

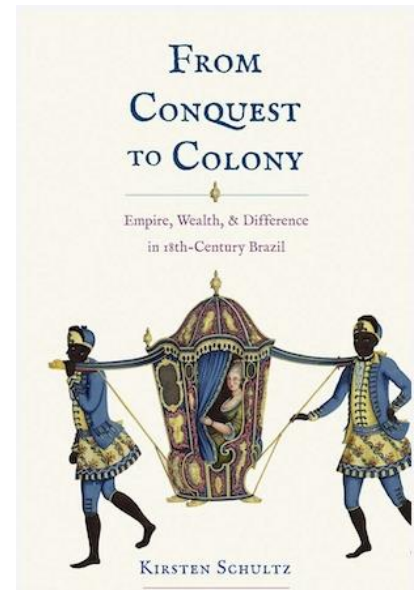
Monday 4 March - 5:15pm

SG1 Ground Floor, Alison Richard Building, 7 West Road, CB3 9DT

Labor and the Geography of Empire in Eighteenth-Century Brazil

Abstract

Drawing on [*From Conquest to Colony: Empire, Wealth and Difference in Eighteenth-Century Brazil* \(Yale UP, 2023\)](#), this talk will survey the broader shift in official thinking about Brazil's status within the eighteenth-century Portuguese empire and then turn to an examination of debates about labor and social order in Brazil and Portugal. Guided by the mercantile maxim that population is a source of prosperity because it is a source of labor, royal officials on both sides of the Atlantic sought to reinvigorate longer trajectories of occupation, production, and extraction in Portuguese America through a dynamic and calculated arrangement of peoples. In the second half of the eighteenth century, the regulation of mobility, labor, and the sociopolitical relations that racial slavery created both further integrated the empire's parts and fortified the discontinuities that made Portugal metropolitan and Brazil colonial.



Kirsten Schultz, Professor, Department of History, Seton Hall University (New Jersey), is a historian of Brazil and the Portuguese empire. She is the author of *Tropical Versailles: Empire, Monarchy and the Portuguese Royal Court in Rio de Janeiro, 1808-1821* (2001; Portuguese translation published by Civilização Brasileira, 2008) and *From Conquest to Colony: Empire, Wealth and Difference in Eighteenth Century Brazil* (forthcoming Yale UP), as well as articles on political culture, economic thought, and slavery in the Portuguese empire. Her research has received funding from the American Council of Learned Societies and the National Endowment for the Humanities.