/642: Court bundle of papers. Image reproduced by permission of The National Archives of the UK.

