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Technologies of Empire: Writing, Imagination, and the Making of Imperial Networks, 1750–1820

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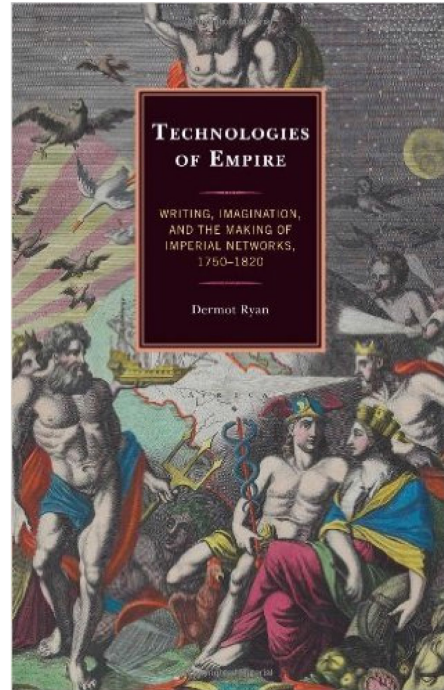
About the Author

Dermot Ryan's research focuses on British and Irish literature of the long eighteenth century with a particular emphasis on print culture and postcolonial theory. He is the current Director of the English Graduate Program. He is the author of Technologies of Empire: Writing, Imagination, and the Making of Imperial Networks, 1750-1820 (University of Delaware Press, 2013). He has published articles on literature and empire in Studies in Romanticism, Eighteenth-Century Studies, and Études irlandaises, as well as on the romantic lineages of Karl Marx in SubStance: A Review of Theory and Literary Criticism. In addition, he has co-authored (with Casey Shoop) an essay on David Mitchell's novel, *Cloud Atlas* and has an article on Marx and translation forthcoming in Boundary 2

About the Author's Work

Technologies of Empire looks at the ways in which writers of the long eighteenth century treat writing and imagination as technologies that can produce rather than merely portray empire. Authors ranging from Adam Smith to William Wordsworth consider writing not as part of a larger logic of orientalism that represents non-European subjects and spaces in fixed ways, but as a dynamic technology that organizes these subjects and transforms these spaces. *Technologies of Empire* reads the imagination as an instrument that works in tandem with writing, expanding and consolidating the networks of empire. Through readings across a variety of genres, ranging from Smith's *The Wealth of Nations* and Edmund Burke's *Reflections on the Revolution in France* to Maria Edgeworth's Irish fiction and Wordsworth's epic poetry, this study offers a new account of writing's role in empire-building and uncovers a genealogy of the romantic imagination that is shot through by the imperatives of imperialism.