

MARY ELLEN HICKS

University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois
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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Assistant Professor of History, University of Chicago (2021-present)
Assistant Professor of Black Studies and History, Amherst College (2015-2021)

EDUCATION

University of Virginia

Ph.D., History (2015)
M.A., History (2010)

University of Iowa

B.A., Hons., History (2006)

PUBLICATIONS

Book Manuscript

Captive Cosmopolitans: Black Mariners and the World of South Atlantic Slavery, 1721-1835 (under contract with Omohundro Institute of Early American History & Culture for The University of North Carolina Press), forthcoming

Peer Reviewed Articles

“Transatlantic Threads of meaning: West African Textile entrepreneurship in Salvador da Bahia, 1770- 1870,” *Slavery & Abolition* 41: 4 (December 2020), 695-722

“Financing the Luso-Atlantic Slave Trade: Collective Investment Practices from Portugal to Brazil, 1500-1840,” *Journal of Global Slavery* 2:3 (2017), 273-309

Book Chapters

“João de Oliveira’s Atlantic World: Mobility and Dislocation in Eighteenth-Century Brazil and the Bight of Benin,” in *The Many Faces of Slavery: New Perspectives on Slave Ownership and Experiences in the Americas* Eds. Lawrence Aje and Catherine Armstrong, (London: Bloomsbury Press, 2019)

“Middle Passage,” in *400 Souls*, Eds. Keisha N. Blain and Ibram X. Kendi (New York: Basic Books, 2021)

Book Reviews

Review of Sharla Fett’s *Recaptured Africans: Surviving Slave Ships, Detention and Dislocation in the Final Years of the Slave Trade* in *Black Perspectives* (November 16, 2018)

Review of Hazel V. Carby’s *Imperial Intimacies: A Tale of Two Islands* in *Black Perspectives* (February 5, 2021)

Manuscripts in Progress

“Financing the Transatlantic Slave Trade,” *Oxford Encyclopedia of African Slavery, Slave Trade and the Diaspora*, in progress

“Blood and Hair: Barbers, *Sangradores* and the West African Corporeal Imagination in Salvador da Bahia, 1770-1870,” in *Medicine and Healing in the Age of Slavery* (Louisiana State University Press), forthcoming

“Teias transatlânticas de significado: comércio de têxtil da África Ocidental em Salvador da Bahia, 1770-1870,” invited contribution for *Poder e dinheiro na era do tráfico: laços econômicos entre África e Brasil além da escravidão*, Eds. Toby Green and João José Reis, reprinted with the permission of *Slavery & Abolition*, under review

“Ritual Bodies: Gender, Race and Power in the Early Modern South Atlantic” in progress

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS AND AWARDS

Hutchins Center for African & African American Research, Harvard University, Mamolen Fellowship, 2018-2019

Institute for Historical Studies, University of Texas at Austin, Postdoctoral Fellowship, 2018-2019 (declined)

Winner, Southern Historical Association, Latin American & Caribbean Section Dissertation Prize, 2016

Finalist, CGS/Proquest Distinguished Dissertation Award for the Humanities and Fine Arts, 2015

Pennsylvania State University, Africana Research Center Post-Doctoral Fellowship, 2015-2016 (Declined)

Ford Foundation Dissertation Fellow, 2014-2015

South Atlantic Studies Fellowship, Virginia Foundation for the Humanities, 2013

Jefferson Graduate Fellowship, 2008-2013

PRESENTATIONS

Invited Talks

“Ports of Sanctuary: Maritime *Marronage*, Imperial Law and the Judicial Imaginary of Enslaved Mariners” Atlantic History Workshop, New York University (March 9, 2021)

“Black Cosmopolitans and the World of South Atlantic Slavery,” Lemann Lecture, University of Illinois (February 9, 2021)

“The Other Transatlantic Merchants: African Material Cultures in Motion,” Global History of Capitalism Seminar, Harvard University (February 8, 2021)

“Presidential Panel II: Teaching in Crisis,” Conference on Latin American History, (January 8, 2021)

“Slaving and Abolitionism in the Age of Revolutions,” Business History Seminar, Harvard University (October 5, 2020)

“Slaving and Abolitionism in the Age of Revolutions in Salvador da Bahia,” CORE Workshop, Stanford University (April 30, 2020)

“Black Cosmopolitanism in the Early Modern South Atlantic,” Annual Sankofa Lecture, Quinsigamond Community College (October 17, 2019)

“Africa to Brazil: Transatlantic Maritime Networks of the Enslaved,” Annual Shaw Lecture, Geography Department, Florida State University (February 22, 2019)

“Africa/Brazil: Black Mariners and the World of South Atlantic Slavery,” Hutchins Center, Harvard University (November 11, 2018)

“The Language of Cloth: *Panos de Costa*, Enslaved and Free Sailors, and African *Quintandeiras* in Salvador da Bahia, 1797-1850,” Poder e dinheiro na era do tráfico: laços econômicos entre África e Brasil além da escravidão, Universidade Federal da Bahia, Salvador, Brazil (March 17, 2017)

“The Maritime Tradition in the African Diaspora,” Annual Meeting of the Association for Black Cultural Centers, Louisiana State University, (October 28, 2016)

“The Corporate Slave Trade: Continuities in Maritime Investment Practices from Portugal to Brazil,” The Iberian Slave Trade: A Global Perspective, Brown University, (May 13, 2016)

“Africanizing Atlantic Commerce: Micro-Economies of the Slave Trade in Salvador da Bahia, 1725-1835,” Panel: Black Atlantic Crosscurrents, Brown University, (April 13, 2016)

Papers Presented

“400 Souls Author’s Roundtable,” African American Intellectual History Society Annual Meeting (March 19, 2021)

“Going to Their Own Country’: Enslaved Maritime Labor and the Bahian Transatlantic Slave Trade,” American Historical Association Annual Meeting, New York, New York (January 6, 2020)

“Return Voyages: Enslaved Maritime Labor in the Bahian Transatlantic Slave Trade,” *Enduring slavery: Resistance, Public Memory, and Transatlantic Archives*, Lapidus Center Conference, New York, New York (October 11, 2019)

“African Maritime Brokers and the Making of a South Atlantic System” Brown Conference in Latin American Studies, University of North Carolina—Charlotte (April 5, 2019)

“Maritime *Marronage*, Portuguese Imperial Law, and the Atlantic Praxis of Freedom” American Historical Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, Illinois (January 3, 2019)

“Black Maritime Geographies in Salvador da Bahia, Brazil: 1750-1850,” Annual Meeting for the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, Indianapolis, Indiana (October 4, 2018)

“The Other Transatlantic Merchants: African Barbers and *Sangradores* as Traders & Property Owners in Salvador, Brazil: 1810-1845,” Annual Meeting for the Latin American Studies Association, Barcelona, Spain, (May 26, 2018)

- “Transatlantic Healers: African Ritual & Therapeutic Practice in the Bahian Slave Trade, 1720-1835,” Conference on Medicine & Healing in the Age of Slavery, Rice University (February 24, 2018)
- “A Waterborne Frontier: Survival, Mobility and Power on the Hydroscares of Colonial Brazil, 1750-1835,” Annual Meeting for the American Historical Association, Washington D.C., (January 6, 2018)
- “Africanizing Atlantic Commerce: Enslaved and Free Sailors and the Maritime Trade from the Bight of Benin to Salvador da Bahia (1775 -1835),” Annual Meeting for the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, Richmond, Virginia, (October 7, 2016)
- “Ports of Sanctuary: Maritime *Marronage*, Imperial Law and the Judicial Imaginary of Enslaved Mariners in the South Atlantic,” Annual Meeting of the Law and Society Association, New Orleans (June 1-4, 2016)
- “Waterfronts as Spaces of Transcultural Commerce: Enslaved and Free Sailors, Market Women, and African Commodities in Salvador da Bahia (1775 -1835),” Southeastern Council of Latin American Studies, Cartagena, Colombia, (March 10, 2016)
- “Beyond Survival: Reimagining the Slave Ship as Site for the Diffusion of West African Derived Cultures” Ford Foundation Conference, Washington D.C., (September 19, 2015)
- “Violence, Political Sovereignty and the British Suppression of the Slave Trade on the West African Coast, 1811-1825” African Studies Association Annual Meeting, Indianapolis, (November 22, 2014)
- “Healers, the Bahian Slave Trade, and the Circulation of African-Derived Medicinal Knowledge in the Atlantic World,” Reworking Freedom: Graduate Student Workshop on Re-Centering the Enslaved Histories of the Americas, Columbia University, (October 17, 2104)
- “Forging Trans-Atlantic African Connections: Seaman and Petty Trading in Salvador, Brazil, 1775-1835,” Non-Traditional Slaveholding in the Atlantic World, Senate House, London, UK (July 11-12, 2014)
- “Beyond Survival: African Seamen, the Slave Trade and South Atlantic Commerce in Salvador, Brazil,” Beyond the Boundaries: Toyin Falola and African Historiography, UNC-Wilmington (October 12, 2013)

Campus Talks

- “Notions of African Sovereignty in Post-Slave Trade West Africa,” The African Studies Colloquium, The Carter G. Woodson Institute for African-American and African Studies, University of Virginia, (November 15, 2014)
- “The Micro-Economics of the Slave Trade between Bahia and the Bight of Benin,” Early American Seminar, Robert H. Smith International Center for Jefferson Studies at Monticello, (February 18, 2014)
- “Circum-Atlantic Histories,” Introduction to African-American & African Studies, Instructor James La Fleur, University of Virginia, (Guest Lecture, September 23, 2014)
- “Enslaved Seamen in the South Atlantic,” South Atlantic Studies Seminar, Virginia Foundation for the Humanities (May 3, 2013)

“Migration, Mobility, Women and Emancipation: Salvador, Brazil, 1885-1890” Jefferson Fellows Conference, University of Virginia (February 20, 2010)

TEACHING

Amherst College

Departments of History, Black Studies, and Latinx and Latin American Studies

BLST 381/HIST 365 – Envisioning Freedom (Fall 2017) [revised title] In Fall 2015 “The Age of Emancipation in the Atlantic World”

BLST 490 – Special Topics -- Capstone Project (Fall 2017)

HIST 264 – Intro to Latin America: Conquest, Colonization and Rebellion (Spring 2020, Fall 2017, Spring 2016)

HIST 498 – Senior Honors (Fall 2017)

BLST 300 -- Research in Black Studies (Fall 2020, Fall 2019, Spring 2018, Spring 2017, Spring 2016)

BLST 309/HIST 350 -- Africa/Brazil (Spring 2017)

BLST 498-499 -- Senior Honors (Spring 2017, Fall 2016, Spring 2016, Fall 2015)

BLST 201/HIST 267 – Power and Resistance in the Black Atlantic (Spring, 2021, Spring 2020, Spring, 2018, Fall 2016, Fall 2015)

HIST 345/ SWA 345/ LLAS 345 --- Gender and Sexuality in Latin America (Spring, 2021, Fall, 2019, Fall 2016)

Senior Honors

BLST Bootcamp: Ethical Considerations for Entering, Researching and Engaging Blackness, co-taught with Prof. Dominique Hill (Summer 2018)

University of Richmond

Department of History, Adjunct Instructor

The Age of Emancipation in the Atlantic World (Fall 2013)

University of Virginia

Department of History, Adjunct Instructor,

The Age of Emancipation in the Atlantic World (Spring 2014)

Department of History and African American Studies, Teaching Assistant

Introduction to African American and African Studies, 101 (Fall 2010)

Introduction to African American and African Studies, 102 (Spring 2011)

Colonial Latin America (Fall 2009)

Modern Latin America (Spring 2010)

SPECIAL TOPICS SUPERVISED

Gender and Identity in Pre-Colonial Nigeria co-taught with Prof. Olufemi Vaughn (Fall 2017)

LANGUAGES

Portuguese, Fluency

Spanish, Reading Fluency

SERVICE

Consultant, Center for Netherlandish Art, Boston Museum of Fine Arts

Reader, *Luso-Brazilian Review*

Reader, *William & Mary Quarterly*

Amherst College Untenured Faculty Consultative Group (Fall 2019-Present)

Amherst College Housing Committee (Fall 2016-Spring 2018)

Planning Committee, Five College African Studies Council African Film Festival (Fall 2016-Spring 2017)

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Historical Association

Association for the Study of African American Life and History

Latin American Studies Association

REFERENCES

Brian P. Owensby, Professor of History, Director of Center for Global Inquiry and Innovation, Corcoran Department of History, University of Virginia, email: bpo3a@virginia.edu phone: 434-924-6388

Roquinaldo Ferreira, Henry Charles Lea Professor of History, Department of History, University of Pennsylvania, email: rfer@sas.upenn.edu phone: 215-746-4184

C. Rhonda Cobham-Sander, Emily C. Jordon Folger Professor of Black Studies and English; Chair of Black Studies, Amherst College, email: ccobhamsander@amherst.edu phone: 413-542-5832