

**Institute for Humanities and Social Sciences
Research Seminar Program 2021**

Tuesday 1st June (12-1pm)

To be held via Teams Meeting

Associate Professor Shino Konishi

Shino Konishi is a historian based in the Institute for Humanities and Social Sciences at the Australian Catholic University. This paper stems from an ARC Discovery project she led on exploration and encounters, in collaboration with Maria Nugent and Tiffany Shellam. She is the author of *The Aboriginal Male in the Enlightenment World* (2012), and co-edited with Maria and Tiffany two collections on Indigenous intermediaries and exploration. Shino is Aboriginal, and identifies with the Yawuru people of Broome Western Australia.



Encounters in Indigenous History.

The history of early cross-cultural encounters between Aboriginal people and Europeans has long intrigued historians, as the arrival of Europeans was seen to mark the beginning of Australian history. These first encounters were once interpreted as a 'fatal impact', inaugurating the coming of the white man, and the seemingly inevitable destruction of Aboriginal people and society. For later historians such encounters were envisaged as a collision between two different worlds, signalling the beginning of Aboriginal resistance to colonisation. In turn, others have seen these early interactions as a meeting of cultures, marked by curiosity not resistance, and shaped by accommodation of cultural differences. My doctoral research examined eighteenth-century encounters in Australia, with an emphasis on what they revealed about European representational practices and ideas about savagery and manliness. Since that time, I have become more interested in the other side of the encounter, and the insights such unexpected meetings reveal about Aboriginal responses to the arrival of strangers. In this presentation I will focus on early nineteenth-century encounters between French explorers and Aboriginal people in Western Australia, considering these meetings in terms of the formal and improvised protocols that both Aboriginal people, particularly Noongar and Yamatji, and French explorers engaged in their meetings and attempts to make sense of each other.



N^o HOLLANDE: Baie des Chiens-marins, Presqu'île Péron: ENTREVUE AVEC LES SAUVAGES.

Jacques Arago, *Nouvelle Hollande: Baie des Chiens-marins Presque île Péron, entrevue avec les sauvages*, in Louis de Freycinet, *Atlas Historique*, 1825, plate 12.