



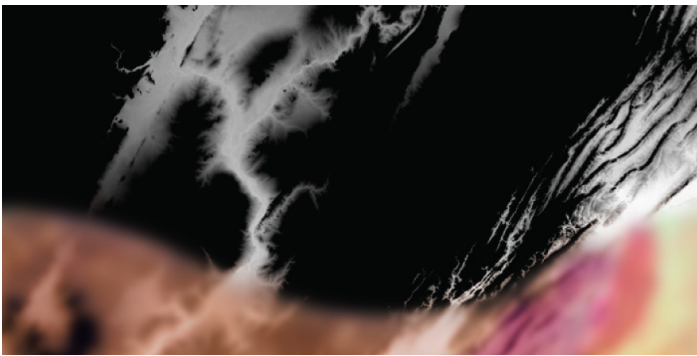
// OPEN CALL // OCEAN / UNI

**A free and collaborative pedagogical initiative developed by
TBA21–Academy in the context of
*Territorial Agency: Oceans in Transformation***

At Ocean Space, Venice and on [Ocean-Archive.org](https://ocean-archive.org)
16th September–16th December 2020, biweekly sessions

// OCEAN / UNI

Ocean / Uni is the first articulation of a pedagogic project in which thinking with the oceans aims to complement and enhance land-based understanding of the Earth. The aim of the Curriculum is to provide students, researchers, and the public with wide-ranging and accessible explorations of the changes taking place throughout the oceans at a high level of expertise. The proposed format of study is centered around **biweekly sessions to take place at Ocean Space in Venice**, in conjunction with the exhibition Territorial Agency: Oceans in Transformation, and online on **Ocean Archive** between 16th September and 16th December 2020. These sessions are open to a core group of students, present in the space; a selected group of pre-registered public participants; other university groups, connected via zoom; and moderators (guests) both on- and offsite.



During the past months, and in anticipation of the postponed opening of Ocean Space, specialists have been recruited across several fields and geographic contexts – from anthropology, policy, geology, glaciology, political ecology, the arts, humanities, art history, architecture and many other spheres. Their presentations have been curated and elaborated to respond to one another, such that an interwoven and transdisciplinary polylogue emerges. Leading towards a novel oceanic Curriculum, this conversational teaching method manifests the interplay and situatedness of the urgent concerns that drive so much oceanic scholarship. It also illuminates processes of theoretization and thought-in-action emerging from the nascent world(s) of wet, blue and watery oceanic studies.

As humankind continues to make sense of our relationship to the environment, the transformations, perceptions, uses, values, and ecologies of the oceans become focal points of learning and research. While the living waters of the oceans all interconnect to form one "ocean", the aquatic "body" of our planet has been fragmented and obscured by the various forms of knowledges and practices that engage with it. It is urgent to figure possibilities for the oceans to become a space of engagement, that bridges difference and offers channels for modes of witnessing and transacting, of call and response, and of learning from each other. A dedicated oceanic initiative has important implications for a pedagogic practice: it needs to address post-materialist and post-humanist concerns while engaging with questions of social justice and technological innovation. It must apply knowledge of Earth system sciences to understand deep marine and maritime

histories and futures. And it must acknowledge the many ways in which people who live coastally, on islands, in ice landscapes, and with the seas possess standing rights and forms of deep knowledges – thus raising the ethical and political stakes in the face of environmental degradation.

// OCEAN / UNI – CURRICULUM

The Curriculum casts a wide net of voices from different spheres of knowledge engaging with the oceans. Over the course of informal online assemblies held between April and July 2020, a group of artists, scientists, and ocean thinkers supported TBA21–Academy Ocean Fellows' coalitional efforts to untangle the social relations, deep histories, and political, juridical, and economic discourses connected to the flows and currents of the oceans' many waters. The resulting material is assembled in this **biweekly curriculum, unfolding over a period of 13 weeks**.

The research is articulated along seven oceanic trajectories conceptualized and visualized by Territorial Agency. These trajectory-based investigations have been further developed around a standard format: various curatorial teams convened a group of practitioners around a defined topic and asked each participant to summarize his/her position in a 20 minute presentation, while responding to other presenters and the issues at hand. Some of these conversational presentations have been lightly edited, footnoted, and referenced through additional readings.

The series explores the question of how the oceans can be part of our lives and academic projects in significant and meaningful ethical and political ways. Seeking to understand the transformation of the oceans is to ask: What histories and practices are connected to the oceanic, and how do they help us to understand the current planetary crisis? How to situate our thinking within the ocean rather than from scholarly or distanced positions that aim to turn the ocean and its waters into objects of research? What is our understanding of the relationships between land and water, and what do we learn from integrating indigenous, decolonial, Africana, posthumanist, hydrofeminist, and scientific approaches and interventions in a relational pedagogic project?

// WHO CAN PARTICIPATE

The program is intended for adults from any background and eager to engage in ecological, political, aesthetic, ethical, and scientific conversations around the futures of the oceans. Lectures will be held exclusively in English, so a good listening and speaking level is recommended to ensure a meaningful learning experience.

The curriculum is open to:

- » University students (BA, MA, and further) from different disciplines and fields of study (Art and Architecture, Literature, Social Sciences, Cultural Studies, Marine Sciences, Environmental Studies, Earth Sciences, Engineering, Law, Political Science),

selected across several partnering universities. The core group of participating students, together with participants from the public, will attend and engage in conversations, exploration, and analysis on the transformations at stake in the Anthropocene Oceans.

- » Anyone with an interest in deepening their knowledge, understanding, and experience of the research topics unfolded in the exhibition Territorial Agency: Oceans in Transformation.

Participants are required to register for their attendance to the seminar on site at Ocean Space or online in a webinar format. Due to limited capacity applicants will be selected on a first-come, first-served basis. You are welcome to register in advance for more than one session.

Online registration: <https://forms.gle/fDBiGRZo2dyRHISW8>

In situ registration: <https://forms.gle/SVcgY97BmMLkmjso6>

// BIWEEKLY PROGRAM

Eight sessions held between 16 September – 16 December 2020, Wednesdays, 4 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Most lectures are screened in pre-recorded sessions, within-situ moderation at OS and Zoom participants.

1. *Introduction: Methodology, Data Sets, and the Sensible Zone*, Wednesday 16 September

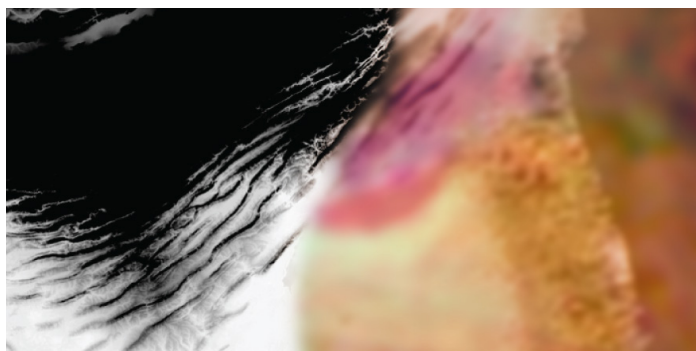
- » **Territorial Agency, Daniela Zyman, and Markus Reymann**
- » **Astrida Neimanis**, Department of Gender and Cultural Studies at the University of Sydney, *The sea and the breathing*
- » **Territorial Agency, Markus Reymann, Francesca Thyssen-Bornemisza, Bruno Latour, Peter Weibel, and Bettina Korintenberg (extract)**, *Terrestrial University: Oceans in Transformation*
- » **Nancy Knowlton**, Marine Scientist Emeritus at Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History, *The oceans in three acts: staggering diversity, scary news, and reasons for hope*
- » **Joe Riley**, PhD candidate, UC San Diego, Ocean Fellow, Introduction to Tavola N°2 – Finding perspective: looking through the waters of the North Atlantic; **Fiona Middleton**, Ocean Fellow, Sounding and sketching the North Atlantic. Tharp and Heezen's seminal seafloor map and **Vicki Ferrini**, seafloor scientist and geoinformaticist at the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, Columbia University
- » **Yuchen Chang**, artist, Performance

2. *North Sea to Red Sea, Revisiting the "longue dureé" of the Mediterranean*, Wednesday 30 September

- » **Territorial Agency**, *Introduction to North Sea to Red Sea trajectory*
- » **Shaul Bassi**, Director of the International Center

for the Humanities and Social Change, Ca' Foscari University, Venice, *Writing Venice's seas*

- » **Georg Umgieser**, Senior researcher at the Institute of Marine Sciences of the National Research Council of Italy, CNR-ISMAR, *Venice and the acqua alta in the perspective of climate change*
- » **Alessandra di Maio**, University of Palermo, *The Burning of the Black Mediterranean. A View from Palermo*
- » **Invernomuto**, Simone Bertuzzi e Simone Trabucchi, artists duo, *Black Med*



3. *Aquapolitics along the Gulf Stream*, Wednesday 14 October

- » **John Palmesino**, *Introduction to the Gulf Stream trajectory*
- » **Louise Carver**, Inverting the isolate: conservation futures and marine protected areas, (guest lecturer)
- » **Anne McClintock**, A. Barton Hepburn Professor in the Program in Gender and Sexuality Studies at Princeton University, *A fugue in fire and ice*
- » **Jamie Allen**, artist and researcher, *Extrastatecraft and technological futures of the Arctic*
- » **Britt Kramvig**, writer, researcher, and professor in the Department of Tourism and Northern Studies at the UiT Arctic University of Norway, *Saami epistemologies*
- » **Matti Aikio**, artist, *Reindeer herders and nomadic traditions*
- » **Carlos Manuel Duarte**, marine biologist, Biological and Environmental Science and Engineering Division, Red Sea Research Center, King Abdullah University, *Dangerous climate change in the Arctic: Why should we care?*

4. *Equatorial Pacific: Pacific Futures*, Wednesday 28 October

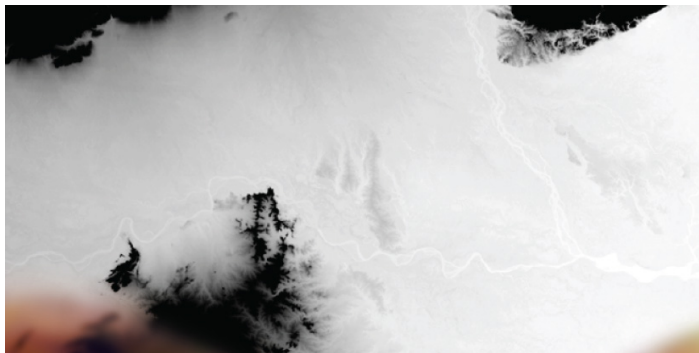
- » **John Palmesino**, *Introduction to the Equatorial Pacific trajectory*
- » **Maureen Penjueli**, Coordinator of the Pacific Network on Globalisation, PANG, Fiji
- » **Elizabeth DeLoughrey**, Professor of Postcolonial and Indigenous Literature, UCLA, *Towards a critical*

ocean studies for the Anthropocene

- » **Jaimey Hamilton Faris**, Associate Professor of Critical Theory and Art History, The University of Hawaii, Manoa, *Ocean weaves*
- » **Joe Riley**, PhD candidate, UC San Diego, Ocean Fellow, *The enigma of: surfing, hydraulics, economics*
- » **Sophie Chao**, anthropologist and activist, *"There Are No Straight Lines in Nature", Maps as cultural resource and advocacy tool in West Papua*

5. Mid Atlantic: Mnemonic Oceans: Monsoons, Memory, And Atlantic Movements, Wednesday 11 November

- » **John Palmesino**, *Introduction to the Mid Atlantic trajectory*
- » **Donna Kukama**, artist, *Performance*
- » **Jeremiah Ikongio**, artist, *The cultural protocols of free trade*
- » **Zakkiyah Iman Jackson**, Assistant Professor of English at the University of Southern California, *Organs of war: Measurement and ecologies of dematerialization in Wangechi Mutu's histology of the different classes of uterine tumors*
- » **Palin Anusinha**, Ghost in the Field, Ocean Fellow, *Monsoonal memories*
- » **Nchongayi Christantus Begealawuh**, PhD candidate in a joint PhD program in global and area studies: peace and security in Africa at the University of Leipzig and the Institute for Peace and Security Studies, Addis Ababa University, Ocean Fellow, *Ecologies of the Sahel*



6. Indian Ocean Gyre: Ecosystems in Transformation, Wednesday 25 November

- » **John Palmesino**, *Introduction to the Indian Ocean Gyre trajectory*
- » **Himali Singh Soin**, artist, *We are opposite like that*
- » **Debjani Bhattacharyya**, Historian, *Silt*
- » **Marina Tabassum**, Architect, *Inheriting wetness*
- » **Shaina Anand**, artist, co-founder of CAMP, *Gulf to Gulf*

- » **Shaina Anand**, interview with **Barbara Casavecchia**
- » **Alexandra Boghosian**, Ocean Fellows, *The disappearing cryosphere*
- » **Pietro Consolandi and Fiona Middleton**, Ocean Fellows, *Oculi ad veritatem aperti*

7. Metropolitan Asia: Cities-to-come in Metropolitan Asia, Wednesday 2 December

- » **John Palmesino**, *Introduction to the Metropolitan Asia trajectory*
- » **Andrés Jaque**, architect, Office for Political Innovation
- » **Alvin Li and Julian Junyuan Feng**, curators, *Land reclamation along the Hong Kong coastline*
- » **Irwan Ahmett and Tita Salina**, artists, *Pilgrimage to the North (Ziarah Utara)*
- » **Elisa Giuliano**, Ocean Fellow, performance, #Haenyeo
- » **Jeanne Penjan Lassus**, Ocean Fellow, *On the cusp of land and water*

8. The Humboldt Current: Protecting the Commons, Wednesday 16 December

- » **John Palmesino**, *Introduction to the Humboldt Current trajectory*
- » **Mark Williams**, Professor of Paleobiology, University of Leicester, *Forest gardens beneath the sea*
- » **Jan Zalasiewicz**, Professor of Paleobiology, University of Leicester, *The ocean Anthropocene*
- » **Sandor Mulsow**, marine geologist, Head of the Office of Environmental, Management and Mineral Resources of the International Seabed Authority, Jamaica, *Desperate call to the citizens of the world*
- » **Camila Marambio**, curator, co-founder and director of Ensayos
- » **Jeanne Penjan Lassus**, Ocean Fellow, *Act II. Islas*

// TERRITORIAL AGENCY: OCEANS IN TRANSFORMATION

Curated by Daniela Zyman

Commissioned by TBA21–Academy and co-produced with Luma Foundation

Supported by Lunu

Ocean Space, August 27 – November 29, 2020, Chiesa di San Lorenzo, Venice
Digital Presentation, www.ocean-archive.org, May 20, 2020

Oceans in Transformation is a research exhibition developed in collaboration with TBA21–Academy by Territorial Agency, an independent organization that combines architecture, research, and advocacy. The exhibition, curated by Daniela Zyman, explores new ways of connecting research groups that address the oceans in transformation, linking science, arts, and politics by way of shared images, datasets, and narratives. The research project has unfolded over several years through interactions with hundreds of scientists, research institutions, intergovernmental organizations, scholars, activists, policy makers, and artists. It has brought together a group of Ocean Fellows, who during the first months of the Covid-19 lockdowns have further developed the work and its outreach with a wealth of online activities that can be accessed at www.ocean-archive.org.

The project combines Earth Sciences and remote sensing datasets in complex dynamic compositions. These compositions are produced with data from satellites, floating buoys, GPS, artificial intelligence, sonar scans, and climate models of the interactions between sea, sky, and land. Multi-temporal and multi-scalar, they form an image of the oceans as unframed, asynchronous, and discontinuous.

This image of the Anthropocene is organized along seven trajectories stretching across the contemporary oceans and presented on large screens. The trajectories indicate the complex interrelations between forms of the Earth System and forms of human cohabitation. As they span the planet, they reveal the magnitude of the impact of human activity on the oceans. They offer a momentary glimpse into humans' relation to a multiplicity of oceans in transformation, and a premonition about the future of these relationships. They indicate how fragmented and incoherent the knowledge of the oceans still is and form an invitation to collaborate and think together how to safeguard the future of the oceans and their cohabitants.

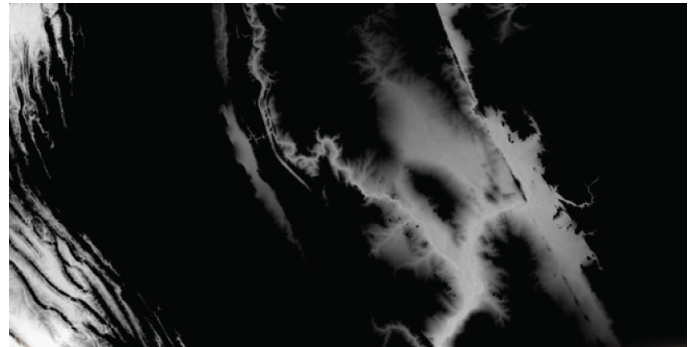
Excerpt from the exhibition text by Territorial Agency

Ocean-Archive.org is an online platform in the making; a digital twin for TBA21–Academy's decentralized collaborative dialogue and research, devised as an oceanic network for art and cultural discourse within the contexts of science, policy, and conservation.

As such, Ocean Archive operates as a tool for online and remote learning. The current global pandemic has made the

vulnerabilities in educational practices around the world more evident than ever – it is clear that we need flexible and resilient educational systems as we face unpredictable futures. University members and teaching staff can benefit from digital tools that enhance and support student learning. Digital tools such as the Archive facilitate discussion and common learning between geographically distanced study groups and enhance the integration of augmented education by accommodating physical and virtual learning and meeting.

Located in the Church of San Lorenzo in Venice, **Ocean Space** opened in March of 2019 as a new planetary center for catalyzing ocean literacy, research, and advocacy through the arts. Established and led by TBA21–Academy and building on its expansive work over the past nine years, this new embassy for the oceans fosters engagement and collective action on the most pressing issues facing the oceans today. Conceived as a platform for collaboration and exchange, Ocean Space provides flexible facilities for installations, performances, workshops, archives, and research, overseen by TBA21–Academy and its network of partners, including universities, NGOs, museums, government agencies, and research institutes from around the world. In 2019, Ocean Space exhibited Joan Jonas's *Moving Off the Land II* and will reopen in 2020 following a period of refurbishment with Territorial Agency: Oceans in Transformation.



TBA21–Academy is a cultural organization investigating environmental injustice against the ocean through the lens of art. The Academy instigates intersectional and collaborative research, artistic production, and new forms of knowledge, resulting in commissions, exhibitions and pedagogic programs. Commissioning and producing research-led projects for nearly a decade, TBA21–Academy has grown an extensive network of ocean practitioners and experts from the fields of science, policy, law, big data, feminist, and indigenous scholarship.