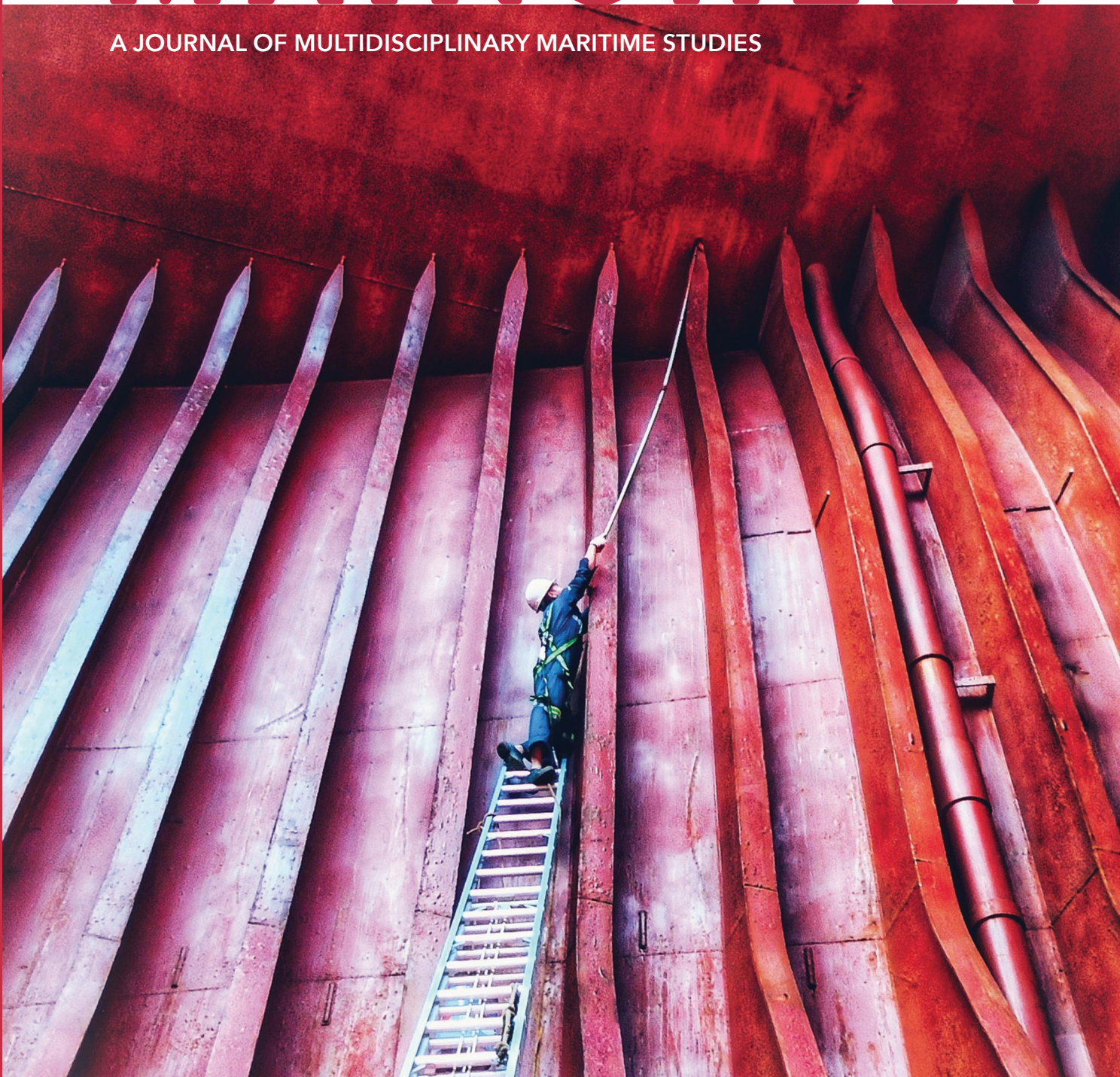


MAINSHEET

A JOURNAL OF MULTIDISCIPLINARY MARITIME STUDIES



ISSUE 1 // Maritime Social History

Front cover

Title: *Keep reaching your dreams how high it may seem*

Photographer: Vhernard Manalad Hernandez

Location: At sea near Las Palmas Spain

Photographer's description: "In this photo our cargo hold has stain on the very top of the cargo hold frame, as an AB present that time I will be the one who is responsible for reaching and painting it to cover the stains for our cargo hold to soon pass the inspection, with a three fold ladder, light rolling and pitching as the vessel is underway, I set aside my fear and finish the work, just like my dream to become a master of the vessel in the future, I will still bring this courage and determination with me every time to reach my dreams how high it may seem."

This issue's covers feature photographs taken by seafarers for the ITF Seafarers' Trust annual photography competition. The photographers' descriptions have been lightly edited.

MAINSHEET

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Christina Connett Brophy

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Dedicated to Paul J. O'Pecko

This inaugural issue of *Mainsheet* is dedicated to Paul J. O'Pecko, who recently retired as Vice President of Research Collections and Library Director of Mystic Seaport Museum, after a 39-year career at the Museum. A beloved colleague and a tireless advocate for the stewardship and building of our collections, Paul was also the leader behind our efforts to improve researcher access to collections. Decades before digitization and online sharing of collections became standard practice for museums and research libraries, Paul recognized the importance of that work and committed time, energy, and resources toward it. He also founded and edited *Coriolis*, a peer-reviewed journal that was an inspiration for *Mainsheet*, and he served on the internal team that created *Mainsheet* and edited this first issue. Paul's commitment to multidisciplinary maritime research, along with his kindness and generosity in sharing knowledge and opening doors to scholars around the world, will guide us as we build *Mainsheet* and continue his work.