For seafarers, uncertainty in freight markets produces uncertainty about future employment. Ratings, in particular, report that they fear being left for longer and longer periods ashore in between contracts. Similarly, it is ratings who are likely to feel most vulnerable to downward pressure on their terms and conditions. Some suggest that in the last twelve months they have been required to bear more costs associated with both training and repatriation and many feel that they are not highly valued by operators, notwithstanding the recognised benefits associated with seafarers of all ranks returning to jobs where they are familiar with company operating procedures, safety management systems, and the particularities of a vessel.

In contrast to this slightly gloomy picture, some positive developments for seafarers took place in 2013. This was, after all, the year when we saw increased potential protection for seafarers from the long-awaited enactment of the Maritime Labour Convention (MLC).

One of the great benefits of the MLC is that it provides a ready platform from which to improve the working and living standards of seafarers. The research undertaken at SIRC over the last eighteen years indicates that this is something which should not only be undertaken for humanitarian reasons but also because it will benefit the industry.
In 2005, we produced work suggesting that economic growth in new labour supply countries has the potential to relatively quickly result in seafarers deciding to remain ashore. As new land-based opportunities for seafarers emerge, our evidence suggests that the quality of life at sea will be weighed, by future cadets, against the alternative possibilities open to them in the form of shore-based jobs. In order to continue to recruit talented officers the indications remain that ship operators need to pay greater attention to the work-life balance that is open to seafarers as well as the overall quality of shipboard life. Currently, many seafarers report that the balance between the length of time they are on board and the length of time they can afford to spend on leave is not conducive to family life. With the provision of cramped living conditions and few recreational facilities on-board, shipping faces the prospect of becoming increasingly unattractive as a career choice. In these circumstances, it is likely that in the future, in order to recruit new cadets, operators will have to place greater reliance on the payment of high wages. In this scenario, the danger is that high salaries and rapid promotion prospects will only serve to facilitate the hasty exit of seafarers from the profession resulting in the need to raise wages further and create a ‘vicious’ circle. So the MLC is surely to be welcomed, as much for the wider future interests of the industry as for its potential to protect seafarers.
Activities and Events

2013, was a busy year at SIRC. We received a number of visitors and travelled to a number of events to present our research findings.

Early in the year Professor Sampson visited Valerie Coleman, the Programme Development Manager for the Maritime Charities Funding Group at Seafarers UK, in London. The discussion that began there was continued at a meeting at the SIRC Symposium and it is apparent that there is the potential for very useful collaboration between the two organisations.

In April, SIRC was delighted to announce the launch of a new book *International seafarers and transnationalism in the twenty first century* written by Professor Helen Sampson and published by Manchester University Press. The launch was held in the School of Social Science’s Glamorgan Building at Cardiff University, and we welcomed members of the maritime community as well as academics to a buffet and some reflections on the book made by representatives from both the industry and the social science communities. A short film of the event, made by Paul Allen from the School of Psychology, as well as the full talks given by the speakers (Professor Stephen Edgell, University of Salford; Mr Andrew Linington, Director of Campaigns and Communications, Nautilus International; Dr Malcolm Willingale, Maritime Consultant; Professor Teresa Rees CBE AcSS, Former Pro Vice-Chancellor for Research, Cardiff University; Professor Phil Brown, Distinguished Research Professor, Cardiff University) can be viewed via the SIRC website. It was noted, that Helen looked particularly pleased with the large bunch of flowers presented to her by Captain Kuba Szymanski the Secretary General of InterManager. The book has done well since its publication and as a result will be available in paperback in March 2014.

On the 26th of April Professor Michael Bloor travelled to Sweden to present some of the findings from the ESRC-funded research he had undertaken with colleagues (Sampson and Baker) on the regulation of ship emissions. Professor Bloor presented his paper ‘Effectiveness of enforcement of the sulphur regulations: enforcement practice, compliance levels and enforcement problems in Europe’ to an enthusiastic audience at the 34th International Bunker Conference, Gothenburg.
In April, Dr Nelson Turgo participated in the ‘Lloyd’s Register Foundation Research Workshop 2013’ held at Seoul National University, South Korea. At this gathering the Directors of the Foundation-funded centres from all over the world, presented their activities and achievements of the year. Dr Turgo was standing in for Professor Sampson, who was regrettably unable to attend, and he enjoyed the opportunity to meet academics working on a variety of different projects ranging from nuclear research to oceanography.

Professor Sampson travelled to Croatia in May, at the invitation of the organisers of the 16th European Manning & Training Conference. The event was held in an impressive location and Professor Sampson was able to catch up with regulators and key members of the shipping industry as delegates were taken out on a short (and slightly rocky) evening voyage from the venue to the old town of Dubrovnik. As part of the main conference proceedings, she presented a paper that was well-received on multicultural crewing. Following this conference Professor Sampson kept in touch with some valuable new contacts made at the event. One of these has since facilitated a research voyage for the current projects at the Centre and another has provided information relating to our work on ways of supporting training and employment for EU ratings. This emphasises the importance of investing time and resource in attendance at such events and how key they are to the success of the work at SIRC.

However, it is equally important to build local links with researchers whose interests overlap with those established at SIRC. With this in mind, Mr Neil Ellis visited LR Scandpower Ltd, Bristol, to meet Barry Davies (Senior Consultant/Technical Lead - Human Factors) and his two colleagues (Gemma Innes-Jones and Douglas Owen). Neil discussed ongoing work at SIRC involving the collection of maritime incident data as well as the work programme pursued by LR Scandpower Ltd. It is hoped that collaborations may be developed between the two groups of researchers at a future date.

1 This two day event was supported by the Lloyd’s Register Foundation.
In June, Dr Lijun Tang travelled to France and presented a paper on issues relating to seafarers’ mental health and wellbeing at the ‘MENHOB - Mental Health on Board, 12th International Symposium on Maritime Health’. While in the same month, Mr Neil Ellis presented a jointly authored paper (with Professor Helen Sampson) at the 2nd International Maritime Incident and Near Miss Reporting Conference (IMISS2013) in Finland. The papers that were submitted for this conference were refereed and reviewed by a scientific committee and the pair were delighted to be awarded a prize for their paper which was judged to be the ‘conference best’.

At the beginning of July, SIRC hosted its eighth international symposium. These biennial events are crucial for SIRC in feeding back the findings from recent studies to a broad industry and academic audience drawn from across the world. At the symposium staff were delighted that Mr Mark Dickinson, General Secretary of Nautilus International, was able to give the introductory address. This was followed by a variety of papers which described both new and completed research undertaken at SIRC relating to a number of topics concerning seafarers’ work and lives. The research findings presented at the symposium gained further exposure via coverage in the maritime press and full papers are available free to download at SIRC’s website.
The week after the symposium, the 6th residential SIRC-NF Alumni event was held at Llansantffraed Court in Monmouthshire. This year our external speaker was a senior Professor (Professor José Ricardo Ramalho) from the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Professor Ramalho has very many years experience of undertaking research in challenging settings ranging from prisons to car plants and his insights into the methodological and ethical issues that researchers have to consider provoked much thought amongst delegates. Supporting sessions and workshops were delivered by Professor Helen Sampson and Professor David Walters and it became evident that the regular writing workshops, that have become a feature of the alumni events, are facilitating collaborative publications between alumni, SIRC staff, and current students. However, as usual, it was not all work and no play. On this occasion, some of the participants’ activities were set in the tranquil surroundings of the Wye Valley. They included a visit to the historic site of Tintern Abbey, a twelfth century public house, and a butterfly ‘zoo’. For the more boisterous there were also team games at a ‘laser ops’ activity centre and ‘clay pigeon’ shooting.

Over the summer, Professor Sampson accepted an invitation to become a Specialist Advisor for the UK House of Commons Select Committee on Transport as they work towards the development of the UK Maritime Strategy. While in August Dr Turgo attended the 3rd Annual International Conference on Political Science, Sociology and International Relations’, in Singapore in order to present a paper which he developed from his thesis focussing upon the modern life of market fishmongers in a Philippine fishing community.

As the summer waned, SIRC welcomed a delegation from the Stiftelsen Stockholms Sjöfartshotell (the Foundation Stockholm’s Seamen’s Hotel), Sweden. These included
the Sjöfartshotell board members: Bo Bladholm, Anders Engström, Marie Halvdanson, Ragnar Karlsson, Thore Hansson, Hans Laidwa; and Barry Andersson, Chairman, Lord Mayor of Stockholm (ret); Christer Themner, Vice-Chairman of Stockholm (ret); Gunilla Johansson, Executive Secretary, CEO; and Torbjörn Carlsson, Manager.

With the start of the academic year, those at SIRC welcomed the new cohort of SIRC-Nippon Foundation Fellows at the, now, customary ‘welcome buffet’. Meanwhile, Dr Turgo was in Manila attending the 14th Asia-Pacific Manning & Training Conference. During his time in the Philippines he was invited to a dinner in honour of the Honorable Jesulito A Manalo, Congressman of ANGKLA Maritime Party and Dr Maximo Q Mejia, Jr, Administrator of the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA).

In late Autumn, Professor Bloor presented a paper in Copenhagen at the Future Marine Fuels and Lubes Conference on the ‘Enforcement of, and compliance with, SOx regulations in the North Sea and Baltic ECAs’. He was followed, in November, by Professor Sampson, who travelled to Denmark at the invitation of the Copenhagen Business School to participate in a research workshop on Global Shipping and Corporate Social Responsibility. Workshop participants were from both the world of academia and the shipping industry and included delegates from: the Liu Institute at the University of British Colombia; Wellesley College; the University of Genova; the University of Antwerp; the Kühne Logistics University; the Danish Shipowners’ Association; Torm; Maersk Line; and Norden.

The following week, Professor Sampson returned to northern Europe where she is very pleased to be a Scientific Advisor to a major project on risk that is being funded by the Norwegian Research Council. On this occasion she took part in a two-day workshop designed to consider the initial stages of the research which involves interdisciplinary collaboration between sociologists and psychologists. The study is being led by researchers at Stord/Haugesund University College.

Teaching

Professor Helen Sampson continues to contribute to the Masters degree in social science research methods and to deliver workshops on researcher safety for the University Graduate School. Mark Llangco contributes to first and second year undergraduate courses in research methods for the School of Social Sciences.
The work of the Lloyd’s Register Foundation research unit at SIRC

In 2013, we continued to work on two projects initially funded by The Lloyd’s Register Educational Trust\(^2\) and now jointly funded by Lloyd’s Register Foundation with The TK Foundation and Cardiff University. These studies are concerned with:

- **Seafarers and Mandatory Equipment** (the design of, training for, and attitudes to, mandatory appliances on-board ships).

- **Relationships Between Shore-side and Shipboard Personnel** (indications of barriers to, and ways of maximising the benefits of, interaction between visiting ‘experts’ and sea-staff on-board ships).

The year saw fantastic progress with the on-board observations that constitute phase one of the two studies, and by the end of December we had undertaken four research voyages. The data generated from these trips are in the process of being transcribed, and coded, in preparation for analysis and the development of research instruments for use in phase two. We are extremely grateful to the four companies that facilitated our access to ships and to all the seafarers who have taken part in the research, to date, and who have made our researchers so welcome.

Other projects at SIRC

Professor Sampson is collaborating with personnel at Stord/Haugesund University College as part of a multi-institutional study of Risk in Offshore and Maritime Operations, funded by the Norwegian Research Council.

Professors Sampson and Walters are working on producing a paper for use by the RMT that considers potential approaches to the support of continuing employment opportunities for seafarers in the UK.

We are very grateful to The Nippon Foundation which has funded the SIRC-Nippon Foundation Postgraduate Fellowship Scheme since 2004. To date 37 students have enrolled resulting in: 2 MPhils; 13 PhDs; 20 registered students.

\(^2\) On 1 March 2013 The Lloyd’s Register Educational Trust was assimilated into Lloyd’s Register Foundation.
In 2013 we had three successful *viva voce* examinations and each of the following SIRC-Nippon Foundation Fellows were awarded a PhD:

Iris **Acejo** for *Filipino Seafarers and Transnationalism* (supervisors Professors Theo Nichols and Helen Sampson);

Ngwatung **Akamangwa** for *Global Environmental Regulation and Workers in the Shipping Industry* (supervisors Professors Helen Sampson and David Walters);

Priscilla **Leong** for *Understanding Seafarer Shortage in the Context of a Global Labour Market* (supervisors Drs Nicholas Bailey and Ian Welsh).

Our congratulations go to Iris, Ngwatung, Priscilla, and their supervisors, whose hard work culminated in these awards. 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.

Work is progressing on the following PhD studies (all of which are financially supported by The Nippon Foundation):

- Sanley **Abila** - Case Study of Sponsored Cadetship Programmes in the Philippines
- Mohab **Abou-Elkawam** - Seafarers and Growing Environmental Concerns: Compliance Levels and the Possibilities of Governance
- Amewu **Attaah** - The Impact of Oil Exploitation on a Ghanaian Fishing Community
- Polina **Baum-Talmor** - The Notion of 'Career' in Globalized Industries: The Case of Seafarers
- Ralph **Buiser** - Unionised Seafarers and Maritime Trade Unions in the Philippines
- Jabeth **Dacanay** - Regulating Occupational Health and Safety in the Maritime Industry: A Case Study of the Philippines
- Helen **Devereux** (née Douglass) - Black Times in the Seafaring Industry: Does a Relationship Exist between Time into Tour and Occupational Accidents
The broad interests of the new cohort of SIRC-Nippon Foundation Fellows who joined us in 2013 are as follows:

- Carolyn Graham - Seafarers’ participation in the development and execution of occupational health and safety measures: how empowered are they?
- Isaac Mensah - The dynamics of risk, vulnerability, poverty and livelihood strategies of small-scale fishers
- Rogenen Pepito - The impact of crew management practices on crew retention

3 Whilst Mohamed Ghanem sadly passed away before completing his PhD we are working towards obtaining recognition for his work via a posthumous award.
SIRC-Nippon Foundation Fellows and Alumni who have found employment:

Capt Mohab Abou-Elkawam, Senior Lecturer in Nautical Studies, Liverpool Maritime Academy, Liverpool John Moores University, Liverpool

Dr Iris Acejo, Research Associate, SIRC, Cardiff University

Dr Ngwatung Akamangwa, Lecturer, Regional Maritime University, Accra, Ghana

Dr Nippin Anand, Senior Surveyor/Consultant, Offshore Verification and Classification, Det Norske Veritas, Aberdeen, Scotland

Ms Jessica Bernfeld, Deputy State Public Defender, Colorado State, Colorado, USA

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

Ms Jabeth Dacanay, Chief of Staff, Office of the Administrator, Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA), Manila, Philippines

Dr Roderick Galam, Post Doctoral Research Fellow, Freie Universit"at, Berlin, Germany

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

Ms Aditi Kataria, Research Associate, World Maritime University (WMU), Malm"o, Sweden

Dr Momoko Kitada, Lecturer, World Maritime University (WMU), Sweden

Dr Lin Li, Translator, COSCO Dalian Manning Company, China

Dr Lijun Tang, Research Associate, SIRC, Cardiff University

Dr Nelson Turgo, Research Associate, SIRC, Cardiff University

Dr Conghua Xue, Lecturer, Nantong Shipping College, China

Dr Zhiwei Zhao, Lecturer, Dalian Maritime University, China
2013 was tinged with sadness as in March we experienced the sad loss of one of the first cohort of SIRC-Nippon Foundation Fellows, Captain Mohamed Ghanem. Mohamed was born in Alexandria, Egypt, in September 1961. In 1983 he graduated from the Arab Maritime Transport Academy (now AASTMT). He experienced fourteen years as a seafarer and worked as a master on both national and foreign-flagged ships. Prior to coming to SIRC, he taught at the AASTMT for eight years. In his PhD research he was undertaking important work on accidents at sea and was deeply committed to their reduction. Our sincere condolences are extended to his daughter, wife, and wider family.

In September, Visiting Scholar Qi Wang, from the Department of Marine Engineering, Nantong Shipping College, Jiangsu, China, came to the end of his stay. During his time in the UK, Qi visited several maritime training colleges and obtained data for his study comparing the advanced education and training of seafarers in the UK with that of China.

In October we welcomed the latest cohort of SIRC-Nippon Foundation Fellows: Carolyn Graham from Jamaica; Isaac Mensah from Ghana; and Rogenen Pepito from the Philippines. These students will sadly form the last cohort of PhD students generously funded by The Nippon Foundation for the last ten years.

2013 was a year of happiness for several students and two SIRC-Nippon Foundation Fellows from the ninth cohort, Polina Baum and Helen Douglass celebrated their weddings. Additionally, SIRC-Nippon Foundation Fellow Jabeth Dacanay gave birth to her second son and named him ‘Rome’.

2013 was also a year in which, after a long association with both the School of Social Sciences and SIRC, we said a sad farewell to our colleague Professor Michael Bloor. Mick, as he is known to his friends, worked in SIRC from 1999 to 2004 and re-joined us as a part-time Professorial Fellow in 2008. He will be very much missed but we remain happy to know that he will visit us from time to time when passing through South Wales.
Academic Staff at 31 December 2013

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Prof David Walters Associate Director
Dr Iris Acejo Research Associate
Mr Neil Ellis Research Associate
Dr Lijun Tang Research Associate
Dr Nelson Turgo Research Associate

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Ms Sarah Venables Clerical Officer

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Dr Victor Gekara Dr Bernardo Obando-Rojas
Dr Michelle Thomas Dr Nik Winchester
Dr Bin Wu

Future Plans

In 2014 we plan to continue with the two projects that are jointly funded by the Lloyd’s Register Foundation, The TK Foundation, and Cardiff University. Four more research voyages are planned before moving ahead with phase two of the work which involves extended interviews with seafarers around the world.

We will also complete research for the RMT and deliver a paper to them outlining potential means of supporting employment for UK seafarers in the future.

In addition, Professor Sampson looks forward to continuing collaboration with colleagues in Norway on a major study of Risk in Offshore and Maritime Operations and we will continue to support the SIRC-NF fellows who are working towards their PhDs.

Finally we expect to continue to produce further publications from completed studies such as the ESRC-funded project on the regulation of ship emissions and the Institution of Occupational Safety and Health (IOSH)-funded study on the effective management of health and safety through supply chains.
Books (RAE 2008 Category A)


Academic Journal Articles (RAE 2008 Category D)


Turgo, N. (2013) 'Here, we don’t just trade goods, we also ‘sell’ people’s lives”: ‘sari-sari’ stores as nodes of partial surveillance in a Philippine fishing community', Singapore Journal of Tropical Geography, 34(3): 373-389.


Short Works and Reports (RAE 2008 Category T)


Contributions to Edited Works (RAE 2008 Category C)


Book Reviews


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


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


Unpublished Papers Presented: Conferences, Seminars, Workshops


Kitada, M. (2013) 'Listen to our voices: current status of women seafarers', The IMO regional conference of women seafarers, Busan, South Korea, 16 April.


Tang, L. (2013) 'Mental health of seafarers', 12th International Symposium on Maritime Health, Brest, France, 4-7 June.


Other Conferences Attended (paper not delivered)


PhD Theses (completed)


In the Media

'Improved English communication will increase maritime safety', Safety at Sea Features, November (2013), 20 November.


'Safety lessons are being lost', Nautilus International Telegraph, August (2013), p3.


'International seafarers and transnationalism in the twenty-first century', www.sirc.cf.ac.uk/Past_Events.aspx, April (2013), 11 April.


‘Life on board is tough, say seafarers’, Business Line, January (2013), 14 January.


Other


Forthcoming Publications


Baum-Talmor, P. (forthcoming) 'From Sea to Shore: Ethnographic Account of Seafarers' Experience On-Board Merchant Ships', Sage Cases in Methodology, Online source.


Turgo, N. (forthcoming) "Kumbatihan ng lunan: talabtaban ng pag-iral sa Calvario ng Mauban" (Discourse in space: heterotopia in Calvario in Mauban), Daluyan: Journal ng Wikang Filipino.

Turgo, N. (forthcoming) "Amoy isda': the modern life of market fishmongers", in Fishing for a Living, ed. Maria Mangahas, Quezon City: UP Press.

Abbreviations and Acronyms

AASTMT: Arab Academy for Science, Technology & Maritime Transport
AcSS: Academy of Social Sciences
AGA: Annual General Assembly
AIDS: Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
BSA: British Sociological Association
BUIRA: British Universities Industrial Relations Association
CBE: Commander of British Empire
CCIER: Centre for Comparative and International Education Research
CEO: Chief Executive Officer
CSR: Corporate Social Responsibility
DOI: Digital Object Identifier
ECAs: Emission Control Areas
Eds: Editors
ESRC: Economic & Social Research Council
EU: European Union
HIV: Human Immunodeficiency Virus
IACS: International Association of Classification Societies
IAMU: International Association of Maritime Universities
IMMS: International Maritime Incident and Near Miss Reporting
IMO: International Maritime Organization
IOSH: Institution of Occupational Safety and Health
ISA: International Sociological Association
LR: Lloyd's Register
LRF: Lloyd's Register Foundation
MARINA: Maritime Industry Authority
MENHOB: Mental Health on Board
MLC: Maritime Labour Convention
MPhil: Master of Philosophy
MUP: Manchester University Press
OHS: Occupational Health and Safety
OUP: Oxford University Press
PhD: Doctor of Philosophy
Plc: Public limited company
RAE: Research Assessment Exercise
RCUK: Research Councils United Kingdom
ret: retired
RMIT: Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology
RMT: National Union of Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers
SOx: Sulphur Oxides
SIRC: Seafarers International Research Centre
SIRC-NF: Seafarers International Research Centre - Nippon Foundation
TK: Torben Karlshoej
UK: United Kingdom
UP: University of the Philippines
USA: United States of America
WMU: World Maritime University
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