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## Journal of Historical Geography

Volume 32, Issue 3, July 2006, Pages 479-493

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# Currents, visions and voyages: historical geographies of the sea

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<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jhg.2005.10.004>

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### Abstract

This paper offers a prospectus for a version of historical geography that puts the seas and oceans at the centre of its concerns. This is pursued in three ways. First, via a discussion of the epistemological and historiographic perspectives that might be taken on geographies of the sea, which argues that the view from the ocean can develop geographies of spaces beyond the local and the national, and can attend to the relationships between the human and natural worlds. Second, through a consideration of the imaginative, aesthetic and sensuous geographies of the sea that contends that maritime worlds open up new experiential dimensions and new forms of representation. Finally, in a survey of the material and social worlds of the oceans that suggests that new life can thereby be breathed into current concerns with global political economy, material geographies, the relationship between knowledge and located practice, and the intersections of social and spatial difference. The paper also provides an introduction to a special issue on the historical geography of the sea.



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## Keywords

Historical geography; History; Sea; Ocean; Maritime; Historiography; Aesthetics; Materiality

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