

# **Research Seminar: Towards a Global History of early modern enslavement**

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Spring Semester 2022

## **Seminar description**

Enslavement was a global phenomenon in the early modern world. All societies knew forms of enslavement and unfreedom, and enslaved labour was an integral part of the social, cultural, and last but not least, economic world of Mediterranean galleys, Brazilian gold mining, the Ottoman administration, Barbados plantations, Peruvian craft workshops, or agricultural estates in the Rus. Enslaved Chinese people arrived in Mexico and the enslaved Europeans filled the bagnos of North African polities. Forced migrations reshaped societies across all continents. The rise of the trans-Atlantic trade in enslaved people created new forms of enslavement and turned the trade into a truly global business of unprecedented proportion. Its human impact reached deep into the interiors of the African and American continents and its economic and political consequences transformed large parts of Europe, Africa, and the Americas. Some would argue it is the very basis of our modern economic system. It is thus surprising that the literature on enslavement and enslaved people is deeply shaped by national historiographical traditions and has struggled to go “global”. This seminar aims at offering a first inroad into different historiographical traditions. It asks if or how the history of enslavement fits into new global histories and histories of capitalism and to what extent global, transnational, and comparative approaches can contribute to overcoming the existing boundaries within this field of study.

Week 1) 11 Jan 2022 Introduction

van Rossum, M. (2021). "Slavery and Its Transformations: Prolegomena for a Global and Comparative Research Agenda." *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 63(3): 566-598.

Week 2) 18 Jan 2022 Hidden in Plain Sight? Iberian Enslavement

Eltis, D. R. D. (2015). *Atlas of the transatlantic slave trade*. New Haven, Yale University

Press.

Map 1, pp.4-5.

Borucki, A., D. Eltis and D. Wheat (2020). From the Galleons to the Highlands : Slave Trade

Routes in the Spanish Americas, University of New Mexico Press. Chapter 1.

Van Deusen, N. E. (2015). Global indios : the indigenous struggle for justice in sixteenth-century

Spain. Durham NC, Duke University Press. Introduction and Chapter 6.

Sousa, Lucio de. The Portuguese Slave Trade in Early Modern Japan : Merchants, Jesuits and

Japanese, Chinese, and Korean Slaves. Leiden: Brill, 2019. Introduction and Chapter 6.

Week 3) 25 Jan 2022 The Afro-American Atlantic

Ferreira, R. (2011). Slaving and Resistance to Slaving in Angola. Cambridge History of Slavery.

D. Eltis and S. Engerman, Cambridge University Press: 111-132.

Candido, M. P. (2021). African Businesswomen in the Age of Second Slavery in Angola. The

Second Slavery in Global Perspective. D. Tomich and P. Lovejoy. Binghamton, SUNY Binghamton Press.

Green, T. (2012). The Rise of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade in Western Africa, 1300-1589.

Cambridge, Cambridge University Press. Chapters Introduction, Chapters 1 and 2.

Week 4) 1 Feb 2022 The Dutch Discovery of Slavery

Brandon, P. and U. Bosma (2021). "Slavery and the Dutch economy, 1750–1800." Slavery &

Abolition 42(1): 43-76.

Fatah-Black, K. (2012). "Slaves and Sailors on Suriname's Rivers." Itinerario 36(3): 61-82.

Mbeki, L. and M. van Rossum (2017). "Private slave trade in the Dutch Indian Ocean world: a

study into the networks and backgrounds of the slavers and the enslaved in South Asia and South

Africa." Slavery & Abolition 38(1): 95-116.

Week 5) 8 Feb 2022 Mediterranean experiences of enslavement

pls note: this session will take place jointly with the Seminar on Mediterranean History

Hans, S. (2019). "Hair, emotions and slavery in the early modern Mediterranean." History Workshop Journal 87(1): 160-187.

Peirce, L. P. (2021). A spectrum of unfreedom : captives and slaves in the Ottoman Empire. Budapest, Central European University Press. Chapter 1.

Wilkins, C. (2013). "Slavery and Household Formation in Ottoman Aleppo, 1640– 1700." Journal of the Economic and Social History of the Orient 56: 345-391.  
Maréchaux, Benoît (forthcoming 2022). "Purchasing Slaves Overseas for the Business of War: Genoese Galley Entrepreneurs and the Mediterranean Slave Market in the Early 17th Century." Journal of Global Slavery.

Week 6) 15 Feb 2022: Slavery and Gender

Scott, R. J. H. b. J. M. (2014). Freedom papers : an Atlantic odyssey in the age of emancipation. Cambridge (MA), Harvard University Press. Chapters Prologue and Chapters 1-3.

Candido, M. P. (2014). Strategies for Social Mobility: Liaisons between Foreign Men and Slave Women in Benguela, c. 1770-1850. Sex, Power and Slavery: The Dynamics of Carnal Relations under Enslavement. G. Campbell and E. Elbourne. Athens (OH), Ohio University Press: 272-288.

Fuentes, M. J. (2016). Dispossessed Lives. Enslaved Women, Violence, and the Archive, University of Pennsylvania Press. Chapters Introduction, Chapters 1 and 4.

Week 7) 22 Feb 2022 How to do Comparisons: France and Britain in the Caribbean

Burnard, T. and J. D. Garrigus (2016). Atlantic Capitalism in French Saint-Domingue and British Jamaica. Philadelphia, University of Pennsylvania Press. Chapters tba

Week 8) 1 Mar 2022 Slavery and the New History of Capitalism

Baptist, E. E. (2016). *Toward a Political Economy of Slave Labor: Hands, Whipping-Machines, and Modern Power. Slavery's Capitalism. A New History of American Economic Development.*  
S. Beckert and S. Rockman. Philadelphia, University of Pennsylvania Press.

Beckert, S. (2017). "Cotton and the Global Origins of Capitalism Sven Beckert *Journal of World History*." *Journal of World History* 28: 107-120.

Tomich, D. (2020). "Capitalism in Slavery, Slavery in Capitalism: Original Accumulation, Slave Rent and the Creation of the World Market." *Comparativ* (5/6): 522-542.

Week 9) 8 Mar 2022 Rebellion

Kars, M. (2020). *Blood on the River : A Chronicle of Mutiny and Freedom on the Wild Coast.*  
New York, The New Press. Chapters Chapters 1,2,3,14.

Rediker, M. (2013). "The African Origins of the Amistad Rebellion, 1839." *International Review of Social History*: 15-34.

Week 10) 15 Mar 2022 A social history of freedom in Brazil and elsewhere? Social mobility in a slave and post-slavery society.

Chalhoub, S. (2011). "The precariousness of freedom in a slave society (Brazil in the nineteenth century)." *International Review of Social History* 56: 405-439.

Frank, Z. L. (2004). *Dutra's World: ealth and family in nineteenth century rio de Janeiro.*  
Albuquerque, NM, University of New Mexico Press. Chapters Intro, 2 and 3.

Lovejoy, H.B and R. Anderson "Liberated Africans" and Early International Courts of Humanitarian Effort, Introduction

