

Institute for Humanities and Social Sciences
Research Seminar Program 2021

Tuesday 5th October (12-1pm)

To be held via Teams Meeting

Dr Kristie Flannery

Kristie Flannery is a historian of colonial Latin America and the Iberian Pacific world. She completed her Ph.D. at the University of Texas at Austin in 2019 and took up the Killam Postdoctoral Fellowship at the University of British Columbia before joining the IHSS as a research fellow. Kristie's first book "Fighting Pirates, Forging Empire: Catholic Anti-Piracy and Spanish Colonial Rule in the Pacific" is under contract with U Penn Press.



Fighting Pirates, Forging Empire in the Early Modern Pacific World.

The Spanish empire in the Philippines strikes us as an impossible colony. Vast distances separated the Southeast Asian archipelago from centers of Spanish imperial power in the Americas and Europe. Spaniards were always a minority in the islands that were home to a large and diverse indigenous population in addition to a large population of Chinese migrants and their descendants. Moreover, the Spanish colony was surrounded by enemies. Rival Asian states and European powers vied for control of maritime trade and territory and staged repeated attacks on colonial borderlands and the capital of Manila. Flannery draws on extensive archival research to explain why piracy counterintuitive became a force that shored up Spanish colonial rule in the islands, pushing *indios* and *sangleyes* to form alliances with militant Spanish missionaries and colonial officials to confront the slave-raiding sea robbers that threatened their lives and livelihoods.

