PARTICIPANTS

Maura Coughlin lives most of the time on Cape Cod and is frequently picking up seaweed and trash on the beaches there. She is also a historian of 19th-century French art and is associate professor of Visual Studies at Bryant University in Smithfield, RI. Her recent research and publication is concerned with the visual culture of coastal ecology on the French Atlantic.

Jeffrey Jerome Cohen is professor of English and director of the Medieval and Early Modern Studies Institute at the George Washington University. A complete bio may be found at http://www.jeffreyjeromecohen.net.

Elizabeth Currans is associate professor of Women’s and Gender Studies at Eastern Michigan University. Her book manuscript, under contract with University of Illinois Press, explores how participants in public demonstrations attended primarily by women claim and remake public spaces. Recent publications appear in Feminist Formations, Social Justice, Women’s Studies Quarterly, and Obsidian.

Vanessa Daws is a visual artist and avid open water swimmer living in Dublin. Her art practice explores place through swimming and chance meetings. Stories appear that lead the projects, a process she calls ‘Psychoswimography’. In the past five years she has created art projects in watery spaces as diverse as the frozen Pirita River, Estonia; the Rideau Canal, Canada; The President’s Fountain, Bulgaria; the Pacific Ocean, Santa Barbara; the M50 Aqueduct, Dublin and the bogs of Ballycroy, Co Mayo. http://www.vanessadaws.com.

Emily Gephart finds that teaching the history of American art at the School of the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston doesn’t usually permit quite enough time for walking on beaches. Her research concerns the intersecting fields of art, psychology, and physiological aesthetics in the early 20th century, considering how artists gave dreams and the visual imagination pictorial form.
Elliott Ihm is a graduate student in Psychological & Brain Sciences at the University of California, Santa Barbara, and a member of the META lab. His research interests include peak experiences, neuroplasticity, affective neuroscience, and the nature of consciousness. Elliott can usually be found outside with a book, a bike, or a boat.

Anna Kłosowska is the author of Queer Love in the Middle Ages (Palgrave Macmillan, 2005) and editor of Madeleine de l’Aubespine, Selected Poems and Translations (Chicago, 2007). She edited several volumes of essays and journal issues and is the author of more than thirty articles, mostly on queer theory in Medieval and Early Modern French texts. She is now working on trans studies, ecocriticism, race and object-oriented theory.

Steve Mentz is professor of English at St John’s University in New York. His most recent books are Shipwreck Modernity: Ecologies of Globalization, 1550–1719 (Minnesota, 2015) and Oceanic New York (Punctum, 2015).

Christina McPhee’s moving image practice in video, installation and net-based media moves drawing into spaces of environmental transformation. Her media works are in collections including the Whitney Museum and Rhizome Artbase at the New Museum, New York. She lives and works in California. http://christinamcphee.net

Asa Simon Mittman (Professor of Art History, California State University, Chico) is author of several books and articles on monstrosity and marginality in the Middle Ages. He is the founding president of MEARCSTAPA and a founding member of the Material Collective. A complete bio may be found at http://myweb.csuchico.edu/~asmittman/

Karen Overbey (Associate Professor, Tufts University) and Maggie M. Williams (Associate Professor, William Paterson University) have spent a lifetime collaborating and walking together on the beach. Maggie is author of Icons of Irishness from the Middle Ages to the Modern World (Palgrave Macmillan, 2012) and Karen is author of Sacred Geographies: Saints, Shrines, and Territory in Medieval Ireland (Brepols, 2011). They are both founding members of the Material Collective. http://www.thematerialcollective.org

Emily Russell is a doctoral candidate at The George Washington University. She is interested in exploring material ways to connect with and think about literature and enjoys experimenting with incorporating story/storied objects into literary encounters.

Lora Webb is a PhD student in the Department of Art and Art History at Stanford University, where she studies medieval art and architecture.