

ISAAC CURTIS

October 2016

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Candidate, History, University of Pittsburgh, 2009–present

Fields: Latin American History (Caribbean), Atlantic History, World History

Dissertation: “The Common Sea: Masterless People and the Making of the Colonial Caribbean, 1492–1730”

M.A., History, University of Pittsburgh, 2008

Thesis: “*Mare Enclausum*: The Spanish Caribbean As Seen from the Sea, 1492–1585”

B.A., History, University of Maine, 2005

PUBLICATIONS

Refereed Journal Articles

2013 « Gens sans maîtres : les communes des Antilles et la production du commerce sous le régime colonial ». *Diacronie. Studi di Storia Contemporanea* 13, no. 1 (2013): 1–16.

Refereed Book Chapters

2011 “Masterless People: Maroons, Pirates, and Commoners.” In *The Caribbean : A History of the Region and its Peoples*, edited by Stephan Palmié and Francisco A. Scarano, 149–162. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 2011.

AWARDS, HONORS, GRANTS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

2014 Alberta Sbragia Fund for Graduate Studies Research Grant, University of Pittsburgh

2013 Fulbright Pre-doctoral Research Fellowship (Spain)
European Studies Summer Dissertation Research Award, University of Pittsburgh

2012 History Project Research Grant, Harvard University
World History Center Graduate Research Award, University of Pittsburgh
Short-Term Grants for Research in Atlantic History, Harvard University
Mellon Summer Institute in French Paleography at the Newberry Library
Center for New World Comparative Studies Fellowship, John Carter Brown Library

2009 Bernadotte E. Schmitt Grant, American Historical Association
Samuel P. Hays Summer Research Grant, University of Pittsburgh
Outstanding Paper Presentation Award for “How Pirates Enlightened Europe,” Grad Expo, University of Pittsburgh

Center for Latin American Studies Graduate Student Field Research Grant
James W. Knox Memorial Award, University of Pittsburgh

- 2008 Outstanding Poster Presentation Award for “Utopia Was a Ship,” Grad Expo, University of Pittsburgh
- 2005 Charles H. Dunn Award for Graduate Study in History, University of Maine
Peace and Social Justice Award, University of Maine

CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

Papers Presented

- 2017 “Wai‘tu kubuli and Yurumein: Indigenous Port Cities in the Early Modern Atlantic,” McNeil Center for Early American Studies, University of Pennsylvania, April 12, 2017
- “A Tale of Two Shipwrecks: Origins and Early Histories of the Miskitu Sambo and Garifuna Communities, 1635–1755,” Afro-Indigenous Relations Across the Americas, 1492–Present, American Historical Association Annual Meeting, Denver, CO, January 5–8, 2017
- 2016 “The Caribbean Origins of a Carolina Conspiracy: Maritime Marronage and the Caribbean Cycle of Rebellion, 1679–1713,” Carolina Lowcountry and Atlantic World Program, College of Charleston, Charleston, SC, February 4–6, 2016
- 2015 “Maritime Marronage: Methods, Scale, and Significance of Desertion in the Eastern Caribbean, 1635–1730,” Runaways: Desertion and Mobility in Global Labor History, c. 1650–1850, International Institute of Social History (IISG), Amsterdam, October 22–24, 2015
- “Toward a Zambo Atlantic: Revolutionary Intercommunalism among African and Indigenous Actors in the Early Caribbean, 1635–1730,” New Scholarship on the Black Atlantic, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, October 2–4, 2015
- “Frantz Fanon and the Maritime History of Freedom in the French Windwards,” XXXIII International Congress of the Latin American Studies Association, San Juan, Puerto Rico, May 27–30, 2015
- 2014 “The Significance of Maritime Marronage in the Eastern Caribbean, 1635–1715,” History Department Work-in-Progress Series, University of Pittsburgh, October 30, 2014
- “Maroon Internationalism and the Meaning of Freedom in the Early Caribbean,” Reworking Freedom: Re-Centering the Enslaved in Histories of the Americas, Institute for Research in African-American Studies, Columbia University, October 17, 2014
- “Centers of Other Possible Worlds: The Articulation of Commoning Practices in the

- Eastern Caribbean, 1600–1700,” Fourth European Congress on World and Global History, École Normale Supérieure, Paris, France, September 4–7, 2014
- “El tributo, el capital y la propiedad comunal: La articulación de las prácticas comunales en Guatemala, 1713–1755,” “Conectando” el Mundo Atlántico: redes, barreras e intercambio (1492–1830), Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, Spain, April 2–4, 2014
- “Like a Thief in the Night: Riot, Refuge, and Revolutionary Potential in the Strategy of C. L. R. James,” Workshop “Riot!” Part II, Institut für Protest- und Bewegungsforschung I.G., Berlin, Germany, February 28, 2014
- “Anti-Conquistadors: Spanish Solidarity with Indigenous and African Freedom Struggles in the Early Caribbean,” Spanish Fulbright Commission Mid-Year Seminar, Universitat Politècnica de València, Spain, February 5–7, 2014
- 2013 “There Is No Such Thing As a Riot: The Kalinago Insurrection of 1705,” Workshop „Riots“, Institut für Protest- und Bewegungsforschung I.G., Berlin, Germany, December 13, 2013
- 2012 “The Sugar Revolution at Sea: Kalinago, Garifuna, and Buccaneers in Guadeloupe, 1650–1670,” Fellows Lunch Talk, The John Carter Brown Library, Brown University, December 19, 2012
- “ ‘All in the Same Boat’: Père Labat, Maritime History, and the Prospects of Transnational Caribbean History from Below in the Seventeenth Century,” Community and the Sea in the Age of Sail, Aalborg University, Denmark, May 24–25, 2012
- “The Common Sea: Masterless People and the Making of the Colonial Caribbean,” The Many Headed Hydra: Plebeians in the World c.1660–1820, Birkbeck, University of London, April 12, 2012
- 2009 “How Pirates Enlightened Europe: the Atlantic Origins of Modern Thought,” Grad Expo, University of Pittsburgh, March 16, 2009
- “Utopia Was a Ship: Motley Crews, Seaborne Salons, and the Transatlantic Tradition of Utopian Thought, 1620–1726,” Society of Early Americanists Fifth Biennial Conference, Hamilton, Bermuda, March 4–7, 2009
- 2008 “Caribbean Crucible: The Place of Pirates in the Utopian Tradition, 1620–1726,” The Many Faces of Piracy, California University of Pennsylvania, September 17–19, 2008
- “Utopia Was a Ship: Motley Crews, Seaborne Salons, and the Transatlantic Tradition of Utopian Thought, 1620–1726,” Grad Expo, University of Pittsburgh, March 2, 2008
- “*Mare Enclausum*: The Spanish Caribbean and the Spaces Between, 1565–1567,” Caribbean Borderlands Conference, University of Pittsburgh, January 31–February 1,

2008

- 2006 “Everything Is *Rent*: HIV/AIDS and Class Conflict in Late Capitalism,” Socialist and Marxist Studies Lecture Series, University of Maine, November 30, 2006
- 2005 “Slaves and Entertainers: Penitentiary Culture in the Yazoo-Mississippi Delta,” Undergraduate Research Conference, University of Maine, 2005

Discussant

- 2015 “Work in Atlantic, Indian, and Pacific Empires (16th–18th century),” Beyond Borders: The Practice of Atlantic, Transnational, and World History, University of Pittsburgh, April 10–11 2015
- 2013 “Ireland, Slavery, Anti-slavery, Empire,” University College Dublin, Ireland, October 24–25, 2013
- 2008 “Directions of the Next Generation: Roundtable on Graduate Student Presentations,” Andre Gunder Frank’s Legacy of Critical Social Science, University of Pittsburgh, April 11–13, 2008

Panels Organized

- 2017 Afro-Indigenous Relations Across the Americas, 1492–Present, American Historical Association Annual Meeting, Denver, CO, January 5–8, 2017
- 2015 “Radical Abolitionism and the Role of Non-Black Allies/Accomplices: A Conversation with Kelly Gallagher,” University of Pittsburgh, October 15, 2015
- “New Perspectives on Running Away in the Americas, 1492–1800,” XXXIII International Congress of the Latin American Studies Association, San Juan, Puerto Rico, May 27–30, 2015

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor

World History (Summer 2013)

Teaching Assistant

Globalization and History (Spring 2009)
 Colonial Latin America (Fall 2008)
 United States 1865 to Present (Spring 2006, Spring 2007, Fall 2014)
 Western Civilization 2 (Fall 2006)
 United States to 1877 (Fall 2005)

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 2011 Heinz History Fellow, Heinz History Center, “From Slavery to Freedom: The Underground Railroad and the Legacy of Freedom in Western Pennsylvania”
- 2009 Research Fellow, Marcus Rediker, *The Amistad Rebellion: An Atlantic Odyssey of Slavery and Freedom*
- 2007 Research Assistant, Marcus Rediker, *The Amistad Rebellion: An Atlantic Odyssey of Slavery and Freedom*

LANGUAGE PROFICIENCIES

Native: English

Advanced: French, Spanish

Introductory: Dutch

With Dictionary: Portuguese, Latin, Italian, Irish

DIGITAL HUMANITIES PROFICIENCIES

Advanced: MediaWiki

Intermediate: HTML, WikiBase, Semantic MediaWiki

Introductory: Javascript, XPath, Python, Lua, MySQL, QGIS

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Historical Association

Society of Early Americanists

Association of Caribbean Historians

Latin American Studies Association

Caribbean Studies Association

National Council for Black Studies

World History Association

European Network in Universal and Global History

PROFESSIONAL REFERENCES

Marcus Rediker

Distinguished Professor of Atlantic History

University of Pittsburgh

Department of History

3508 Posvar Hall

Pittsburgh, PA 15260

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Alejandro de la Fuente

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African American Research at Harvard University
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