

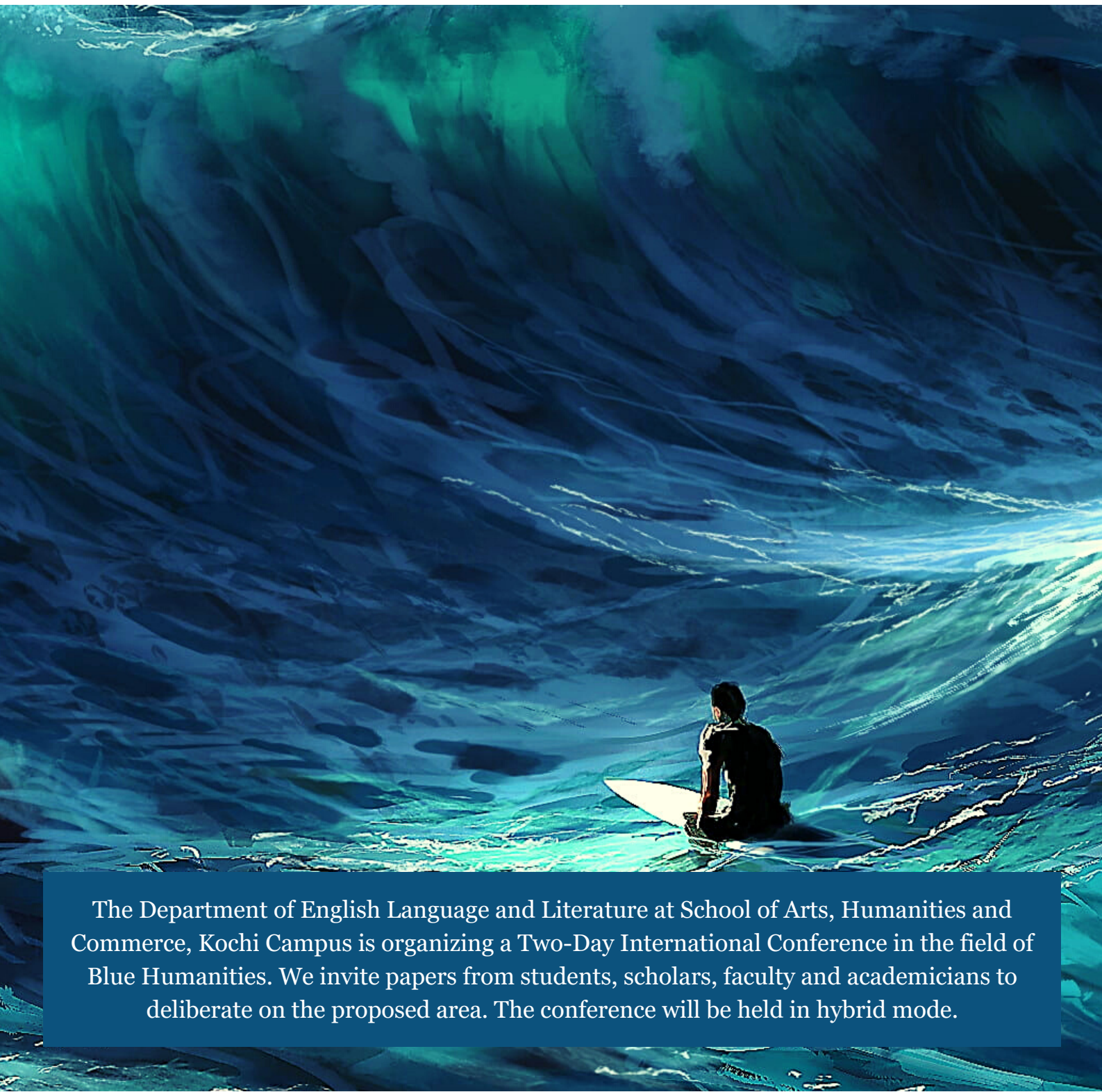
CALL FOR PAPERS



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Across the Blue Divide:
RAFTING THROUGH BLUE HUMANITIES

3RD- 4TH MAY 2023



The Department of English Language and Literature at School of Arts, Humanities and Commerce, Kochi Campus is organizing a Two-Day International Conference in the field of Blue Humanities. We invite papers from students, scholars, faculty and academicians to deliberate on the proposed area. The conference will be held in hybrid mode.

Ocean waves cry out / From the centre of the sea / With faith to reach land.
(Raul Moreno 547)

The field of Blue Humanities has become increasingly relevant in an era of climate change, rising sea levels, and the disappearance of oceanic biodiversity. It is a branch of the Critical Post-Humanities and the Environmental Humanities that explores art, literature, culture, and history through the lens of the Ocean. It promotes transdisciplinary approaches to marine research by incorporating perspectives from the humanities and sciences. The Blue Humanities are a call to action for all humanity to think beyond the artificial boundaries that separate land and water and to acknowledge our mutual dependence and responsibility to safeguard our oceans.

Developments in Oceanic Studies have contributed to the rise of Blue Humanities in recent years. The sub-surface enigma of water has been partially solved by advances in Oceanography. As humans have delved deeper, more interdisciplinary methods have been applied to investigating the subject. Blue Humanities has evolved to traverse a wide range of disciplines, including Blue Culture Studies, Maritime History, Marine Biology, Coastal Sociology, and many others. Blue Humanities attempts to re-read the flotsam of canonical literatures by re-visiting Literary Studies and looking at the wreckage through a blue lens.

The ocean has long been a potent symbol in literature and art, evoking a wide range of feelings and ideas, from the sublime to the tragic. In Homer's *Odyssey* and Virgil's *Aeneid*, the oceans are portrayed as unfathomable perilous deeps, full of monsters capable of overwhelming human characters. Shakespeare frequently uses the ocean as a metaphor for hope and change in his plays. As for the Romantic poets, the seas arouse nostalgia and longing. Herman Melville's *Moby-Dick*, Joseph Conrad's *Heart of Darkness*, J. M. Barrie's *Peter Pan*, Gabriel Garcia Márquez's *Love in the Time of Cholera*, and Ernest Hemingway's *The Old Man and the Sea* have fished for metaphors of life, destiny and the unknown in the sea. In addition, many poems, such as John Masefield's *Sea Fever*, and Lord Byron's *The Isles of Greece*, explore the power and grandeur of the sea. In postcolonial literatures, seas and waves were harbingers of a new regime, and faith.

Throughout history, the oceans have stood as a symbol of supremacy for the great naval forces that mastered them and used them to their advantage. As a conduit for trade between far-flung countries and empires, the ocean helped to fuel incredible prosperity.

This paved the way for the rise of mighty trading empires like the Dutch East India Company and the British East India Company. Artists such as Michelangelo and Leonardo da Vinci used the sea as a setting for their works, using its vastness and beauty to complement the human drama they depicted. Other works that have been hailed for their ability to capture the spirit of the sea include Theodore Gericault's (1818) *The Raft of the Medusa*, Hokusai's (1831) *The Great Wave*, and Winslow Homer's (1899) *The Gulf Stream*.

The complexities of our evolving relationship with our planet's water bodies is the domain we find ourselves in, at this conference on Blue Humanities. As sea-explorers say, more is known about the dark side of the moon than is known about the depths of the oceans. In studying the sea, we return to our beginnings. Between technological advances, scientific discoveries, artistic endeavours and the changing planet, the sea lurks now in our dreams and nightmares, now more than ever.

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Across the Blue Divide: **RAFTING THROUGH BLUE HUMANITIES**

Convener: Prof. Latha R Nair

Coordinators: Dr Sreena K, Dr Sheeba C

Dept. of English Language and Literature, School of Arts, Humanities and Commerce, Amrita
VishwaVidyapeetham, Kochi Campus

Topics for Papers

- The Sea in Literary and Artistic Representations
- Nautical Fiction/Maritime Fiction
- Aquatic Literature
- Naval War Literature
- Pirate Novels
- Climate Fiction
- Tsunami Literature
- Refugees at Sea
- The Sea in Children's Literature
- Blue Humanities and Education
- Seascapes In Films, Media and Popular Culture
- Blue Ecology and Animal Studies
- Gendering Seascapes
- Water Capitalism
- Aquatic Aesthetics
- Sea Politics and International Relations
- Sea Lines of Communication
- Ancient Aquatic Myths
- Folk narratives
- Hydro-linguistics
- Coastal Literature
- Sea-Gothic and Monster Studies
- Apocalyptic narratives
- Under-Water Machines and Posthumanism
- Memory and Life narratives
- Anthropology and Blue Humanities
- Sea-Tourism and Recreation
- Blue Humanities and SDGs
- Food Literature
- Oceans Translated
- Colonial and Postcolonial Seas
- Blue-Medical Humanities
- Cryo-Humanities



Dates to Remember

- Last Date to Submit Abstract: **25th March, 2023**
- Last Date to Submit Paper: **25th April, 2023**
- Selected papers will be published in an ISBN book.



Registration Fees

- Scholars/students - INR 500
- Faculty - INR 1000
- Participation Fee - INR 100
- For queries, contact: **0484 280 2899, 9895210810**

Please send your abstract to icbhamrita@gmail.com