



SGNCS

Society for Global
Nineteenth-Century Studies

**Empire and Imperial Identity:
Royal Tours and Pageantry in the Long Nineteenth Century
Donna Brunero**

This workshop draws on the tradition of royal tours of the British Empire and jubilee events as a means to explore how the British Empire was presented and experienced in Asia. By focusing on the idea of the staging and reception of imperial events, this workshop explores how imperial rule was projected and presented through pageantry, parades and performances. Our workshop revisits David Cannadine's *Ornamentalism: How the British Saw Their Empire* (2001) as a prompt to reflect on how scholarship on the visual and performative aspects of empire has evolved in the last two decades.

To provide a local dimension, case studies from Singapore, the 'Liverpool of the East', form the starting point for our workshop.

Questions we might discuss include: where and how do we see indigenous communities (and rulers) in events celebrating empire? How might we read the official narratives and images produced to document royal tours and parades? And what of unofficial reception and response to such imperial pageantry? Can multiple perspectives across class, race, or gender provide new insights into the performance and reception of imperial power in Asia? And, is there value in taking a comparative approach? For surely as British royals toured empire, other European royals and Asian indigenous sovereigns and elites, also found mobility through maritime travel and tours.

This workshop is open to all, but graduate students working on empire in Asia, comparative imperial histories and cultural histories of empires are particularly encouraged. Expressions of interest are welcome by providing a short overview of your current work in progress or research area (250 words). These overviews will be circulated to participants prior to the workshop. **Please submit your expression of interest by 1 February 2023 to dbrunero@nus.edu.sg**

Donna Brunero is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of History at the National University of Singapore. She researches and teaches in the fields of maritime and British imperial history and the intersections between the two. She has published works on Singapore's place in tours of empire, and the lives of Britons in treaty port China. With Brian P. Farrell she edited *Empire in Asia: A New Global History. Vol 2, The Long Nineteenth Century*, Bloomsbury, 2018.