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Rethinking Boundaries: Transforming Methods and Approaches in Atlantic History.

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Call for Papers:

Rethinking Boundaries: Transforming Methods and Approaches in Atlantic History. February 9-10, 2007



The "Rethinking Boundaries: Transforming Methods and Approaches in Atlantic History" conference, sponsored by the Atlantic History Program at New York University, will be held in New York City on February 9th and 10th 2007. All fields of history are invited to submit proposals related to the theme by October 1st 2006.

Over the last decade, scholarship in Atlantic history has opened new perspectives on older imperial histories but at the same time often replicates some of the boundaries and limitations of more traditional interpretations of the histories of Africa, the Americas and Europe. This conference seeks to open up questions of method and approaches to Atlantic history and interrogate categories of analysis imported into the field.

For example, much attention is given to the diversity and interactions of the "European" Atlantics -- French, Dutch, Spanish, Portuguese and British. Yet the terms "Brazilian Atlantic," "Canadian Atlantic," "Kongolese Atlantic," or "Iroquois Atlantic" seldom appear in scholarship. Scholars are encouraged to suggest papers that interrogate this privileging of European empires and that broaden our understanding and conceptualization of the field of Atlantic history. Recently scholars have begun to question the very nature of the archives as history producing institutions. Special attention will be given to papers that acknowledge the choice of sources made by scholars and that question the privileging of certain voices in the historical record.

Scholars at all stages of their careers are invited to submit proposals of no more than 500 words, related, but not limited, to the broad themes listed below:

Gender and Sexuality in the Atlantic;

Religious retention, syncretism and conversion to or through multiple religions;

Slavery and the market;

**Colonial Violence;
History and memory;
The Arts and Colonial Projects;
Colonial Influence on Law;
Transnational approaches to Atlantic history in the nineteenth century;
Atlantic connections to the Pacific;
Indigenous experiences in Africa and the Americas.**

Graduate students presenting papers at the conference will receive some assistance in covering travel and accommodation costs.

Proposals of 500 words or less should be emailed to Jenny Shaw, jenny.shaw@nyu.edu by October 1st 2006. Updated information about the conference will be available on the conference website www.nyu.edu/pages/atlantic/.