

The Wolfe Institute

*The Ethyle R. Wolfe Institute for the Humanities,
presents*

A Wolfe Fellows Series Event

Slaves and Intoxicants: The Intermingled Economies of West Africa and Bahia, 1650-1750



Simplistic schemas explaining the Atlantic slave trade have often posited triangular trade which encompassed European, African and Caribbean ports. However, over the course of the whole Atlantic slave trade, the European colony that received the greatest number of slaves was Brazil, not any particular Caribbean island, much less North America. As the Afro-Brazilian slave trade moved into its mature phase after 1650, Portuguese metropolitan merchants found their trade with Africa increasingly supplanted by Brazilians, who by 1750 clearly dominated the West Africa trade. One result was the increasing integration of the economies of Bahia and West Africa, with notable consequences for the economic and social development of the two regions.

Chris Ebert is the chair of the history department at Brooklyn College. He studies and teaches Latin American history from an Atlantic perspective. His research focuses on colonial Brazil and Portuguese Atlantic expansion, including trade and shipping. He has also studied Dutch trade and Atlantic expansion. He is the author of *Between Empires: Brazilian Sugar in the Early Atlantic Economy, 1550-1630* (Brill Academic Publishers, 2008) and has published several essays in, among others, *African Economic History, Past & Present*, and *Colonial Latin American Review*.

**Monday, March 3, 2014
11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.
Woody Tanger Auditorium
Brooklyn College Library**

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