

Friday, October 14, 2011

# MARITIME HISTORY

## Past, Present, and Future

1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

532 Park Hall

Maritime history can be seen as an area that fits conveniently into existing notions of “world history.” It can also contribute to the old, but still necessary, attack on “Eurocentrism.” The vexed matter of how to categorize the Indian Ocean before the arrival of the Portuguese in the late fifteenth century forces us to confront the following two possibilities: Either maritime history secedes from the land and goes it alone, or, when given its due, modifies and enriches traditional history as well as legal history. Put most simply, some say the sea is different, others say it is only important.

**Michael Pearson**, Emeritus Professor of History, **University of New South Wales** (Australia), offers insights into to how the “field” of maritime history can move beyond the limitations of current terrestrial-based models of historical writing.

*Sponsored by:*  
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