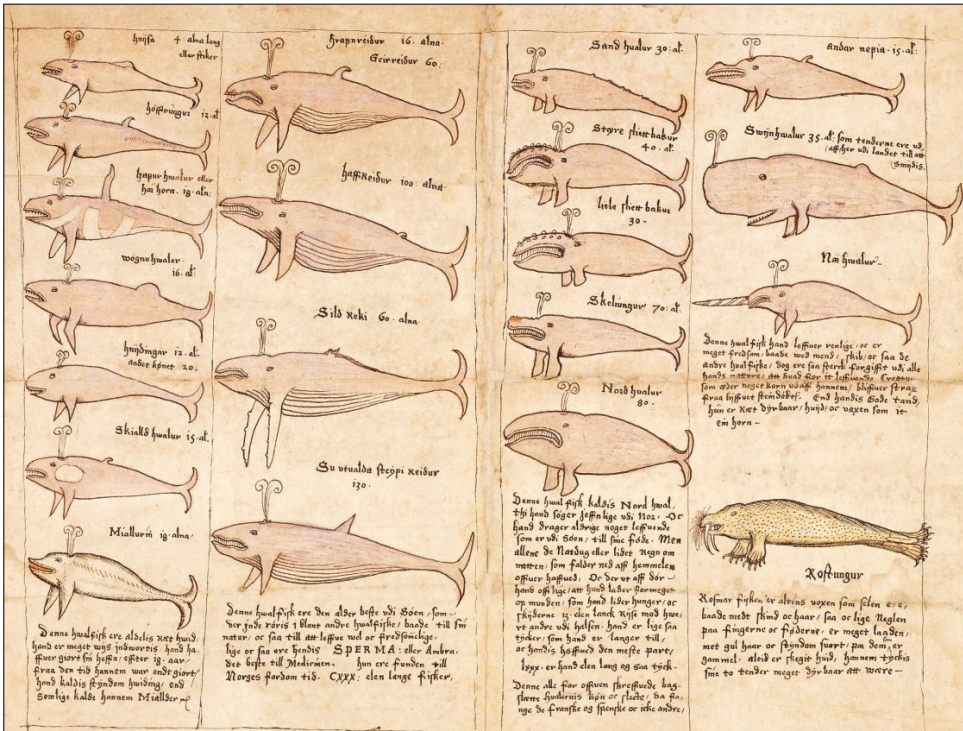




The University of Iceland
Reykjavik, Iceland
June 22-23, 2026



Courtesy of Mercedes Minck



A drawing of 19 whales and a walrus by Jón Guðmundsson, 17th-century poet and scholar.

Whales and Humans

Past Entanglements and Current Relations

Monday, June 22, 2026

9:00 am Coffee

9:30 am **Welcome and Opening Remarks**
Kristín Ingvarsdóttir and Ryan Tucker Jones

10:00 am **Session I: Whales and Humans in Iberia**
Panel Chair: Cristina Brito
Rie Takagaki, Associate Professor, Niigata University
"From Local Whaling to Global Seas: Ecology, Politics, and Memory in the Basque Country"
Nina Vieira, Centre for the Humanities, NOVA University of Lisbon, Portugal
"A Deep Dive into the Critical Chronology of 'Portuguese Whaling'"

11:30 am Coffee Break

11:45 am **Session II: Northern Europe and the World**
Panel Chair: Jun Akamine
Katherine Sinclair, Assistant Professor, University of Alaska-Anchorage
"Professor Gruvel' in the Gulf of Guinea: Complicating Interwar Whale Conservation"
Yuichi Hiono, Associate Professor, Sekei University
"From North to South: The Expansion of Whaling Grounds and the Bounty System in Late Eighteenth-Century Britain"

1:15 pm Lunch

2:45 pm **Session III: Whales in Iceland**
Panel Chair: Fynn Holm
Unnur Birna Karlsdóttir, University of Iceland Research Centre in East Iceland
"The Role of Whales in the Culture and Economy of East Iceland before 1900" (Iceland, 19th century)
Hanne Strager, Director of Contents and Exhibitions, The Whale
"Understanding the Culling of Killer Whales in Iceland in the 1950s"

4:15 pm Coffee

4:30 pm **Session IV: Keynote**
Introduction: Kristín Ingvarsdóttir
Lísabet Guðmundsdóttir, Postdoctoral Fellow, Arkeologisk Museum, Stavanger
Vicki Szabo, Professor, Western Carolina University
"A Transdisciplinary Study of Whale Use in Iceland from Landnám through Late Middle Ages: The Case of Hafnir"

Tuesday, June 23, 2026

8:30 am Coffee

9:00 am **Session V: Pacific Whaling**
Panel Chair: Lissa Wadewitz
Hinaikawaihi'ilei Keala, MA Candidate, University of Hawaii at Manoa
"Aia i Alika na Holokahiki: Nineteenth-Century Native Hawaiian Whalers and the Ambivalence of the Sacred"
Chenyang Sun, PhD Candidate, Freie Universitat Berlin
"The Economic Legacy of Imperial Marine Extraction: Long-Run Effects of Japanese Colonial Whaling on Korea's Postwar Fisheries"

10:30 am Coffee Break

11:00 am **Session VI: Dolphins in Asia**
Panel Chair: Jakobina Arch
Fatma Esen, PhD Candidate Georgetown University
"At the Edges of Empire: Human-Cetacean Entanglements in the Eastern Black Sea"
David Pietz, Professor, University of Arizona
"Extinction and its Aftermath: The Yangtze River Baiji Dolphin"

12:30 pm **Business Lunch**
Sponsored by Jun Akamine ArCS III

2:00 pm **Session VII: Gray Whale Science and Recovery**
Panel Chair: Ryan Tucker Jones
Jason Colby, Professor, University of Victoria
"The Extinction that Never Happened: Untangling the History of Eastern Pacific Gray Whales"
Grant Mongin, PhD Candidate, University of Oregon
"Becoming a Modern Cetologist: Research Tools and Gray Whale Encounters in Baja California, 1946-1968"

Dinner at the Nordic House

Invited Participants

Ailish Lalor
Harvard University

Khatijah Rahmat
Max Planck Institute for the History of Science

