

Oceans as Technology: Visual Representations of Change

Maria Cappelletti, Humanities Department;
Professor Katharine Anderson.

Research Topic

In an international context, analyze the interactions between new technologies and scientific imagination regarding oceans in the 1920s-1930s.

Abstract

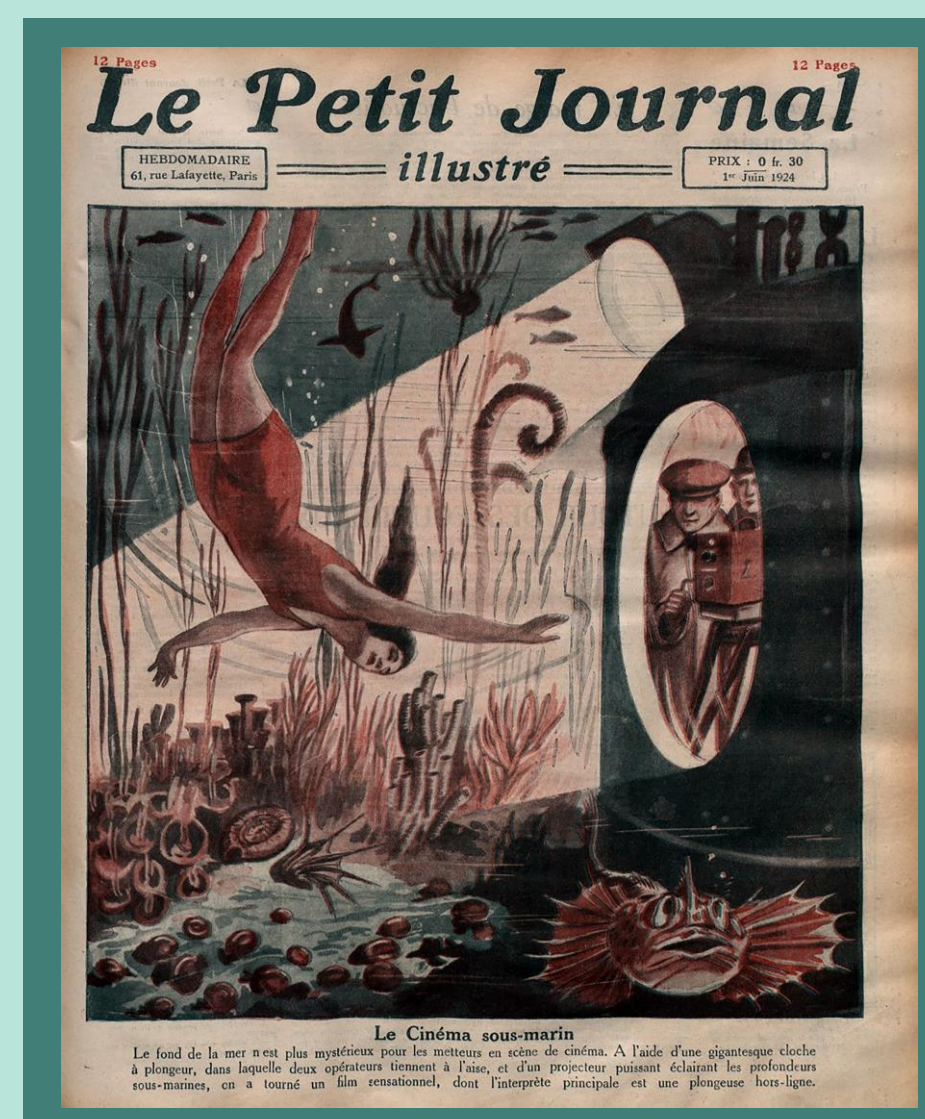
The research project analyses the representations of the oceans by examining the scientific approaches present in visual representations of the era. It examines the social, political and technological components of the images, to showcase how the value and understanding of the oceans has evolved through traditions of scientific and technological imagination.

Methods

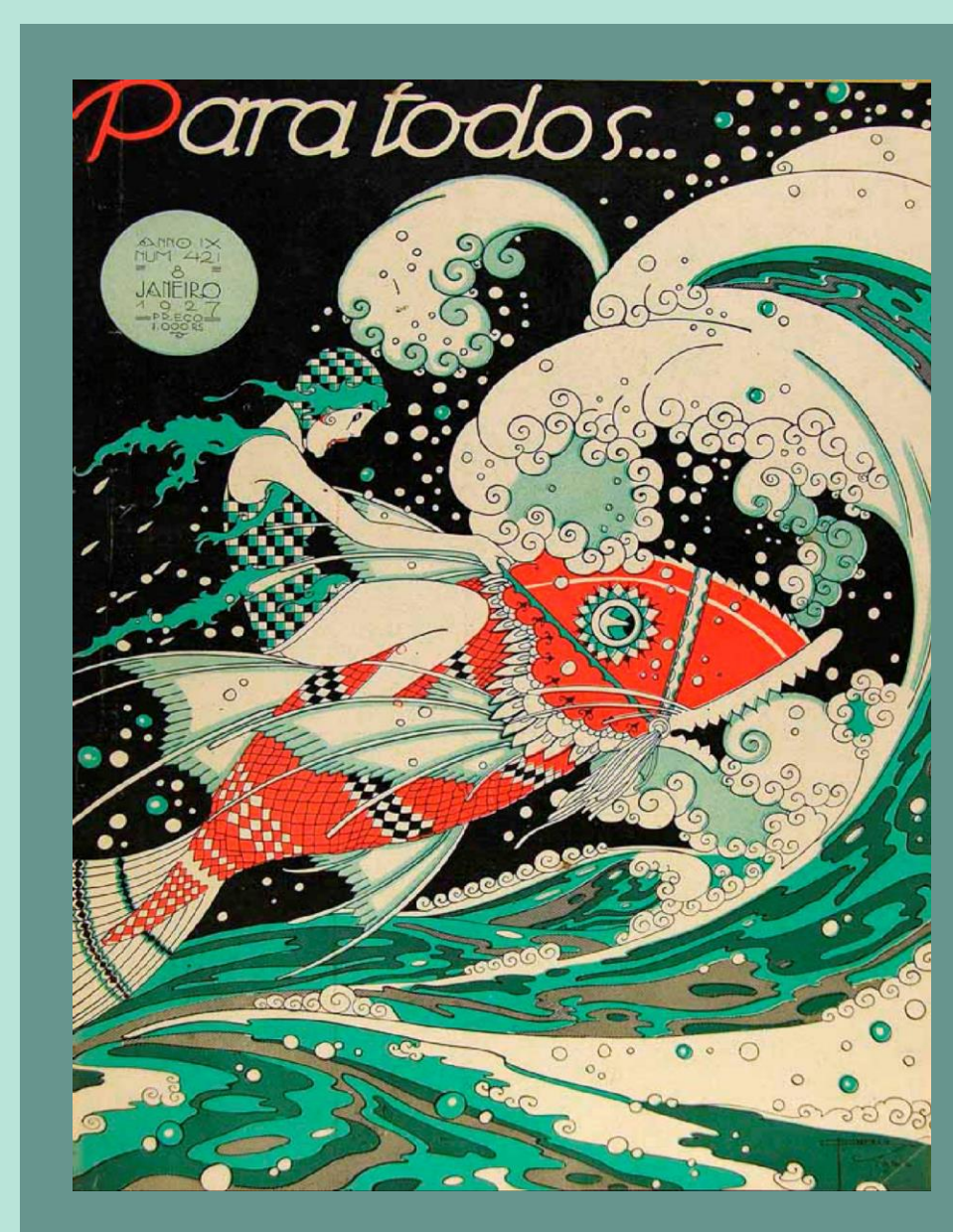
- Created a list of online resources to search for visual representations of oceans, such as periodicals, popular novels and advertisements.
- Generated a digital and bibliographic archive of the data collected.
- Develop categories to analyze the visual representations through lenses ranging from geography, life-forms, technology and icon environments.
- Identified recurring themes across images, in an international context.

Results & Conclusions

- A striking change in the representations of oceans from a more fantastic to a more technological
- Found more online data for the late 19th century and early 20th regarding the topic rather than the desired period.
- The integration of different technological advances and mechanics into life forms was a prominent theme throughout countries.
- There was a significant presence of vessels with physical similarities to ocean liners, planes and boats.
- This research challenges the notion of ahistorical oceans as well as demonstrates oceanographic, environmental history.
- It also aids in the process of rethinking the ideas of imagined futures and understanding the historical roots of the present environmental crisis.



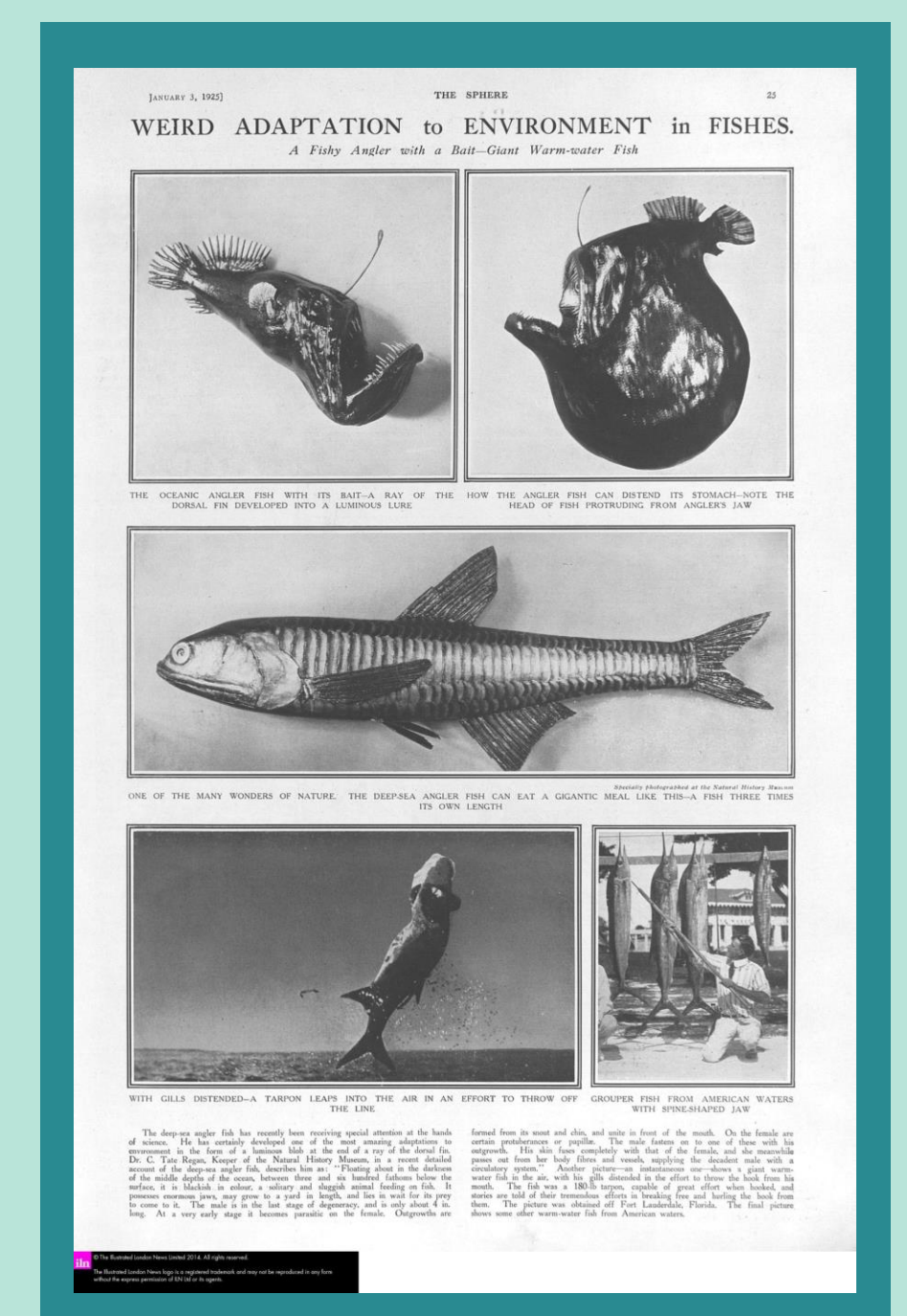
France, 1924
Cover of newspaper Le Petit Journal Illustré with no author from Gallica BnF.
ark:/12148/bpt6k717630g



Brazil, 1927
Magazine cover by José C. de Brito e Cunha, Para Todos archive
<http://www.jotacarlos.org/revista/>



Italy, 1922
Photograph of the Marconis with no author from The Library of Congress.
<https://www.loc.gov/item/96512883/>



United States, 1924
The Sphere page from ProQuest.
<http://ezproxy.library.yorku.ca/login?url=http://search.proquest.com/docview/1689100822?accountid=15182>



United States, 1934
Cover of Modern Mechanix and Inventions 12 n.02; Archive.org
<https://archive.org/details/modernmechanixandinventionsv12n02193406damaged43444748/page/n61/mode/2up>