

**P-150-4**

**Potentiality of marine climatological data for the western Mediterranean from  
Catalan ships' log-books (18th and 19th centuries)**

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In order to obtain more information about past climates, new palaeoclimatic techniques and sources are needed to evaluate the present climatic change. Marine meteorological data from documentary sources, i.e. ships' log-books, is a recognized *proxy* tool for climatic reconstructions. The Mediterranean basin, due to its historical background, has an enormous amount of information not yet exploited. In addition, the geographical characteristics of the region (a closed sea surrounded by mountains and dotted with islands) and its latitudinal situation makes this area exceptional since is affected by many climatic interactions.

This investigation analyses the potentiality of the information provided by this source during the golden period of Catalan trade with America (eighteenth and nineteenth centuries), focusing on the type of meteorological data available for the western Mediterranean basin. The structure and evolution of the log-books and the methodology used for the transcription of weather data will also receive attention.