

Professor Kate Fullagar

Professor Kate Fullagar is a historian of the eighteenth-century world and the British Empire and with a particular interest in the many Indigenous societies it encountered. Her interest in comparative indigenous history focuses on the eastern Pacific (Polynesia), the American southeast (esp. Cherokees), and the Eora of today's Australia. Professor Fullagar has held visiting fellowships at the University of York, Duke University, Yale, and Princeton. Her second monograph *The Warrior, the Voyager, and the Artist* with Yale University Press was published in 2020.

Three Lives in an Age of Empire: Exploring Pacific and Atlantic Worlds during the eighteenth century

Tuesday 15th September (12-1pm)

This paper draws on research from my recent book, *The Warrior, the Voyager, and the Artist: Three Lives in an Age of Empire* (YUP, 2020). It explores the unexpectedly intertwining lives of a Cherokee warrior called Ostenaco, a Pacific voyager called Mai and the British artist who painted them both, Joshua Reynolds. In addition to being a reflection on biography and empire, the book makes a case for the productive comparison of Pacific Islander history with Native American history, and the need to write imperial history from Indigenous perspectives (not just with Indigenous voices). What is gained (and what is lost) by comparing Indigenous experiences of similar phenomena? What might an Indigenous history of empire look like? My paper will discuss these issues in relation to eighteenth-century individuals but invites responses from other eras and through other lenses.

