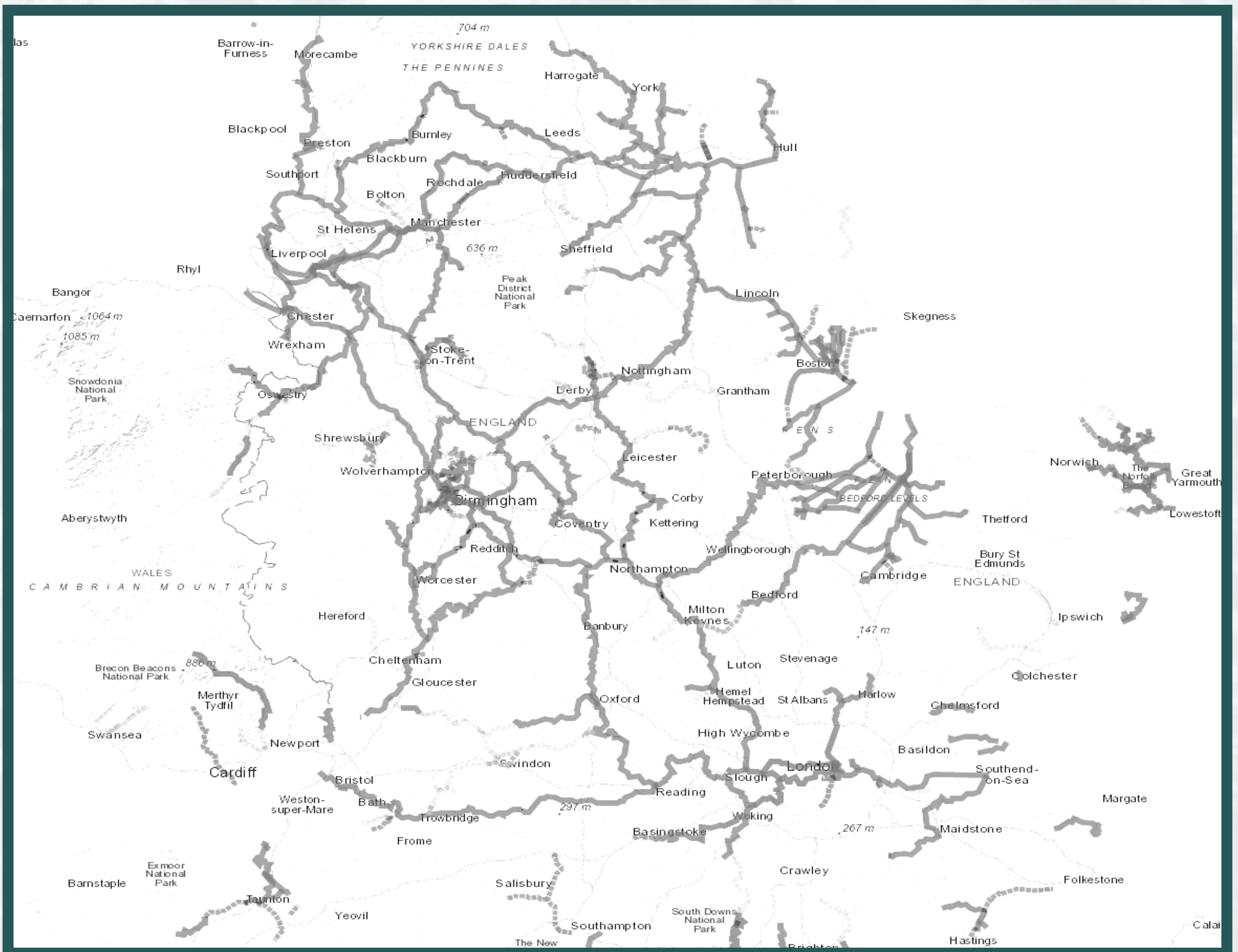


H2O: How 2 Open-Water-Ways — Who are the Water *Turners*?

TATE Liverpool and Liverpool Hope University's Annual Symposium
Thursday 13th February 2025



LOCATION:
Liverpool Hope University, Creative Campus, Shaw St, Liverpool L6 1HP



LIVERPOOL
HOPE
UNIVERSITY
1844

OVERVIEW

H20:

How 2 Open-Water-Ways — Who are the water *Turners*?

WELCOME!

We warmly welcome all contributors and guests to our eighth annual symposium in partnership with Tate Liverpool. Since 2016, we have created a vibrant space where artists, academics, cultural makers, and educators come together to explore themes that resonate through our professional and personal lives. While we have been privileged to host many distinguished speakers over the years, the consistent vision and dedication of Alison Jones (Tate Liverpool) and Dr Niamh Malone (Liverpool Hope University) have been the foundation of this endeavour.

For the past eight years, they both have worked tirelessly to ensure that every year we extend opportunities to our students, graduates, colleagues, and the general public to collectively share and inspire each other with their practices, writings, reflections and engagements. This year, they continue their mission to deliver an enlightening symposium, but with the added strength of the formidable Dr Annalaura Alifuoco as part of the organisational team.

Our 2025 symposium focuses on our vital relationship with water and waterways, fostering dialogue about how interdisciplinary collaboration can reshape our understanding of and interaction with aquatic ecosystems. Through the concept of fluid transmission, we explore the convergence of art, science, ecology, architecture, and community activism to create meaningful change.

Central to our discussions is The Ecological Citizen's project, which advocates for thoughtful technological interventions in climate action. We are especially excited to present the *Flow. Walk. Drag* art-science-activism collaboration, led by Dr Annalaura Alifuoco with Natalie Beveridge, Hwa Young Jung, Rachel Seoighe, and Trude Sundberg. This innovative project combines drag performance, microbiology, and community engagement to uncover hidden water histories and inspire ecological citizenship.

The symposium creates a unique dialogue between contemporary environmental concerns and artistic heritage, connecting with Tate's collection of J.M.W. Turner's water sketches. Together, we'll explore how artistic expression can catalyse environmental awareness and social change, working collectively as 'Water Turners' to positively impact our aquatic environments.

Join us in this dynamic exchange where diverse voices from arts, academia, and local communities unite to envision new ways of understanding, protecting, and celebrating our waterways.

With warm regards,

Alison, Niamh and Annalauraa

EVENT ORGANISERS

Ms Alison Jones
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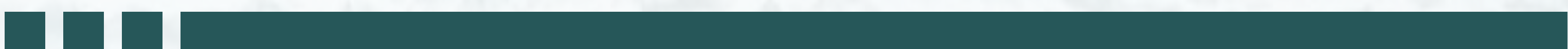
Dr Niamh Malone
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Dr Annalaura Alifuoco
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Programme Designer: Terry Green

With much thanks to our caterer: Kazem Ashourzadeh from Mr Boy Cookery School CIC

SCHEDULE



12.00-12.10	Welcome & Introduction	Annalaura Alifuoco & Niamh Malone
12.10-1.00	WORKING LUNCH (provided)	
12.15-12.35	Water, food and racism during the construction of the Panama Canal, 1904-1914	Bryce Evans
12.40-1.00	Activity	Annalaura Alifuoco
1.05-1.30	Making waves: When performance drag meets water strains	Hwa Young & Annalaura Alifuoco
1.35-1.45	Artist Commission: The way I sea	Ruby Westgate
1.50-2.15	H2O project	Niamh Malone & Gary Anderson
2.20-2.30	Artist Commission: Ripples of reflection	Aimee Clarke
2.30-2.45	BREAK	
2.45-3.10	TATE Liverpool	Alison Jones
3.15-3.25	Artist Commission: Echoes	Alison Reid
3.30-3.55	Ghost Flow: Walking as floating along the spectre of the pool	Kris Darby
4.00-4.20	Water equality and the visual arts	Kathrin Wagner
4.25-4.35	Cholera Cabaret	Brendan Curtis
4.40 - CLOSE	Summary & Reflection	Annalaura Alifuoco & Niamh Malone

SPEAKERS

Bryce Evans: 12.15pm



“They have undertaken to regulate our palate”:

WATER, FOOD AND RACISM DURING THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE PANAMA CANAL, 1904-1914

Bryce Evans is Professor of Modern World History at Liverpool Hope University. This research was funded by the Linda Hall Library Foundation.

Annalaura Alifuoco & Hwa Young: 1.05pm



MAKING WAVES: WHEN PERFORMANCE DRAG MEETS WATER STRAINS

Annalaura Alifuoco is a human animal whose primary habitat is Liverpool's Mersey riverside (Northwest of England, UK). Their work as researcher, educator and practitioner (Liverpool Hope University) thrives through intersectional (animist) approaches and queer methodologies. For sustenance, they read, cycle, wander and play. All these sites and activities weave together in an ongoing practice of ecological wayfinding.



Hwa Young Jung is a socially engaged artist working in the arts, culture, and sciences, facilitating collaborative projects and workshops. She has worked with young people excluded from mainstream education and men on probation in both England and internationally for nearly ten years.

Niamh Malone & Gary Anderson: 1.50pm



H2O - HOW TO ACCESS THE WATERWAYS

AHMP2HOPE - Applied Arts Educational Programme for Prisoners

Dr Niamh Malone and Dr Gary Anderson (from the School of Creative and Performing Arts, Liverpool Hope University) created the umbrella project **HMP2Hope** in 2018. This project involved Niamh and Gary delivering a prisoner-led educational programme at HMP Risley and HMP Liverpool. The objective of the project is to encourage prisoners to think of third-level education as a real option during incarceration but especially on release. The prison population fall considerably below the national average level of education attainment. HMP2HOPE is an attempt to demystify university for prisoners and by providing taster sessions, we hope they grow in confidence in participating in discussions and exploring diverse topics from philosophy, the arts, aesthetics, politics, etc.

As part of the HMP2Hope project, Gary and Niamh have successfully delivered a number of strand projects, including:

- Philosophy and Performance in Prisons (2018 – ongoing)
- Odyssey on the Airwaves: A Journey From HMP to Hope (2020-21)
- Books for Prisoners (2023- ongoing)
- The Professors in Prison Project (2022)
- *Piece of Mind* Puzzle Project (2023 – ongoing)
- Antonin Artaud Beyond Judgement: A radio reading of 'To Have Done With The Judgement Of God' with local prisoners (2022)
- Book of Hours (2024 – ongoing)
- H2O: How 2 Access the Waterways (2024 – ongoing)
- Podcasts for Prisoners (2021 – ongoing)

H2O: How to Access the Waterways is their most recent project.

Alison Jones: 2.45pm

TATE LIVERPOOL

Alison Jones has worked in a variety of settings with a diverse range of adults and young people in both the Disability Arts and mainstream Visual Arts sectors for over 25 years. She has worked as an educator and workshop leader in gallery and museum education while lecturing in Art and Design in further and higher education establishments. In her previous post as Arts Manager at DaDaFest, 1997 – 2010, Alison was integral in developing the very first DaDaFest, one of the largest International Disability and Deaf Arts festivals, promoting and celebrating Disability and Deaf Arts and cultures. In 2011, Alison was appointed as Programme Manager of Public and Community Learning at Tate Liverpool, where she is responsible for providing strategic leadership and direction for the Public and Community Learning Programme. This has included co-creating a wide range of peer-led outreach and in-gallery projects while building upon Tate Liverpool's 35 years of experience in delivering high-impact work that addresses both health inequalities and social injustice through creative learning. From 2017-2020, Alison co-managed the innovative Tate Exchange programme, part of a critical museology discourse and practice and radical museum learning pedagogy.

Kris Darby: 3.30pm



GHOST FLOW: WALKING AS FLOATING ALONG THE SPECTRE OF THE POOL

Kris Darby is an academic and sound artist. They are a senior lecturer in Drama and Performance at Liverpool Hope University and chair the Board of Directors for the Theatre & Technology company C&T. Their research interests concern walking as an aesthetic practice, hauntology, and immersive performance.

Kathrin Wagner: 4.00pm



WATER EQUALITY AND THE VISUAL ARTS

Dr Kathrin Wagner is an Associate Professor in Art History at Liverpool Hope University. She is also a passionate swimmer, who enjoys the open waters all year around. Together with her kids, partner and other members of the Liverpool Dock SOSG (Seven O'Clock Swim Group), she loves exploring open water swim spots in this country and abroad. Her academic research investigates how premodern imagery of swimmers and bathers reflects on issues of gender, sexuality, race and ethnicity. A forthcoming monograph will be published by Routledge in 2027.

ARTIST COMMISSIONS

Ruby Westgate: 1.35pm



THE WAY I SEA

'Situating oneself in relation to it' (Berger, 1972)

I grew up by the sea, and for me, it carries significant memories and emotions. I found I connected to Turner's artwork as he captures his experiences, memories and point of view within the canvas. In response, I choose to become part of my own artwork and history, limiting myself to the four walls of my projection. My movement is initiated as a response to the water and the sensation, like Turner and his brushstrokes. How could I relate myself personally and physically to Turner and his artwork?

Aimee Clarke: 2.20pm



RIPPLES OF REFLECTION

This symposium project explores the varied reflective possibilities of water through four original poems in a short film. Each poem examines a different aspect of water's reflective potential (physical, emotional, societal, and artistic). The video incorporates J.M.W. Turner's sketches, personal artwork, and filmed visuals 'reflecting' these ideas.

Poem 1 explores water as a physical mirror, reflecting environments and people.

Poem 2 focuses on inward reflection, considering an emotional connection to water.

Poem 3 is inspired by water as a reflection of society, representing interconnectedness and diversity in its various bodies.

Poem 4 connects these themes to Turner's collection, exploring how his sketches reflect the previous points by capturing the essence of water.

Alison Reid: 3.15pm



ECHOES

I am a final-year Fine Art student with a focus on painting, driven by a fascination with the materiality of paint and the possibilities of colour. My practice is rooted in experimentation, using abstraction to delve into the tactile and transformative qualities of paint, investigating connections between material, process, and meaning.

Brendan Curtis: 4.25pm



CHOLERA CABARET

Brendan Curtis is a Liverpool-based artist, producer, writer and chef. Often working in collaboration with local communities, his practice employs improvisation, drag, humour and shared eating. He has produced work for Heart of Glass, Tate Liverpool, Homotopia & DADAFEST. He co-produces Queer Bodies Poetry Collective @queerbodiespoetry and Eat Me @eatmeclub (a local drag dinner cabaret) and is currently researching secular grief rituals, building a tower of babel out of extinct gay bars and preparing to publish his first poetry collection.



