Centre for Maritime MARE Research

MARE Conference People and the Sea XIV

Blue (in)securities: reciprocity, resistance and reimagination

Invitation and inspiration for alternative panel formats

We encourage panel proposals with formats that stimulate interaction and discussion, such as roundtables, fishbowls, discussant-led panels, workshops, debates, documentary screenings with discussion, photo essays, book presentations, artistic interventions and audio papers. The conference organizers may prioritize panel proposals that take these considerations into account.

Alternative-format panels are submitted in the first round (deadline 15 December 2026), so that they can be placed in the programme before individual papers are assigned. Sessions are by default 1.5 hours long. MARE XIV is an in-person conference.

We have listed various ideas below. Should you have come across particularly useful formats which you would like others to know about, please send your suggestion to info@marecentre.nl and we will add it to the list.

- **Roundtables.** Select a group of panelists (possibly including scholars, stakeholder groups and/or policy makers) to discuss a cutting-edge theme or a pressing question that requires collective brainstorming.

- **Discussant-led and pre-circulated paper panels.** Presenters circulate full papers or extended abstracts in advance; presentations are kept short, and one or two discussants open the discussion.

- **Topic-specific discussion groups.** Identify a central problem or methodology which, after adequate introduction(s), invites an open discussion, for example as a world café (participants discuss one question per table in small groups, move between tables in rounds, and table hosts report the patterns back to the room).

- **Fishbowl.** A small inner circle of four or five speakers discusses a question while the audience sits around them. One chair in the circle stays empty: anyone from the audience can take it to join the conversation, and one of the speakers then leaves to free a seat again.

- **Workshops or trainings.** Organize your panel as a workshop or training that allows participants to learn about new methodologies, ideas, or research skills. We particularly welcome sessions for early-career researchers, for example on grant writing, publishing, project development or filmmaking.

- **Interviews.** Set up your panel so that scholars and practitioners interview each other, inviting reflexive discussion on recent papers, achievements or projects.

- **Visual.** Photo presentations, photo essays or short documentary films, with time for discussion.

- **PechaKucha.** A storytelling format in which presenters use a strict and concise presentation format (20 slides, 20 seconds of commentary each), leaving more time for discussion.

- **Debate.** Organize a debate on a controversial topic that benefits from reflective scrutiny of different positions.

- **Book, film, art and sensory sessions.** Book presentations, meet-the-author sessions, exhibitions, artistic interventions, and audio papers or listening sessions (composed sound pieces, such as field recordings of coasts, harbours and markets, presented in place of a spoken talk), as well as other sensory expressions (tactile experiences, body movements and internal senses). Please indicate needs such as a quiet room or speakers.