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Cahuita Symposium on Slavery, Culture, and Religion

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**Conference:
Cahuita Symposium on Slavery, Culture, and Religion**

Conference announcement posted at <http://www.yorku.ca/nhp/conferences/cahuita2006/>.

Sponsors: Harriet Tubman Resource Centre on the African Diaspora, York University; Institut de Investigaciones Sociales, Universidad de Costa Rica; UNESCO "Slave Route" Project, Secteur de la Culture.

February 11-15, 2006, Cahuita, Costa Rica.

The symposium to be held on the beautiful shores of the Caribbean in Cahuita, Costa Rica, will have as a theme, "Slavery, Culture and Religion," with a focus on the visual and documentary representations of religion and culture and the use of these materials in the reconstruction of the social history of slavery. The geographical areas include the Caribbean and Central America, that is the Atlantic world, and beyond, to the Pacific. The South Atlantic, with the link between Brazil and Africa, and the Anglo-Atlantic are recognized as coherent systems, which engaged Atlantic Africa and indeed southwestern Africa across the Atlantic. The Indian Ocean extension of slavery and the Islamic world are part of this complex history. The thematic scope of the symposium encompasses the cultural manifestations of slavery in all these geographical regions, with the intention of exploring and comparing the symbolism and forms of expression that were used to transfer and transform artistic and cultural modes across the Atlantic, and indeed the Sahara and Indian Ocean. The symposium intends to discuss issues informed by knowledge of Islam, Christianity, the orisa, and the religious traditions that focus on the dead.

The model of the symposium is the Avignon style, developed by Professor Gwyn Campbell, McGill University. All papers will be available to registered participants in advance. Papers will not formally be presented; instead designated discussants will consider the submitted papers and lead a general discussion around specific themes. It is assumed that participants will read the papers before the symposium.

Format: Papers will be posted on the registered conference website, only accessible with registration, which must include submission of the committed paper. Papers will be posted in PDF format and accessible to registered participants. There will be no copies of the papers available in Cahuita. All papers must be downloaded or stored on computers of participants, from the website, once papers have been submitted upon registration. Participants are advised to bring hard copies of papers with them, if they so wish.