



Ocean Interconnectedness

An interdisciplinary workshop to learn from the ocean, through multisensory activities and reflections on the role of emotions in science and law

Senses & Science, Love & Law

Authors

Giuliana Panieri, Department of Geosciences, UiT The Arctic University of Norway, and The Deep Network

Margherita Paola Poto, Faculty of Law, UiT The Arctic University of Norway

Giovanna Bertella, School of Business and Economics, UiT The Arctic University of Norway

Giuliano Bertolotto Bianc, Department of Management, University of Turin, Italy

Natalia Médici, CPDA/UFRRJ, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil and ECO CARE UiT The Arctic University of Norway

Emily Margaret Murray, ECO CARE, UiT The Arctic University of Norway

Rada Pandeva, The Thalassophile Project, Erasmus+, and the Deep Network

Laura Vita, McMaster, Canada and ECO CARE, UiT The Arctic University of Norway

Illustrations

Valentina Russo, Mucho Amor

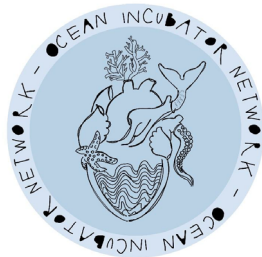
Pictures

Valentina Lanci, Kai Mortensen

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Figure 1. Illustration for the event by Valentina Russo



Summary

The overall aim of this report is to document the experience and knowledge gained during the interdisciplinary workshop coordinated by Giuliana Panieri and Margherita Paola Poto on Ocean Interconnectedness. This event, organized at UiT The Arctic University of Norway on the 19th and 20th of September 2023, served as a pivotal platform for the convergence of various project outcomes. It synergized the achievements of [Akma2](#), [Ocean Senses](#), which advances ocean literacy through multisensory toolkits, alongside the endeavours of [ECO CARE](#) and [Follow Your Heart](#), dedicated to fostering emotional and ecological education and research. This event marks the kick-off of [The Ocean Incubator Network](#), a newly established network funded by UArctic.

Moreover, this workshop welcomed insights and contributions from other projects and departments, including the School of Business and Economics at the UiT The Arctic University of Norway, [The Deep Network Project](#), and [The Thalassophile Project](#). Together, we aim to create a dynamic and comprehensive platform for the exchange of ideas, knowledge, and collaboration in the realm of ocean-related education and awareness.

Acknowledgments

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Figure 2. Some of the participants from left: Giuliana Panieri, Valentina Lanci, Laura Vita, Margherita Poto, Inés Barrenechea Angeles, Natalia Médict, Rada Pandeva, Emily Murray, Giuliano Bertolotto Bianc. Photo: Valentina Lanci, UiT

Aim of the workshop and content

An interdisciplinary workshop

The workshop was structured into three distinct parts.

To set the stage for this enriching experience, we opened the workshop with a [Morning Concert](#) (performers: G. Bertolotto Bianc, E. Isayevskaya, I. Tandberg, Rodrigo Sosa Dal Pozzo). The musicians' performances not only entertained but also inspired a wider audience, fostering a deep sense of commitment to the protection of the Ocean, with particular emphasis on the Arctic region. Around 60 participants attended the concert. Before and at the end of the concert, the organizers thanked the funding agencies (UArctic, UiT The Arctic University of Norway, the NFR, HKDIR, Erasmus+ with the Deep Network) for their support.

Then, around 25 participants gathered in the Nunataken room at the Department of Geosciences at UiT. This part was opened with a warm welcome from the organizers (Panieri G. and Poto M.), emphasizing the critical role of ocean literacy in addressing the pressing issues facing our oceans. The session continued with the presentation of the overarching concept of 'Ocean Literacy,' providing numerous examples of projects that fall under this umbrella, such as Ocean Senses (Panieri, Poto, Bertolotto Bianc, Peftieva), Follow Your Heart (Murray, Poto, Vita), and ECO_CARE (Poto, Médict).



Figure 3. Day 2 Photo: Valentina Lanci, UiT

Day 2 opened with the kick-off meeting of the newly funded [The Ocean Incubator Network](#), (UArctic) involving partners from the UiT The Arctic University of Norway (Poto, Panieri, Murray and Hayden), the James Hutton Institute in Scotland (Myrvang Brown), the University of Edinburg (Parry), the Arctic Centre of the University of Lapland (Heinrich and Kirchner), Dalhousie University and Women of the Arctic (Prior), CAU (Kuhn). During the kick-off the parties agreed on the organization of the workshop in 2024 and on the importance of recording their experiences and digitally once a month before the event. The first draft of the logo (illustrated by [Valentina Russo](#)) was also presented.

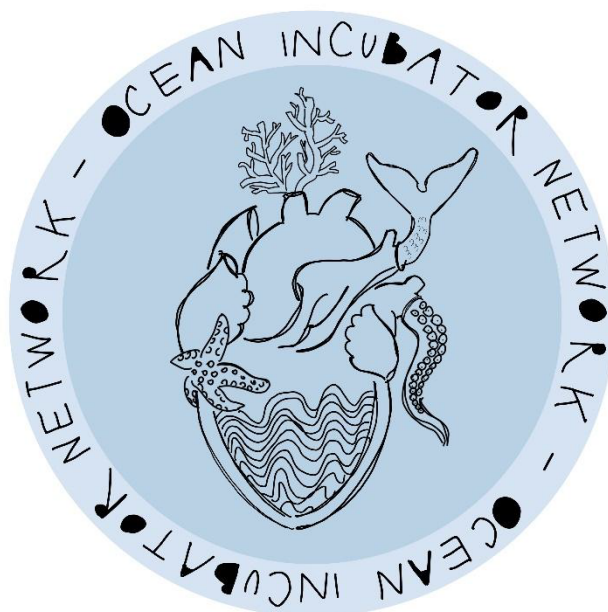


Figure 4. The logo of the OIN. Illustration by Valentina Russo

The round of presentations continued on day 2, where the participants shared the diverse voices from the ocean, enriching our understanding of its importance and challenges (Bertella, Pandeva). Giovanna Bertella presented her work on sustainable tourism in the Arctic region, sharing her critical reflections on the relationship between human emotions and the whale watching activities. Rada Pandeva shared the story behind the Thalassophile Project—an Erasmus+ project, dedicated to making marine science universally accessible, with a focus on D/deaf and blind individuals.



Figure 5. Giuliana Panieri and Rada Pandeva during The Thalassophile Project presentation. Photo: Valentina Lanci, UiT

In parallel with the projects presentation, an interactive session was held among the participants called 'Developing methodologies for improving Ocean Literacy among adults' (Vita, Murray, Pandeva, Bertolotto Bianc, Bertella, Ajebe Akame, Brambilla). During the second part of day 1, the group started working on developing an educational learning toolkit for Water Literacy. At the end of day 2 presented different pedagogical approaches tailored to adult learners. Experienced educators and young researchers participating in the session presented strategies for engaging and motivating adults in ocean conservation topics involving children as mentors and learners.



Figure 6. Gilbert Ajabe Akame, Rada Pandeva, Giuliano Bertolotto Bianc. Photo: Valentina Lanci, UiT

Participants

The key participants in this event were researchers in the fields of Geosciences, Law, Global Health, Climate Action and Youth, Indigenous Law, Anthropology, Marine Sciences, as well as educators and experts in Sustainability Research and Sustainable Tourism in the Arctic and beyond, linguists and translators, experts in communication and media. Different learning materials, including the copies of the book "[Follow Your Heart. The School for Multipotentialites](#)" (ECO_CARE research project) and of the children's stories of foraminifera (Akma 2 Ocean Senses Research Project) were shared and made available to the participants.



Figure 7. Programs and copies of Follow Your Heart. Photo credit: Kai Mortensen, UiT

Workshop Outcomes

1. Participants expressed a strong commitment to incorporating ocean conservation into their educational and outreach efforts.
2. A network of educators and advocates dedicated to adult ocean education was established, facilitating ongoing collaboration.
3. Recommendations for future research projects, and educational resources were discussed.
4. Social media content created by Kai Mortensen, Valentina Lanci and Laura Vita was shared during the event, increasing visibility for the different projects (Akma Project and ECO_CARE), including footage of the opening Morning Concert.
5. A mindmap of the steps toward the co-creation of a Water Learning Toolkit
6. Preliminary outline of a co-authored publication on the theme of the workshop (Palgrave McMillan/Springer Nature).

Ways forward and the next event

At the end of day 2, the participants gathered for a debrief session, reflecting on the takeaways or feelings they were left with after two days of engaging in group work and presentations on ocean interconnectedness. In several different languages, the participants reported feelings of 'joy', 'connection', 'gratitude', and 'inspired', among many others. The conversations that were held and research network this workshop fostered demonstrates the innovate ideas and creative solutions that are born when interdisciplinarity and emotions are welcomed in academia. Moving forward, the participants reached an agreement to further explore the topic of ocean interconnectedness and proposed several avenues for continuing the conversation, including the creation of a 'Water Toolkit for Adults,' conducting research on emotional education, and examining the relational connection between human beings and water. The outcome of this ongoing dialogue is anticipated to be published in a co-authored volume, expected to be released either at the end of 2023 or in the early months of 2024.

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Websites

[The Akma Project](#)

[Department of Geosciences, UiT The Arctic University of Norway](#)

[Faculty of Law, UiT The Arctic University of Norway](#)

[The ECO CARE Project](#)

[Follow Your Heart](#)

[The Ocean Incubator Network](#)

[The Deep Network Project¹](#)

[The Thalassophile Project](#)

¹ Link corrected 1 November 2023.