

Preface

This is a research volume that brings together organisational, social and health psychology research concerned with the maritime. There is no other volume that attempts to do this and hence this is the first volume of its type in this rapidly developing area. The contributors to the volume cover a range of disciplines, including psychology and maritime science; along with other social, health and physical scientists and practitioners.

The importance of psychosocial factors is being increasingly recognised in the maritime field; by students, lecturers, seafarers, employers, unions, insurance companies and international regulatory bodies. With over 1 million seafarers and English as the required international maritime language, this English-language volume on *Maritime Psychology* is intended to both recognise and give impetus to the further development of this field internationally.

Of course prior to this volume many people have been doing maritime psychology, for many years, and we make no claim for this volume being in any way exhaustive or comprehensive. Rather the idea here was to provide both individual researchers and research teams with an opportunity to evaluate the state of the literature in their own area, and to think through how their area might develop in the near future, identifying key research questions.

The volume is unashamedly applied, with most chapters having a case study to illustrate the topic of the chapter. Most, but not all, of the chapters focus on the commercial maritime transport sector; and while this sector is certainly central to maritime psychology, it is not synonymous with it.

The book will be of interest to practitioners, lecturers, researchers and students of occupational and health psychology, of maritime science, occupational medicine and nursing; architecture and design; and of other social, health and physical scientists in the area. I would like to thank the contributors for participating in this volume; Emma Sherry for editorial assistance and Springer editorial team for their patience and support in bringing this volume to fruition.

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