Environmental Histories of the Black Atlantic World: Landscape Histories of the African Diaspora

Garden and Landscape Studies Symposium

May 12-13, 2023

Music Room | Dumbarton Oaks, Washington, DC

FRIDAY, MAY 12

8:30 – 9:00 a.m.  Coffee and Registration

9:00 – 9:15 a.m.  Welcome: Thomas B.F. Cummins, and Thaïsa Way, Dumbarton Oaks

9:15 – 9:45 a.m.  Introduction: N. D. B. Connolly, Johns Hopkins University

Session 1: Shades of Insurgency  
Moderator: N. D. B. Connolly, Johns Hopkins University

9:45 – 10:30 a.m.  C.C. McKee, Bryn Mawr College & University of Copenhagen  
“Victuals from the Plantationocene: Provision Grounds and Black Personhood in an Eighteenth-Century Martinican Painting”

10:30 – 11:15 a.m.  Mikayla Janee Harden, University of Delaware  
“Knowingly And Naively: Enslaved Black Children’s Relationship with the Black Atlantic Landscape”

11:15 – 11:30 a.m.  Coffee and Tea

11:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.  Jacques Aymeric-Nsangou, University of Manitoba  
“Behind the Atlantic Coast: Fighting not to Enter the Atlantic World as a Commodity”

12:15 – 2:00 p.m.  Lunch in the Orangery

Session 2: Colonial Space, Black Places  
Moderator: Dianne Harris, University of Washington

2:00 – 2:45 p.m.  Emily Holloway, Clark University
“The Spatial Fix in the Black Atlantic: The Structuring Contradiction of the Haitian Revolution and Brooklyn’s Industrial Landscape”

2:45 – 3:30 p.m.  Justin Dunnavant, University of California, Los Angeles
“Maroon Geographies and Ecologies in the Danish West Indies”

3:30 – 3:45 p.m.  Coffee and Tea

3:45 – 4:30 p.m.  Matthew Francis Rarey, Oberlin College
“Fugitive Landscapes and the Challenge of Black Atlantic Cartographies: Brazil, 1763”

4:45 – 6:45 p.m.  Reception in the Orangery

SATURDAY, MAY 13

9:00 – 9:15 a.m.  Coffee and Tea

9:15 – 9:30 a.m.  Welcome by Oscar de la Torre, University of North Carolina at Charlotte

Session 3: Black Epistemologies
Moderator: Oscar de la Torre, University of North Carolina at Charlotte

9:30 – 11:00 a.m.  Neil Safier, Brown University
“Translating the Eighteenth-Century Plantationocene: Epistemologies, Landscapes, and the Place of the Enslaved African Cultivator in Brazilian Histories of Enlightenment Science”

Victoria Broadus, Georgetown University
“Black Atlantic Verse and the Environment: the Vissungos of Northern Minas Gerais”

11:00 – 11:15 a.m.  Coffee and Tea

11:15 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  Elise A. Mitchell, Princeton University
"the land will not expose their designs": African Atlantic Ecologies, Geopolitics, and Responses to Epidemic Disease in the Sixteenth-Century Atlantic World

12:00 – 2:00 p.m.  Lunch in the Orangery
Session 4: A Black World, Sanctified
Moderator: Eric Avila, University of California, Los Angeles

2:00 – 2:45 p.m.  Joseph R. Hartman, University of Missouri-Kansas City

2:45 – 3:30 p.m.  Andrew Apter, University of California, Los Angeles
"Homo Sacer and Atlantic Slavery: Landscape Histories of Sacrifice and Commodification in a Sacred Grove near Fort Amsterdam, Ghana"

3:30 – 4:00 p.m.  Oscar de la Torre, University of North Carolina at Charlotte
Reflections and Responses