

**Institute for Humanities and Social Sciences
Research Seminar Program 2021**

Tuesday 6th April (12-1pm)

To be held via Teams Meeting

Dr. Killian Quigley

Killian Quigley is Research Fellow at the Institute for Humanities and Social Sciences. He earned his PhD in English at Vanderbilt, where he specialized in the relationship between natural history and the aesthetics of spectacle in eighteenth-century Britain and France. He was subsequently awarded the inaugural postdoc at the Sydney Environment Institute, University of Sydney. His primary works reside at the intersections of the environmental humanities, literary studies, the history and philosophy of science, and aesthetic theory. His first book manuscript, *The Vast Unseen Mansions of the Deep: Submerged Poetics, 1600-1820*, examines the figures of sea-going and submersion in seventeenth- and eighteenth-century English poetry in relation to histories of salvage and submarine science, as well as to ideologies of novelty. Another ongoing project, *Waves and Places*, works between narratology and geographic theory to explore literatures of sea-level rise, with a special focus on the status of oceanic—and more broadly liquid—place. Killian's third primary research enterprise, *The Encrusting Ocean*, addresses shipwrecks and other sea-bottom stuff, asking how the histories drowned things tell are inflected by multispecies encrustations and other growths. At the Sydney Environment Institute, Killian was research leader for the Unsettling Ecological Poetics and Ocean Ontologies projects. He is an Associate of the Oceanic Humanities for the Global South research group. In 2019, he was Researcher in Residence with Underwater New York and Works on Water.



Lively Remains: Interpretive Ecologies of Imperial Wrecks

Liquidity, circulation, surge, flow: these and related properties are central to the oceanic imaginaries of contemporary criticism. But beneath their surfaces, seas also cement, encrust, condesce, and foul. Consider, for a very few instances, sponge-clad shipwrecks, coral-adorned oil platforms, and hydrozoan-encumbered aquaculture cages. This talk supplements the fluid sensibilities of marine criticism with a concern for how (and what) oceans arrest, preserve, obstruct, and adorn. Its primary objects are the artefactual and ecological assemblages that form with shipwrecks and their myriad fragments. These habits of growing-together are ambiguous—and generate ambiguity—with respect to their materiality, temporality, animacy, species, and form. Economies, poetics, and aesthetics of salvage testify to the ways encrusted things variously refuse, transmute, and generate protocols of drowned value. Submarine imperial remains have been, and are, growing-together with untold others; this presentation trials some conceptual tools for apprehending and describing them, and for attending to the memories they (re)make and (de)form.

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