

VAST EARLY AMERICA : A TRANSCONTINENTAL CONVERSATION

Omohundro Institute 27th annual conference
Université de Poitiers

MSHS, 5 rue Théodore Lefebvre, 86000 Poitiers

This conference is co-sponsored by the USC Huntington Early Modern Studies Institute, MIMMOC (Mémoires, Identités, Marginalités dans le Monde Occidental Contemporain), and MSHS Poitiers.

WEDNESDAY, 19th June

9:00–10:00 am
Registration/Coffee

10:00–10:30 am
Welcome Addresses
Salle des Conférences (MSHS)

10:30am–12:00pm

SESSION 1: Stuart Women, Materiality, and Plantation: New Directions in English Colonial History

Salle des Conférences (MSHS)

Chair: Zara Anishanslin (University of Delaware, US)

Lauren Working (University of York, UK), “Travel Books, Still Lives, and Tobacco in Arcadia: Looking for Plantation in Early Stuart Female Sociability”

Misha Ewen (University of Bristol, UK), “Women, Plantation, and Slavery in Late-Seventeenth-Century England and Barbados”

Susannah Lyon-Whaley (University of Auckland, NZ), “All the Queen’s Feathers: Politicising Material Ecologies in Restoration Rhode Island”

Comment: The Audience

SESSION 2: Perspectives on Trans-Imperial Trade and Colonialism, 1630-1660

Amphitheater Agnès Varda (Building A3)

Chair: Deborah Hamer (New Netherlands Institute, New York, US)

Joris van den Tol (Radboud University, The Netherlands), “Formalizing a transnational network in the seventeenth-century Atlantic”

Paul Musselwhite (Dartmouth College, US), “Regulation, Rebellion, and the Foundation of the Plantation System in the Leeward Islands, 1623-51”

Elizabeth Hines (University of Chicago, US), “Anglo-Dutch Atlantic Visions”

Comment: The Audience

SESSION 3: Interethnic Violence, Captivity, and Incorporation in the Indigenous Borderlands of the Vast Early Americas: New Approaches to Old Problems

Amphitheater Virginia Woolf (Building A3)

Chair : Agnès Trouillet (Nanterre University, France)

Joaquín Rivaya-Martínez (Texas State University, US), “Captivity in Comanche-Spanish Relations, ca. 1700-1821”

Gilles Havard (CNRS, France), “War, Sacrifice, and Integration: A Reexamination of the Natchez-French Conflict of 1729”

Christophe Giudicelli (Université Sorbonne, France), “Another World Was Possible: Spanish Captives in the Calchaquí Valley at the Dawn of Tucumán’s History”

María Bárbara Zepeda Cortés (Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton University and Lehigh University, US), “Baja California, 1768–1769: An Imperial Scientific and Social Laboratory”

Comment: The Audience

12:00–2:00pm

Lunch (buffet) cafeteria Lettres & Langues (Building A3)

2:00–4:00pm

SESSION 4: Roundtable—Early American Studies outside the United States: Views on the International Scholarship

Salle des Conférences (MSHS)

Chair & Moderator: Kristin Condotta Lee (Washington University in Saint Louis, US)

- Jessica Roitman (Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam, The Netherlands)
- Matteo Binasco (Università degli Stranieri di Siena, Italy)
- Agata Bloch (Institute of History of Polish Academy of Sciences, Poland)
- Markus Diepold (University of Regensburg, Germany)

SESSION 5: Roundtable—America 2026: Recent French Scholarship on the American Revolution

Amphitheater Agnès Varda (Building A3)

Chair & Moderator: Agnès Delahaye (Université Lyon 2, France)

Carine Lounissi (Université Rouen, France), *The American Revolution and Europe. New Transnational Perspectives, Revue Française d'Etudes Américaines* (2023)

Bertrand Van Ruymbeke (Université Paris 8, France), *The American Revolution in 21st-Ceentury France* (2024)

Eric Schnakenbourg (Nantes Université, France), *Two republics in 'Quasi-War': France and the United States, 1796-1800* or *Deux républiques en "quasiguerre": la France et les Etats-Unis, 1796-1800* (Paris, Tallandier, 2024)

Marie-Jeanne Rossignol (Université Paris Cité, France), *European Friends of the American Revolution* (Charlottesville, University of Virginia Press, 2023)

SESSION 6: Roundtable—Living History : Interpretations and Challenges

Amphitheater Virginia Woolf (Building A3)

Chair & Moderator : Peter Inker (Colonial Williamsburg, US)

Fallon Burner (Indigenous interpreter at Colonial Williamsburg)

Russell Reed (Indigenous interpreter at Colonial Williamsburg)

Stephen Seals (interpreter of James Armistead Lafayette at Colonial Williamsburg)

Melanie Moreau (director of the Musée du Nouveau Monde, La Rochelle)

Olivier Jacquot (in charge of the American collections at the BnF)

Krystel Gualdé (scientific director of the Musée d'Histoire, Nantes)

SESSION 7
KEYNOTE 1

5:30 to 7 :00pm

Espace Mendès France—a center for scientific, technical, and industrial culture
1 place de la Cathédrale
86000 Poitiers

Herman Bennett (City University of New York, US) in conversation with Caroline Pennock
(University of Sheffield, UK)
Introduction by Gilles Havard (CNRS, France)

7:00pm

Cocktail Reception
Espace Mendès France

THURSDAY, 20th June

9:00–10:00 am

registration/coffee

10:00–12:00pm

SESSION 8: American Revolution International

Salle des conférences (MSHS)

Chair: Nora Slonimsky (Iona University, US)

Christopher L. Brown (Columbia University, US), “The War for American Independence on the West African Coast”

Brian DeLay (University of California, Berkeley, US), “Firearms and the Age of Revolutions”

Sarah M. S. Pearsall (Johns Hopkins University, US), “Global History of the American Revolution”

Nathan Perl-Rosenthal (University of Southern California, Los Angeles, US), “Practical Histories of the American Revolution”

Chernoh Sesay (DePaul University, Chicago, US), “African American Freemasonry, Transnationalism and the American Revolution”

Comment : The Audience

SESSION 9: Roundtable—Oceans Apart: A Roundtable on Absenteeism, Family, and Freedom in the Anglo-Francophone Atlantic World

Amphitheater Agnès Varda (Building A3)

Chair & Moderator: Natalie Zacek (University of Manchester, UK)

- Jason Daniels (California State University, East Bay, US)
- Jennifer L. Palmer (University of Georgia, US)
- Christer Petley (University of Southampton, UK)
- Deirdre Lyons (University of Chicago, US)
- Frances Bell (William & Mary, US)

SESSION 10: Roundtable—Transcontinental Scholarly Conversations in Print: An Editors' Roundtable

Amphitheater Virginia Woolf (Building A3)

Chair & Moderator: Judith Ridner (Mississippi State University, US)

- Rosalind Beiler (University of Central Florida, US)
- Evan Haefeli (Texas A & M, US)
- Joshua Piker (William & Mary, US)
- Carolyn Eastman (Virginia Commonwealth University, US)

SESSION 11: Roundtable—Going Dutch: A Roundtable on Divergent and Converging Perspectives on Slavery in the Dutch Atlantic World

Salle Mélusine (MSHS)

Chair & Moderator: Anne-Claire Faucquez (Université Paris 8, France)

- Jared Ross Hardesty (Western Washington University, US)
- Dienke Hondius (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, The Netherlands)
- Nicole Maskiell (University of South Carolina, US)
- Andrea Mosterman (University of New Orleans, US)
- Ramona Negrón (Leiden University, The Netherlands)

12:00–2:00pm

Lunch (buffet) cafeteria Lettres & Langues

2:00–4:00pm

SESSION 12: “Scotland and America” Revisited

Salle des Conférences (MSHS)

Chair: Valérie Capdeville (University of Rennes 2, France)

Heather Cateau (University of St. Andrews, UK/Univeristy of West Indies), “The Quest for an ‘Independent Living’— Scottish Workers in the British West Indies 1750 to 1820”

Mélanie Cournil (Université Sorbonne, France), “Collecting botanical specimens for the Glasgow Botanic Gardens: Scottish plant hunters in North America (1820s-1830s)”

Hunter Harris (Nuffield College, Oxford, UK), “Colonial Fortunes, Colonial Bankrupts”

Stephen Mullen (University of Glasgow, UK), “Repatriating Slavery’s Capital”

Comment: James Ambuske (George Mason University, US)

SESSION 13: The American Revolution Seen Through The Eyes Of The British Admiralty Courts: New Sources From The American War Of Independence (1775-1783)

Amphitheater Agnès Varda (Building A3)

Chair: François Furstenberg (Johns Hopkins University, US)

Lucas Haasis (University of Oldenburg, Germany), “A general introduction of the Prize Papers Project and its importance for transcontinental research”

Amanda Bevan (The National Archives, Kew, UK), “The Prize Papers of the American War of Independence, from the High Court of Admiralty in London, the loyalist Vice-Admiralty Court of New York, and the Court of Appeals”

Marion Huibrechts (Faculty of Arts Campus Leuven, Belgium), “A case study: The British Prize Papers as a source for a review of the influence of the American Revolutionary War on the development of the North Sea port of Ostend in the neutral Austrian Netherlands during its economic boom period (1775-1784). Who was behind the short-lived boom?”

Suzanne Foxley (University of Oldenburg, Germany), “A case study: The British New York Vice-Admiralty Court in the American War of Independence”

Randolph Cock (National Archives Kew), “Mail in Transit seized between the French Caribbean and Europe in the period of the American War of Independence”

Comment: The Audience

SESSION 14: Moving Stories: Women's Philanthropy and Piety in a Global Early America

Amphitheater Virginia Woolf (Building A3)

Chair: Serena Zabin (Carleton College, US)

Amanda Moniz (David M. Rubenstein Curator of Philanthropy, Smithsonian NMAH, US), “An American Philanthropist, Except: 19th-Century Narratives and the Remaking of Isabella Marshall Graham’s Identity”

Philippa Koch (Missouri State University, US), “Claiming Nature: Mary Martha Sherwood and Caregiving in Colonial India”

Johanna Mueller (Stanford University, US), “Raising Godly Children in a “Heathen” World: Mission Work And Motherhood in Early Nineteenth-Century Hawai’i”

Mairin Odle (University of Alabama, US), ““he has not a clear remembrance of her’: Caregiving and Maternal Absence in Nikkanochee’s Narrative”

Comment: The Audience

SESSION 15: Understanding the Atlantic World from a Lockridge Perspective: A Panel in honor of Ken Lockridge

Salle Mélusine (MSHS)

Chair & Comment: John W. Quist (Shippensburg University, US)

Gregory Nobles (Georgia Tech, US), “The Vastness of Dedham, Massachusetts: A New England Town in a Transatlantic World”

Aaron Spencer Fogleman (Northern Illinois University, US), “Perspectives on Class from Africans Enslaved in the Middle Passage”

Susan Sleeper-Smith (Michigan State University, US), “How Indigenous Nations Influenced the Commerce of an Atlantic World”

4:00–4:30pm

Coffee break

4:30–6:00pm

SESSION 16: Slavery and fugitivity in the Caribbean

Salle des Conférences (MSHS)

Chair : Sophie White (University of Notre Dame, US)

Noel Smyth (Vassar College, US), “‘Claiming Freedom’ in Havana: Uncovering Afro-Indigenous Identities, Communities, and Interisland Networks 18th c Saint Domingue”

Ernesto Mercado-Montero (Dartmouth College, US), “Warfare, Marronage, and Rebellion: The Seven Years' War and the New Political Order in Saint Vincent Island”

Alycia Hall (Brown University, US), “From ‘Rebellious Negroes’ to Maroons: Jamaican Maroon Communities after 1739”

Comment: The Audience

SESSION 17: American Palimpsest: The Circulation of People, Stories, and Memories in the French Atlantic World

Amphitheater Agnès Varda (Building A3)

Chair: Guillaume Teasdale (University of Windsor, Canada)

Owen Stanwood (Boston College, US), “Tall Tales and Lost Worlds: The Delisle Workshop and the Circulation of Stories in the French Atlantic”

Robert Englebort (University of Saskatchewan, Canada), “Mobility of the Enslaved: The Legacy of French Colonialism in Early America”

Adeline Vasquez-Parra (Université Lyon 2, France), “The Post-Conquest era and demands for spatial justice among Acadian and Canadian refugees in the Province of Quebec (1763-1791)”

Comment: The Audience

SESSION 18: Vast Early America and Archaeology

Amphitheater Virginia Woolf (Building A3)

Chair: Peter Inker (Colonial Williamsburg, US)

Cathrine Davis (William & Mary, US), “Interwoven Worlds: Unraveling Hidden Connections through Lead Seal Analysis”

Domitille de Gavriloff (EHESS, France), “Death, Racial Slavery, and the Limits of ‘Christian Mastery’ in the French Caribbean (17th & 18th centuries)”

Comment: The Audience

SESSION 19: Surprising boundary crosses and enslavement

Salle Mélusine (MSHS)

Chair: Claire Bourhis-Mariotti (Université Paris 8, France)

Yusuf Mansoor (University of Connecticut, US), “Native Americans in Tangier: Slavery and Captivity across the Atlantic World”

Laura Rosanne Adderley (Tulane University, US), “(De)Marginalizing French Slave Ships & their African Captives in the Era of Slave Trade Suppression: Case Studies from the Caribbean, 1807-1825”

Tatiana Seijas (Rutgers University, US), “A French Carriagemaker in Mexico City”

Comment: Jennifer Morgan (New York University)

8:00 pm

Conference dinner (reservation required)

Le Rooftop, Poitiers
6 rue de la Marne

FRIDAY, 21 June

9:00–10:00 am

registration/coffee

10:00–12:00pm

SESSION 20: Roundtable—Disability in the Vast Early Americas: State-of-the-Field Roundtable

Salle des Conférences (MSHS)

Chair: Laurel Daen (University of Notre Dame, US)

Moderator: Stefanie Hunt-Kennedy (University of New Brunswick, Canada)

- Esme Cleall (University of Sheffield, UK)
- Francisco Eissa-Barroso (University of Manchester, UK)
- Chris Gismondi (University of New Brunswick, Canada)
- Benjamin Irvin (Indiana University, Bloomington, US)
- Ashley Williard (University of South Carolina, US)

SESSION 21: Roundtable—Communications, Information, and Knowledge-Construction in the Revolutionary Era

Amphitheater Agnès Varda (Building A3)

Chair & Moderator: Helena Yoo Roth (The Graduate Center, CUNY, US)

- Esther Baakman (Eberhard Karls Universität, Tübingen, The Netherlands)
- Jacinthe De Montigny (University of Toronto, Canada)
- Alec Zuercher Reichardt (University of Missouri, US)
- Asheesh Siddique (University of Massachusetts, Amherst, US)

SESSION 22: Roundtable—Benjamin Quarles and the Challenge of Black History

Amphitheater Virginia Woolf (Building A3)

Chair & Moderator: Derrick Spires (Cornell University, US)

- Leslie Alexander (Rutgers University, US)
- Tara Bynum (University of Iowa, US)
- Stephen G. Hall (Independent Scholar, US)
- Vanessa Holden (University of Kentucky, US)
- Gerald Horne (University of Houston, US)
- Adam McNeil (Rutgers University, US)
- Tamika Nunley (Cornell University, US)

12:00–2:00pm

Lunch (buffet) cafeteria Lettres & Langues

2:00–4:00pm

SESSION 23: Cultural practices and the colonial encounters

Salle des Conférences (MSHS)

Chair : Allan Potofsky (Université Paris Cité, France)

Lila O’Leary Chambers (University of Cambridge, UK), “Rum Debt and Ruptured Relations in the Native Southeast”

Aurélie Godet (Nantes Université, France), “Festive Empire: Joy and Subjugation in the French Atlantic”

Michaela Kleber (Northwestern University, US), “The Intimate Foundations of Settler Colonization in French America”

Comment: Scott Heerman (University of Miami)

SESSION 24: Maritime Mobility and Entangled Atlantic History between the 16th and 19th centuries

Amphitheater Agnés Varda (Building A3)

Chair : Randy Sparks (Tulane University, US)

David Wheat (Michigan State University, US), “The Spanish Caribbean and Canary Islands in Triana (Seville), c.1590”

Oren Okhovat (Universidad de Sevilla, Spain), “Portuguese Sephardic Trade and the Spanish Atlantic in 1659”

Casey Schmitt (Cornell University, US), “Rescate and Redemption between Mediterranean and Caribbean Worlds”

Julie Hardwick (University of Texas at Austin, US), “The other passage: maritime spaces between the Caribbean and France for free and enslaved people of color as passengers in the Ancien Regime”

Comment : The Audience

SESSION 25: Specificities of the American Revolution

Amphitheater Virginia Woolf (Building A3)

Chair: Csába Levai (University of Debrecen, Hungary)

Kariann Akemi Yokata (University of Colorado, US), “Connecting the Transatlantic and Transpacific Worlds in Early America”

Michael A. McDonnell (University of Sydney, Australia), “Atlantic Refugees and the Revolution in Representing the Self”

Comment : The Audience

SESSION 26: The Spanish Empire within a Global Framework

Salle Mélusine (MSHS)

Chair: Steven Hackel (University of California, Riverside, US)

David Tavárez (Vassar College, US), “Indigenous Wisdom, Humanism, and Christian Devotions in the Global Renaissance”

Ernesto Bassi (Cornell University, US), “The Wealth of Santa Marta: (Dis)Connected Peripheries and the Revitalization of the Spanish Empire during the Late Eighteenth Century”

Benjamin Groth (Tulane University, US), “Transcontinental Baptisms: Developing an Archive of Race in the Atlantic World”

Comment : The Audience

4:00–4:30pm
Coffee break

4:30–6:00pm

SESSION 27

KEYNOTE 2

Salle des conférences (MSHS)

Sophie White (University of Notre Dame) in conversation with Bertrand van Ruymbeke
(Université Paris 8)

Introduction by Jennifer L. Morgan (New York University, US)

6:00pm

Concluding remarks

Program committee :

- Lawrence Aje (University of Montpellier 3, France)
- Emily Berquist (California State University, Long Beach, US)
- Nathalie Caron (Sorbonne University, France)
- Agnes Delahaye (University of Lyons 2, France)
- Elizabeth Ellis (Princeton University, US)
- Steven Hackel (University of California, Riverside, US) – Co-Chair
- Nathan Perl-Rosenthal (University of Southern California, US)
- Elodie Peyrol-Kleiber (University of Poitiers, France) – Co-Chair
- J.V. Roitman (Vrije University, Netherlands)