Conference program

The Baltic Sea and Global Currents: 400 Years After the Battle of Oliwa

Maritime Expansion, Domination, and Water Spaces in a Globalizing World

University of Gdańsk 9–11 September 2026

WEDNESDAY, 9.09.2026

Venue: University of Gdańsk (Uniwersytet Gdański), Campus, UG Library, Wita Stwosza 53, Gdańsk, Poland

Registration: 9.00–10.00

OPENING OF THE CONFERENCE: 10.00 – 10.30

10.30 – 11.40 Key lecture

- **Johan Rönnby** (Maritime Archaeological Research Institute at Södertörn University)
  The Princes' Ships: Maritime Archaeological Perspectives on Power and Social Change in the Early Modern Period

Coffee break: 11.40–12.00

SESSION 1: 12.00 – 14.00

Panel: **Gdańsk and the Baltic in the Early Seventeenth Century**

- **Sławomir Kościelak** (University of Gdańsk)
  An alleged attempt to initiate secret negotiations between Gdańsk and Sweden on the eve of the invasion in July 1626

- **Iwona Janicka** (University of Gdańsk)
  The micro-emotions of high politics: how the people of Gdańsk reacted to the visits of Sigismund III Vasa?

- **Krzysztof Kurzyk** (National Maritime Museum in Gdańsk)
  The Art of Navigation in the Baltic Sea at the time of the Battle of Oliwa. Navigational instruments from the Solen wreck

- **Paweł Litwinienko** (National Maritime Museum in Gdańsk)
  Rigging and sailing the 17th century warship as evidenced in historical and archaeological sources on Solen

Lunch: 14.00–15.30

SESSION 2, part I: 15.30 – 17.00

Panel: **The Human Experience of Naval Warfare in the Seventeenth-Century Baltic**

- **Ewa Bojaruniec-Król** (Medical University of Gdańsk, Museum of Gdańsk)
  Andrzej Szarzewski (Medical University of Gdańsk)
  Arend Dickmann (1572–1627): A Man of the Sea in the Service of the Maritime Community

- **Fred Hocker** (Vasa Museum)
  Tomasz Bednarz (University of Gdańsk, National Maritime Museum in Gdańsk)
  Artillery of the Swedish warship Solen, sunk 1627

- **Jerzy Jankau** (Medical University of Gdańsk)
  Arndt Dickmann's Death by Gunshot: A Contemporary Surgeon's Perspective

Coffee break: 17.00–17.15

SESSION 2, part II: 17.15 – 18.15

Panel: **The Human Experience of Naval Warfare in the Seventeenth-Century Baltic**

- **Anna Rembisz-Lubiejewska** (National Maritime Museum in Gdańsk)
  Medical assistance on 17th warship in the light of the barber's equipment discovered on the Solen wreck

- **Dariusz Kaczor** (University of Gdańsk)
  'ein kießenbüehren, darinnen ist ein hembde'. Living conditions on ships in the light of Danzig inventories of seafarers' property from the 16th and 17th centuries

Welcome reception: 18.30 – 20.00

THURSDAY, 10.09.2026

Venue: **University of Gdańsk (Uniwersytet Gdański), Campus, UG Library, Wita Stwosza 53, Gdańsk, Poland**

SESSION 3: 10.00 – 12.00

Panel: **Between the Atlantic and the Baltic: Ships and Naval Warfare in the Early Modern Period**

- **Jorge Aguilera-López** (University of Helsinki)
  Between Two Seas: The Atlanticisation of the Spanish Galley, 1580–1600

- **Michał Grabowski** (University of Warsaw)
  In the Shadow of Great Sails – Local Shipbuilding Traditions in the Bay of Gdańsk Region, 16th–18th Centuries

- **Krzysztof Kuczyński** (University of Warsaw)
  The Story of the Frigate "Postillion": Tracing the Last Polish Privateer to Fight the Swedes

- **Arkadiusz Janicki** (University of Gdańsk)
  The story of a single smack-ship. The activities of the insurgents in the vicinity of Palanga in 1794

Coffee break: 12.00–12.15

SESSION 4: 12.15 – 14.15

Panel: **People, Work, and Welfare in Early Modern Maritime Worlds**

- **Matilda Jarl** (Södertörn University)
  Feeding sailors and soldiers. Foodways on early modern naval ships in the Baltic Sea area

- **Patrik Höglund** (Swedish National Maritime, Transport and Military Museums)
  The Ship Society. Rank, Roles and Status on Swedish Warships in the 17th century

- **Eduardo Sartoretto** (Anthropos Doctoral School, Institute of History of Polish Academy of Sciences)
  „The petitioners fear that, once the unloading is complete, they too will be unable to find work": an analysis of the social, legal, and labor dynamics of Portuguese seafarers in the second half of the 18th century

- **Radosław Kubus** (University of Gdańsk)
  Maritime Accidents in the Baltic Sea and the Emergence of Organised Rescue Services in Gdańsk in the Late Enlightenment (up to the early nineteenth century)

Lunch: 14.15–15.45

SESSION 5, part I: 15.45 - 17.15

Panel: **Threats from the Sea: Defensive Responses and Institutional Disputes. The Fortification of the Archipelagos of the Hispanic Monarchy in the Long 18th Century**

- **Sergio Solbes Ferri** (University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria)
  Proposals for Improving the Financing of the Canary Islands' Defences in the Second Half of 18th Century: The General Board of Fortifications

- **Johanna von Grafenstein** (Mora Institute)
  The Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Sea: The Role of Fortifications in Defence of Spanish Ports and Navigation Routes,18th Century.

- **Rafał Reichert** (University of Warsaw)
  The Price of Security: The Military Financing Challenges of Santo Domingo and San Juan Garrisons in the 17th Century

Coffee break: 17.15 - 17.30

SESSION 5, part II: 17.30 – 18.30

Panel: **Threats from the Sea: Defensive Responses and Institutional Disputes. The Fortification of the Archipelagos of the Hispanic Monarchy in the Long 18th Century**

- **Ana María Coll Coll** (Universitat de les Illes Balears)
  Defence and resource management in the Mediterranean: the challenge of 18th Century Mallorca

- **Jaime Acosta Pozuelo** (University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria/University of Bayreuth)
  The Rearguard of the Empire: The Financing of Military Expenditure and Fortifications in the Spanish Philippines during the 18th Century

Dinner: 19.30

FRIDAY, 11.09.2026

9.00–10.30: Special Museum Tour: National Maritime Museum, Branch at Ołowianka, Ołowianka 9, Gdańsk

Venue: National Maritime Museum – Maritime Culture Centre, Tokarska 21-25, Gdańsk

Coffee break: 10.40–11.00

SESSION 6: 11.00 - 13.00

Panel: **Maritime Imaginaries, Coastal Defences, and Changing Seascapes**

- **Monika Jankiewicz-Brzostowska** (National Maritime Museum in Gdańsk)
  The Political Connotations of Ship Images in Dutch 17th Century Art

- **Maciej Flis** (Museum of Gdańsk)
  Wisłoujście Fortress as a Naval Port of the Fleet of Sigismund III Vasa, 1626–1628

- **Piotr Samól** (Gdańsk University of Technology)
  Coastal castles on the Baltic Sea during the Thirty Years' War – preliminary research

- **Fanni Kovács** (Eötvös Loránd University)
  Whales and an Altering Seascape: Managing Environmental Changes in the Seventeenth- Eighteenth-Century Whaling Industry around Svalbard

Lunch: 13.00–14.30

SESSION 7, part I: 14.30 – 16.00

Panel: **People and Power in Early Modern Maritime Networks**

- **Bogdan Burliga** (University of Gdańsk)
  Remembering Seaman Peter Simsen: Oliwa, 28 November 1627, and the Polish Legacy of the Idea of dominium Maris Baltici

- **Marcin Swobodziński** (University of Gdańsk)
  Military Operations in Royal Prussia in 1627, as Described in the Accounts of the Brandenburg Envoys in Poland (paper in German)

- **John Freeman** (Independent Researcher)
  Warship Diplomacy: The Promise of Warships in the Duchy of Courland's Attempts to Gain English Favour in the Seventeenth Century

Coffee break: 16.00–16.15

SESSION 7, part II: 16.15 – 17.15

Panel: **People and Power in Early Modern Maritime Networks**

- **Aleksandra Jasniewicz-Downes** (Independent Researcher)
  Personnel from Gdansk in the service of the Dutch East India Company

- **Edna Matos** (Federal University of Sergipe)
  A Zealous Imperial Commander: Order, Control, And Reformism in The Correspondence Of Donald Campbell (1799–1801)

SUMMARY AND CLOSING REMARKS

The Honorary Patronage of the Conference:

His Magnificence Rector of the University of Gdańsk, Professor dr hab. Piotr Stepnowski

Mayor of the City of Gdańsk, Mrs Aleksandra Dulkiewicz

Rector of University of Gdańsk

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Organising Committee of the Conference

Prof. Beata Możejko, Ph.D.	Rector's Representative at the University of Gdańsk for the Commemoration of the 400th Anniversary of the Victorious Naval Battle of Oliwa (1627–2027)
Agata Błoch Ph.D.,	Institute of History of the Polish Academy of Sciences
Tomasz Bednarz Ph.D.,	University of Gdańsk, National Maritime Museum in Gdańsk
Arkadiusz Janicki Ph.D.,	Professor at University of Gdańsk – Dean of Faculty of History, UG
Arnold Kłonczyński Ph.D.,	Professor at University of Gdańsk – Director of Library of University of Gdańsk
Szymon Kulas M.A.	Director of National Maritime Museum in Gdańsk
Marcin Westphal Ph.D.	Deputy Director of National Maritime Museum in Gdańsk
Karolina Prykowska PhD Student	University of Gdańsk, Conference Secretary
Eduardo Sartoretto PhD Student	Institute of History of the Polish Academy of Sciences, Conference Secretary

The conference is part of the commemorations marking the 400th anniversary of the naval Battle of Oliwa

Organising Committee for the Commemoration of the 400th Anniversary of the Victorious Naval Battle of Oliwa (1627–2027)

Rector of University of Gdańsk Prof. Piotr Stepnowski, Ph.D.	Chair of the Committee
Dorota Pyć, Ph.D.,	Professor at the University of Gdańsk – President of the Board of the Port of Gdańsk
Arkadiusz Janicki, Ph.D.,	Professor at the University of Gdańsk – Dean of the Faculty of History
Waldemar Ossowski, PhD.,	Professor at the University of Gdańsk – Director of the Gdańsk Museum
Piotr Stasiowski, M.A.	Director of the National Museum in Gdańsk
Dr. Janusz Trupinda	Director of the Malbork Castle Museum
Dr. Tomasz Bednarz	Representative of the National Maritime Museum in Gdańsk
Tomasz Miegoń, M.A.	Director of the Naval Museum in Gdynia
Joanna Kamień, Ph.D.	Director of the University of Gdańsk Press
Arnold Kłonczyński, Ph.D.,	Professor at the University of Gdańsk – Director of the University of Gdańsk Library
Marta Szaszkiewicz, M.A.	Director of the University of Gdańsk Museum
Prof. Beata Możejko, Ph.D.	Rector's Representative at the University of Gdańsk for the Commemoration of the 400th Anniversary of the Victorious Naval Battle of Oliwa (1627–2027)
Iwona Janicka, Ph.D.,	Professor at the University of Gdańsk
Dariusz Kaczor, Ph.D.,	Professor at the University of Gdańsk
Sławomir Kościelak, Ph.D.,	Professor at the University of Gdańsk
Szymon Kulas, M.A.	Director of National Maritime Museum in Gdańsk

The Conference's poster designed by Jan Rutka