

Dr Kathleen BURKE

Education

- Doctor of Philosophy, University of Toronto, History and Food Studies, 2022
 - Graduate Certificate, Heritage and Museum Studies, Australian National University, 2022
 - Graduate Certificate, Teaching and Learning in Higher Education, University of Notre Dame Australia, 2020
 - Master of History, King's College London/Humboldt Universitaet zu Berlin, 2017
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Professional Experience

2022-

Postdoctoral Fellow, NUS

Research Area/Topic/Discipline

Food history

Global Asia

Histories from below

Gender

Empires

Short Biography

Kathleen Burke received her PhD in History and Food Studies from the University of Toronto. Her PhD dissertation was runner-up for the Australian Historical Association General Thesis Prize, together with being longlisted for the best dissertation at the International Convention of Asian Scholars.

Her current book project, *Hearth of Empire: A History of Indian Ocean Cuisine*, shows how “mestiza” women and enslaved cooks produced cuisine in colonial homes in Jakarta, Indonesia, the headquarters of the Dutch East India Company’s empire in the Indian Ocean. Placing a rare corpus of cookbooks at the heart of the narrative, it argues that these underrepresented historical actors produced new knowledge which sustained the empire materially and symbolically.

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Her second project builds on this work by exploring trans-imperial food cultures in Portuguese and Dutch empires in the Indian Ocean, connecting historiographies which are rarely investigated together. It aims to uncover the knowledge exchanges and transformations that occurred when Indigenous American plants were transported to the Indian Ocean, situating these within finely grained epistemological contexts. By exploring the continuities and transformations in this knowledge as it travelled to South Africa, Macau, and Goa, transcending the boundaries of nation-states and national empires, it examines how Malay-speaking historical actors responded to, created, and transformed new knowledge.

Her most recent publication is “I Hope it Tastes Good”: Gender, Race and Class in Colonial Kitchens in the Dutch Indian Ocean Empire”, which was published in *Gender & History*.

Publications

Refereed Articles

Krishnendu Ray, Kathleen Burke, and Stephanie Jolly, “Food in the Indian Ocean World: Mobility, Materiality, and Cultural Exchange”, *Verge: Studies in Global Asias*, 9:2 (2023), 2-36, DOI: [10.1353/vrq.2023.a903019](https://doi.org/10.1353/vrq.2023.a903019)

“I Hope it Tastes Good: Gender, Race and Class in Dutch Colonial Kitchens”, 27 October 2022, *Gender & History*, DOI: [10.1111/1468-0424.12660](https://doi.org/10.1111/1468-0424.12660)

“Pleasures of the Garden: The Mobility of Plants, People and Power in the Dutch Indian Ocean Empire”, *Crossroads: Interdisciplinary Journal of Asian Interactions*, 1 (2020), 1-22.

Awards/Grants and Distinctions

Center for Global Asia, New York University Shanghai, Doctoral Fellowship, 2021

Ernst Herzog Research Fellowship, Library of Gotha, 2020

Natalie Zemon Davis Award, University of Toronto, 2019

Van Winter Stipend for History of Food, Allard Pierson Collection, University of Amsterdam, 2018

Van Scaliger Fellowship, Leiden University, 2018

Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst (DAAD) research grant, 2018