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Pirates, Merchants, Settlers, and Slaves: Colonial America and the Indo-Atlantic World

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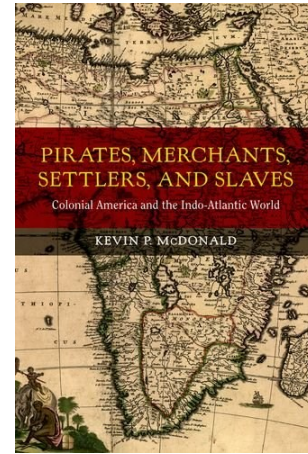
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Faculty Pub Night – Fall 2015

Date: December 1, 2015

Speaker: Kevin P. McDonald



Introduction

The fourth and final Faculty Pub Night of Fall 2015 features Kevin P. McDonald, Assistant Professor of Colonial America & Atlantic World History at LMU's Bellarmine College of Liberal Arts.

Professor McDonald will discuss his recent publication, *Pirates, Merchants, Settlers, and Slaves: Colonial America and the Indo-Atlantic World*.

About the Author

Kevin P. McDonald is an Assistant Professor of Colonial America and Atlantic World History at Loyola Marymount University (2012-present), with research interests in maritime history, pirates and piracy, colonialism/empire, and slavery. Dr. McDonald received his Ph.D. in History at the University of California, Santa Cruz (2008) and the M.A. in History from Rutgers University/NJIT. He was an A.W. Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow in the Humanities at Carnegie Mellon University (2011-12). Professor McDonald has taught courses in American history, world history, and maritime history at UC Santa Cruz, The Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art, and New York University. His book, *Pirates, Merchants, Settlers, and Slaves: Colonial America and the Indo-Atlantic World*, (University of California Press, March 2015), explores a global trade network located on the peripheries of world empires and shows the illicit ways American colonists met the consumer demand for slaves and East India goods. The book reveals that pirates played a significant yet misunderstood role in this period and that seafaring slaves were both commodities and essential components in the Indo-Atlantic maritime networks. His next project will examine the transportation of Pacific breadfruit to the West Indies in the Age of Atlantic Revolutions.

For more information about Kevin, please see his [CV](#).

About the Author's Work

In the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries, more than a thousand pirates poured from the Atlantic into the Indian Ocean. There, according to Kevin P. McDonald, they helped launch an informal

trade network that spanned the Atlantic and Indian Ocean worlds, connecting the North American colonies with the rich markets of the East Indies. Rather than conducting their commerce through chartered companies based in London or Lisbon, colonial merchants in New York entered into an alliance with Euro-American pirates based in Madagascar. *Pirates, Merchants, Settlers, and Slaves* explores the resulting global trade network located on the peripheries of world empires and shows the illicit ways American colonists met the consumer demand for slaves and East India goods. The book reveals that pirates played a significant yet misunderstood role in this period and that seafaring slaves were both commodities and essential components in the Indo-Atlantic maritime networks.

Enlivened by stories of Indo-Atlantic sailors and cargoes that included textiles, spices, jewels and precious metals, chinaware, alcohol, and drugs, this book links previously isolated themes of piracy, colonialism, slavery, transoceanic networks, and cross-cultural interactions and extends the boundaries of traditional Atlantic, national, world, and colonial histories.