

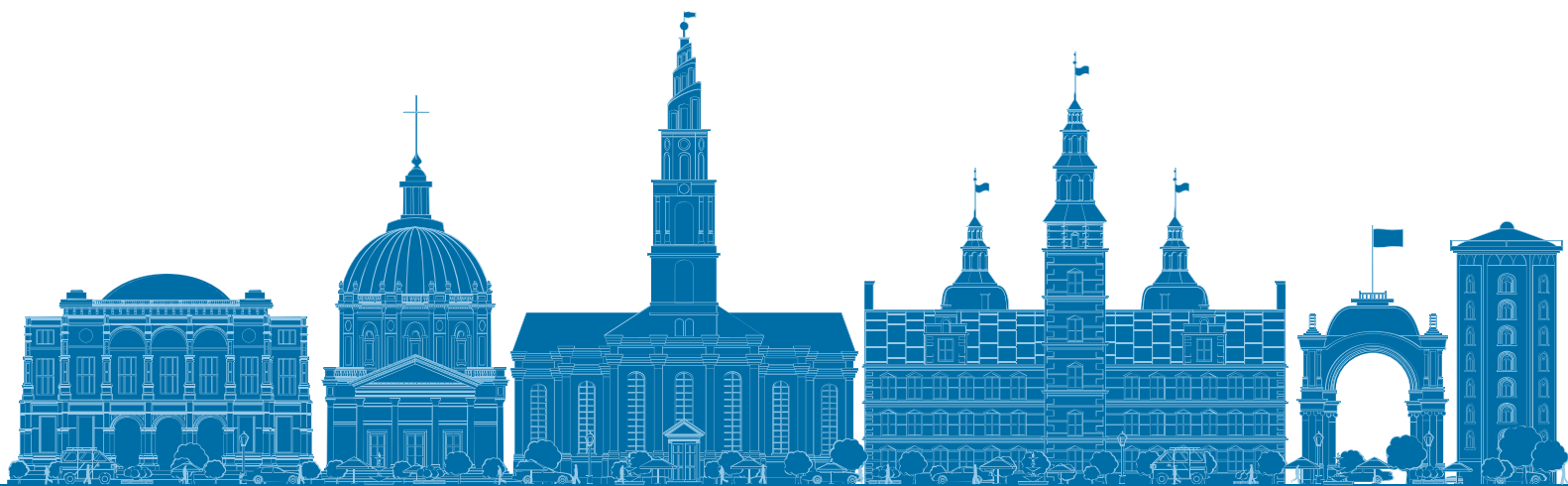
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Is it really science vs. humanities? A cross-discipline study mapping university students' knowledge, attitudes, and behaviour toward ocean sciences issues

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The ocean environment, as an integral part of Earth's interconnected global ecosystem, is profoundly affected by the environmental challenges confronting our planet, despite its immense scale and capacity to buffer changes. Under the prism of SDG14 of the Agenda 2030 focusing on "Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development" and the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030) operationalized by the Ocean Literacy concept, the present study attempts to bring to light the persisting deficit in Ocean Literacy by focusing on two major categories of university students, those enrolled in science and humanities disciplines; It also argues, based on current research, that both fields equally can provide significant support towards the protection and sustainable management of the ocean and its resources, as content science knowledge is only one of the different dimensions that can lead to pro-environmental attitudes and behaviour. In this regard, a structured questionnaire was administered to 495 university students participating in a cross-discipline study from eight science and humanities Departments located in Greece and Italy. The results revealed moderate content knowledge, in favour of the science students, as expected, holding though common misconceptions. However, all university students showed satisfactory pro-environmental attitudes and behaviour. These findings indicate that not only natural science experts but everyone with an inherent interest in the ocean can be receptive to scientific concepts, even if these are non-familiar such as the ocean sciences ones.

Strand 19: Teaching and Learning Science at the University Level

S19.05 - Exploring Science Education: Epistemology, Literacy, and Innovative Training Approaches (oral presentations)

29/08/2025 09:00-10:30



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