Director’s Overview

The Seafarers International Research Centre was established in 1995 and has been conducting research related to the maritime sector for 16 years. The experience that we have accumulated in this period, and the support we have received to educate a new generation of researchers, have combined to produce high standards and an international reputation. As a consequence, SIRC regularly attracts approaches from organisations seeking to commission research, from potential research collaborators in other academic institutions, and from visiting scholars.

On the research front, in 2011, the Centre undertook work relating to studies funded by a variety of bodies including the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), The Lloyd’s Register Educational Trust (The LRET), the Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (in co-operation with the Cardiff Work Environment Research Centre (CWERC)) and Allianz. In addition we hosted three international scholars. One visiting researcher was a PhD student from Brasil, and two others were from China. Our international PhD research programme continues to be generously supported by The Nippon Foundation, and in 2011 four PhD candidates successfully completed their theses and viva voce examinations.

Every two years SIRC hosts an international event for the shipping community. This provides us with an opportunity to feedback the results from some of our research to an invited audience and in 2011 our biennial ‘Symposium’ was attended by more delegates than ever before.

Thus although 2011 has been a difficult year for many companies, and for many publicly-funded institutions across Europe, at SIRC we have been fortunate in being able to continue with our research programme and capacity building activities. We are grateful to all of those individuals and organisations who have assisted us, in this, and we look forward to a productive 2012.

1 The Lloyd’s Register Educational Trust (The LRET) is an independent charity working to achieve advances in transportation, science, engineering and technology education, training and research worldwide for the benefit of all. We are grateful to The LRET for their generosity in facilitating the conduct of the SIRC Symposium.

2 The Nippon Foundation supports a wide range of domestic and international activities including maritime development and protection of the marine environment.
As the snow fell, the year began with Dr Bailey visiting John Moores University, Liverpool, in his role as External Examiner for nautical science and maritime related programmes.

In February Ms Marina Carvalho Cordeiro arrived from sunny Brasil where she is based at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro. Marina is undertaking research on time in contemporary society and she visited for nine months as part of her quest to understand the impact of working, and non-working, time on the lives of different kinds of employees.

Early in 2011, MOL Tanker (Europe) invited us to provide some input for their European Officer Seminar. We were delighted to participate and consequently, in March, Dr Lijun Tang travelled to Zadar (Croatia) to present some of our findings, from an earlier study of computer-based training, to the officers gathered there.

In April papers were given, in the UK, by two members of staff. Professor Helen Sampson was very pleased to deliver a paper at the 2nd IMarEST Marine Failure Conference 2011 in London on the potential for the design of ships to impact upon seafarer wellbeing and performance. Similarly, Dr Nelson Turgo travelled to London but this time to give a paper at the British Sociological Association (BSA) annual conference hosted by the London School of Economics.

In May, Professor Sampson travelled to Turkey at the invitation of the organisers of the 14th European Manning & Training Conference, Black Sea Crewing, in Istanbul. The paper she gave returned to earlier work undertaken at the Centre on Women Seafarers and she was also happy to be able to reference the recently completed thesis on the management of women seafarers’ identities by Dr Momoko Kitada.
In June, one of the PhD students at SIRC, Roderick Galam, won a place to participate in the prestigious Brown International Advanced Research Institutes Program. The Brown International Advanced Research Institutes Programs are held every summer, to bring together young researchers and practitioners to address pressing global issues. The ‘Development and Inequality Institute’ attended by Roderick explored the impact of inequality on development across regions of the global south. Selection for the Institutes is extremely competitive, and there were more than 1,500 applications for 150 places on the four institutes’ programs held in the summer of 2011.

In July, SIRC hosted its seventh international symposium for industry at which Thomas Thune Andersen, Chair of the Lloyd’s Register Group, gave the introductory address. This two-day event was once again generously supported by The LRET and it was attended by visiting members of the maritime community from sixteen countries including Australia, Philippines, Myanmar, Turkey, China and Poland. Seven papers about current, and recently completed, research at the Centre were presented to the 110 delegates, most of whom also attended a reception and dinner in the evening. Following the Symposium some guests stayed on to attend the screening of a film about fatigue at sea which was made by Paul Allen (based in the School of Psychology). The papers from the Symposium, which received some media coverage, are all available from the SIRC website and are free to download.

The week after the Symposium, the 4th residential SIRC-NF Alumni event was held at Llansantffraed Court in Monmouthshire. Alumni and current fellows gathered to network, to develop research and writing ideas, and to be exposed to new ideas as a result of input from invited speakers. In 2011 stimulus was provided by Professors Huw Beynon, Helen Sampson, and David Walters from Cardiff University. We were also extremely fortunate to receive Professor Chris Jones, Emeritus Professor of Social Work at Liverpool University, to address the audience.

From 11 July–2 September another PhD student at SIRC, Taurai Mlambo, attended a collegium funded by The Lloyd’s Register Educational Trust. A group of 19 young PhD or post-doctoral researchers were invited to the University of Southampton, UK, from countries as far afield as China, Australia, Korea and the US to collaborate on finding potential solutions to the technical and socio-political challenges currently slowing the global expansion of carbon capture and storage (CCS) activities. The findings were reported in The LRET Collegium 2011 Book Series.
In September, Drs Tang and Turgo, and Mr Ellis and Ms Acejo attended The Lloyd’s Register Educational Trust, Research Workshop 2011. The event involved leading academic researchers and industry experts from around the world gathering to identify future research challenges in areas of global importance. The workshop was hosted by University College London which leads a LRET funded consortium with Harbin Engineering University and Shanghai Jiao Tong University, and was the third in a series which brings together representatives from some 25 research centres supported by The LRET. Research themes under discussion were ‘Deep Water Challenges’, ‘Climate Change’, ‘Nuclear Energy’, and ‘Human Factors’.

In September SIRC said goodbye to one visiting scholar from China but welcomed another. Han Qing followed in the footsteps of Meng Li by joining us for a twelve-month period as a visiting scholar from the Maritime History and Culture Research Centre, Dalian Maritime University. During his stay at SIRC, Hang Qing is working on obtaining information about foreign shipping companies to contribute to his planned publication ‘Chinese sailing history in modern times’. At a specially organised buffet, he was officially welcomed, alongside three new SIRC-Nippon Foundation fellows, by Professor Sampson and the Director of the School of Social Sciences, Professor Malcolm Williams.

Professor Sampson was invited to attend the first UK-based shipping industry CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) Forum, in October, as a panel member. The event was extremely well-attended and supported. Supporting and participating organisations included (in no particular order): Intertanko; The London Stock Exchange; New York Stock Exchange; NASDAQ; Sustainable Shipping Initiative; Germanischer Lloyd; Lloyd’s Register; Cargill; ABN AMRO; V.Ships; RightShip; Danaos Corporation; Tsakos Energy Navigation; Wartsila; Shell; Intrepid Shipping; GMS, UK P&I Club; KPMG; Concordia Maritime AB; BIMCO; CARBON POSITIVE.

As the year drew to an end Scandinavia beckoned, and Professor Sampson returned to the World Maritime University in Malmö, in her capacity as external examiner. Whilst the role involves some intensive working alongside a second external examiner (in this case Professor Brian Slack) Professor Sampson was nevertheless delighted to catch a glimpse of a former SIRC-Nippon Foundation fellow, Dr Momoko Kitada, who is working there in a research capacity.
SIRC staff continued to make what are now established contributions to teaching within the Cardiff School of Social Sciences. Dr Bailey convened a course considering the 'Principles and Practice of Research Design'. Mr Neil Ellis contributed to a Masters level course on ‘Strategies for Applied Research’ and assisted in providing seminars to students of the Principles and Practice of Research Design module, and Professor Sampson introduced the shipping industry to Masters students studying towards a degree in Social Science Research Methods.

The work of The LRET Research Unit at SIRC

In 2011 there were three projects which constituted the ongoing work of The LRET funded research unit at SIRC. These were:

- A study of perceptions of risk
- A study of training and technology
- A study on vessel accommodation

As previously reported, the study of Perceptions of Risk is the most established piece of work at the unit and three major research reports have already been published online in a format intended to be accessible to members of the shipping industry and to international scholars with an interest in this area. A fourth report worked up from qualitative data collected from five shipping organisations will seek to shed light on the reasons why perceptions of risk vary across companies despite efforts to encourage a more homogenous understanding of safety and risk in many corporations. This report is now due to be published in 2012 as is an Executive Summary of all four reports at the end of the project.

The Training and Technology study involved the analysis of over 1,000 self-complete questionnaires from seafarers. The questionnaires explored the training seafarers had received, and the training they had found most helpful, in relation to the use of new technology on board. This study has now been completed and a report detailing the findings was published online at SIRC’s website in October.
A study of vessel accommodation design at the Unit is progressing well. To date, almost 1,500 questionnaires have been completed by participating seafarers. The data will be analysed at the beginning of 2012 and the findings will subsequently be published on-line.

**Other Projects at SIRC**

In the summer of 2011, we were approached by the Allianz Global Corporate & Specialty (AGCS) group with a request to produce a report sketching the advances in maritime safety which had taken place in the period 1912-2012. The report will provide the foundation for a document to be published and distributed by Allianz to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the sinking of the ocean liner RMS Titanic.

Fieldwork in both the UK and Sweden for the ESRC-funded research on the regulation of ship emissions is progressing well (Professor Bloor is the Principal Investigator, Professors Helen Sampson and Susan Baker are co-applicants, and Katrin Dahlgren is undertaking fieldwork for the project in Sweden). On the basis of the early research findings, Professor Bloor drafted written evidence to the House of Commons Transport Select Committee Inquiry which was accepted in October. Additionally, an interim report was made publically available on the SIRC website in December. The project will be completed in early 2013.

The SIRC-funded study of seafarer self-medication led by Professor Sampson continues. Over 1,000 questionnaires have been collected for this study and initial analysis of the data has produced interesting results relating to smoking. The results of the study will be reported in an on-line SIRC report late in 2012.

SIRC’s collaboration with the Cardiff Work Environment Research Centre, led by Professor Walters, on research funded by the Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (IOSH) continues. The study considers the effectiveness of efforts to manage health and safety across supply chains and focuses upon case studies in construction, food, and the maritime sector. The research phase of this work has now been completed and a report of the findings will be with IOSH early in 2012.
The SIRC-Nippon Foundation Postgraduate Fellowship Scheme continues to attract a range of suitably qualified applicants from a variety of backgrounds. We were delighted that four SIRC-NF students successfully attained their doctorates in 2011 (Anand, Galam, Li, Zhao) and we are looking forward to further successes in the coming year.

In 2011, Zhiwei Zhao was awarded a PhD qualification at the July graduation ceremony for Cardiff University. Zhiwei’s thesis is titled ‘The Human Resource Strategies of Chinese State Crewing Agencies with Special Reference to Labour Export and the Experience of Chinese Seafarers’ and her delighted supervisors were Professors Theo Nichols and David Walters. Subsequently, Dr Zhao was successful in obtaining a temporary position as Research Assistant at SIRC (Cardiff University). She was not the only postgraduate to be smiling in 2011, however, as Lin Li, Nippin Anand, and Roderick Galam also successfully completed their PhD theses. Lin Li was awarded a PhD for his thesis ‘Values and beliefs: Chinese seafarers in an age of transition’ (supervisors Dr Nicholas Bailey and Professor Ralph Fevre) and has now returned to China. Nippin Anand had a successful viva in connection with his thesis ‘New technologies against Professional Identity: Work, Skills and Identity in the Maritime Sector’ (supervisors Dr Nicholas Bailey and Professor Phil Brown). Following his viva he continued with his job as a researcher at the Business School at the University of Nottingham but he is soon to take up a new post in Dubai as a consultant with DNV. Finally, in December, Roderick Galam’s thesis ‘Navigating Lives: The Spatiotemporality of the Gender Identity, Agency, and Subjectivity of Filipino Seamen’s Wives’ (supervisors Dr Nicholas Bailey and Professor Michael Bloor) was examined and a PhD was awarded.

Our congratulations go to all of these postgraduates, and their supervisors. The achievement of the SIRC-Nippon Foundation fellows, many of whom have no prior exposure to social science research, is difficult to overstate. This is particularly the case when they are studying for a sustained period far from home and when they face periodic difficulties such as health problems.

One other student presented his thesis for examination in 2011 although his viva will not take place until 2012. SIRC-NF fellow, Don Lucero-Prisno III has written a thesis which explores the sexual relationships, and risk taking behaviours, of seafarers. We wish him success in his viva.
Work is currently progressing on the following PhD studies (all of which are financially supported by The Nippon Foundation):

- Sanley Abila - Collaborative Arrangements Between Shipping Organisations and Private Maritime Colleges in Developing and Implementing Standards of Maritime Education and Training in the Philippines
- Mohab Abou-Elkawam - Seafarers and Growing Environmental Concerns: Compliance Levels and the Possibilities of Governance
- Iris Acejo - Transnational Communities and the Assimilation of Filipino Seafarers
- Ngwatung Akamangwa - Global Environmental Standards and Workers in the Shipping Industry
- Amewu Attah - The Impact of Oil Exploitation on a Ghanaian Fishing Community
- Jabeth Dacanay - Regulatory Approaches to Occupational Health and Safety of Seafarers Serving Foreign Flags
- Manasi Dutt - The Impact of Organisational Hierarchy on the Expectations and Experiences of Dignity at Work for Indian Seafarers
- Mohamed Ghanem - Accidents at Sea: The Social Construction of Marine Accident Investigation Reports
- Aditi Kataria - An Ethnographic Exploration of Ship-Shore Communication
- Priscilla Leong - Understanding Seafarer Shortage in the Context of a Global Labour Market
- Shahriar Mazhari - Certification and Competence in the Global Shipping Labour Market: Employers’ Perception of Fitness for Purpose.
- Taurai Mlambo - The Impact of Automation on Decision Making of the Navigational Officer
- Jean Pia - The Precarious Nature of the Labour Supply Arrangement in the Seafaring Industry with Focus on the Legal Framework
The broad interests of the new cohort of SIRC-Nippon Foundation fellows who joined us in 2011 are as follows:

- **Conghua Xue** - Shaping Safety Culture at Sea: The Role of Communication
- **Ralph Buiser** - Impact of union membership on the welfare of Filipino seafarers
- **Mark Llangco** - The cosmopolitan transnationalism of cruise ship workers
- **Desai Shan** - Seafarers’ casualty compensation system and suggestions for reform in the Chinese context

The following SIRC-Nippon Foundation fellows and alumni have found employment in 2011:

- Dr Momoko **Kitada** (nee Motohashi), Research Associate, World Maritime University (WMU), Sweden
- Dr Zhiwei **Zhao**, Temporary Research Assistant, SIRC, Cardiff University

Other SIRC-Nippon Foundation alumni are working in the following positions:

- Capt Mohab **Abou-Elkawam**, Lecturer, Maritime Studies, Lowestoft College
- Ms Iris **Acejo**, Part-time Research Assistant, SIRC, Cardiff University

Dr Nippin **Anand**, Research Fellow, University of Nottingham Business School

Dr Syamantak **Bhattacharya**, Senior Lecturer, International Shipping and Logistics, University of Plymouth Business School

Ms Jabeth **Dacanay**, Part-time Legal Research Assistant, Seafarers’ Rights International, London

Dr Victor **Gekara**, Lecturer of International Logistics and International Trade Operations, School of Business Information Technology and Logistics and RMIT University, Melbourne, Australia

Dr Lijun **Tang**, Research Associate, SIRC, Cardiff University

Dr Nelson **Turgo**, Research Assistant, SIRC, Cardiff University
In January Syamantak Bhattacharya became a father for the second time with the arrival of his baby girl ‘Mihika’. Later in the year Nippin Anand was elated when his wife Irma gave birth to their first child, a daughter, ‘Nakeeta’.

In September we said hello to Han Qing, a doctoral candidate from the Maritime History and Culture Research Centre, Dalian Maritime University and the new cohort of SIRC-Nippon Foundation fellows: Ms Desai Shan, from China; and Mr Ralph Buiser and Mr Mark Llangco, both from the Philippines. We said goodbye to Meng Li, who had also been visiting from Dalian Maritime University, and Ms Marina de Carvalho Cordeiro, from Brasil. Following the succesful completion of his period as an ESRC-funded RCUK fellow, Dr Nicholas Bailey has relocated to the Glamorgan Building in the Cardiff University School of Social Sciences to take up his duties as a full-time lecturer.

**Academic Staff at 31 December 2011**

- Prof Helen Sampson  
  Director SIRC and The LRETRU
- Prof David Walters  
  Associate Director
- Prof Michael Bloor  
  Professorial Fellow
- Mr Neil Ellis  
  Research Associate
- Dr Lijun Tang  
  Research Associate
- Dr Emma Wadsworth  
  Research Fellow
- Ms Iris Acejo  
  Research Assistant
- Dr Nelson Turgo  
  Research Assistant
- Dr Zhiwei Zhao  
  Research Assistant

**Administrative Staff**

- Ms Louise Deeley  
  Executive Officer
- Ms Maria Goldoni  
  Administrator
- Ms Sarah Venables  
  Clerical Officer

**Associate Researchers**

- Prof Maragtas Amante  
  Dr Michelle Thomas
- Dr Marlene Calderón  
  Dr Nik Winchester
- Dr Victor Gekara  
  Dr Bin Wu
- Dr Bernardo Obando-Rojas  
  Alumni day trip 2011

Alumni day trip 2011
Future Plans

2012 will see the completion of research projects for Allianz, and as part of the initial programme of work funded by The LRET. As these projects come to an end, we will move forward with publication and dissemination plans and will begin work on new research projects initially funded by The LRET relating to:

- The training for, and attitudes to mandatory appliances, on board ships.
- The implications for safety of the relationships between visiting ‘experts’ and sea-staff on board ships.

Publications

Books/Academic Journal Articles (RAE 2008 Categories A & D)


**Short Works/Reports** (RAE 2008 Category T)


**Professional/Popular Journal Papers** (RAE 2008 Category D)


**Contributions to Edited Works** (RAE 2008 Category C)


Refereed (Published) Conference Contributions (RAE 2008 Category E)


Non-refereed (Published) Conference Contributions (RAE 2008 Category E)


Unpublished Papers Presented: Conferences


Unpublished Papers Presented: Seminars


Unpublished Papers Presented: Workshops/’Other’


Galam, R. (2011) De-traditionalization and re-traditionalization of gender relations in Filipino seafarer families, Families, Identities and Gender Research Network Symposium, Cardiff University, 11 November.


Other Conferences Attended (papers not delivered)


PhD Theses (completed and published)


Forthcoming Publications


Kitada, M. ‘Rethinking the occupational culture of seafaring: challenges in the new era of cultural diversities’, Ocean Law, Society and Management: Ocean University of China.


Tang, L. ‘"In the name of love": Learning through online support’, Convergence: The International Journal of Research into New Media Technologies.


Turgo, N. ‘A balikbayan’ in the field: scaling and (re) producing insider’s identity in a Philippine fishing community’, Qualitative Research.

Abbreviations and Acronyms

ABN AMRO: Algemene Bank Nederland and Amsterdam and Rotterdam Bank
AIDS: Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
BIMCO: The Baltic and International Maritime Council
CWERC: Cardiff Work Environment Research Centre
DNV: Det Norske Veritas
Eds: Editors
ESRC: Economic & Social Research Council
HIV: Human Immunodeficiency Virus
IIT: Indian Institute of Technology
ILO: International Labour Organisation
IMarEST: The Institute of Marine Engineering, Science & Technology
IOSH: Institution of Occupational Safety and Health
ISA: International Sociological Association
KPMG: Klynveld, Peat, Marwick, Goerdeler
MLC: Maritime Labour Convention
NASDAQ: National Association of Securities Dealers Automated Quotations
PhD: Doctor of Philosophy
Pc: Public limited company
PYA: Professional Yachtsmen’s Association
RAE: Research Assessment Exercise
RCUK: Research Councils United Kingdom
RMIT: Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology
SIRC: Seafarers International Research Centre
SIRC-NF: Seafarers International Research Centre – Nippon Foundation
The LRET: The Lloyd’s Register Educational Trust
The LRETRU: The Lloyd’s Register Educational Trust Research Unit
UK: United Kingdom
UK P&I Club: UK Protection and Indemnity Insurance Club
VTS: Vessel Traffic Service