

# Marc Eagle

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Professor, History Department  
Western Kentucky University  
Grise Hall 110, 1906 College Heights Blvd.  
Bowling Green, KY 42101

## **EDUCATION**

August 2005: Ph.D., History, Tulane University.

Dissertation: "The Audiencia of Santo Domingo in the Seventeenth Century."

September 1995: M. Phil., Medieval History (with Distinction), University of Glasgow.

Thesis: "Eleventh-Century Naval Organisation in England and Normandy."

March 1993: B.A., History, University of California, Santa Barbara.

## **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

Fall 2008-present: Professor, Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green.

HIST101 – *World History I*

HIST119 – *Western Civilization I (to 1648)*

HIST200 – *Latin America: Past & Present*

HIST364 – *Colonial Latin America*

HIST365 – *Modern Latin America*

HIST402 – *Pirates in World History*

HIST 464 – *Latin America-U.S. Relations*

HIST465 /465G – *Modern Mexico* (undergraduate/graduate)

HIST 498 – Senior Seminar (Theme: "Imperialism and Cultural Change")

HIST 606 – *Golden Age of Spain* (graduate)

HIST 615 – *Savagery and Civilization-Historical Memory and the Spanish Conquest*  
(graduate)

HIST 615 – *Latin America-U.S. Relations* (graduate)

HIST 617 – *Latin American History* (graduate)

Summer 2012: Faculty, KIIS Southern Spain Program, Córdoba, Spain.

HIST 490-01 – *The Golden Age of Spain*

HIST 490-02 – *Muslim Spain*

Summer 2019: Faculty, KIIS Cuba Program, Havana, Cuba.

HIST200 – *Latin America: Past & Present*

## **PUBLICATIONS**

(Forthcoming; co-authored with Christoph Rosenmüller) "Spanish Governance: From Empire Towards State, 1492–1826," in *New Directions in Hispanic Atlantic History*, ed. Francisco Eissa-Barroso (Routledge, expected 2026).

*The Audiencia of Santo Domingo in the Seventeenth Century: Justice and Royal Authority in the Spanish Caribbean* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2025).

“Slave Trading Networks in the Spanish Caribbean in the First Half of the 17th Century,” *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Latin American History* (Oxford University Press, 2024), <https://doi.org/10.1093/acrefore/9780199366439.013.999>

“Informal Entrepôts: Witness Testimony about Slave Ship *Arribadas* to Santo Domingo and San Juan in the 1620s,” *Colonial Latin American Review* 32, no. 1 (2023): 11-33.

(Co-authored with David Wheat) “The Early Iberian Slave Trade to the Spanish Caribbean, 1500-1580,” in *From the Galleons to the Highlands: Slave Trade Routes in the Spanish Americas*, eds. Alex Borucki, David Eltis, and David Wheat (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 2020).

“The Early Slave Trade to Spanish America: Caribbean Pathways, 1530-1580,” in *The Spanish Caribbean in the Long Sixteenth Century*, eds. Ida Altman and David Wheat (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2019).

“Tiempos contrarios: arribadas de barcos negreros en la Isla Española, siglo XVI,” in *Los negocios de la esclavitud. Tratantes y mercados de esclavos en el Atlántico ibérico, siglos XV-XIX*, eds. Manuel Fernández Chaves and Rafael M. Pérez García (Seville: Universidad de Sevilla, 2019).

“Portraits of Bad Officials: Malfeasance in *Visita* Sentences from Seventeenth-Century Santo Domingo” in *Corruption in the Iberian Empires: Greed, Custom, and Colonial Networks*, ed. Christoph Rosenmüller (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 2017), 87-109.

“Restoring Spanish Hispaniola, the First of the Indies: Local Advocacy and Transatlantic Arbitrismo in the Late Seventeenth Century,” *Colonial Latin American Review* 23, no. 3 (2014): 384-412.

“Chasing the *Avença*: An Investigation of Illicit Slave Trading in Santo Domingo at the End of the Portuguese *Asiento* Period,” *Slavery & Abolition* 35, no. 1 (2014): 99-120.

“Beard-Pulling and Furniture-Rearranging: Conflict Within the Seventeenth-Century Audiencia of Santo Domingo,” *The Americas* 68, no. 4 (April 2012): 476-493.

## **PRESENTATIONS AND LECTURES**

November 2024: Southwest Seminar, University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona.

“Reforms, Resistance, and Negotiation: The Governance of the Spanish Empire, 1492-1825,” discussion of a precirculated draft book chapter, co-written with Dr. Christoph Rosenmüller of Middle Tennessee State University, giving an overview of the evolution of the imperial governance of Spanish America from conquest to independence.

January 2024: American Historical Association Conference, San Francisco, California.

“Interrogating the Books of Slave Licenses: Peninsular Perspectives on the Early Decades of the Transatlantic Slave Trade to Spanish America,” an analysis of the perspectives and limitations of royal records of the sixteenth-century slave trade to Spanish America.

June 2023: “Slave Trading in the Spanish and British Atlantic Worlds,” Huntington Library, San

Marino, California.

“A Multinational Business: The Early Slave Trade to Spanish America, 1500-1640,” on how involvement in slaving voyages during the early phase of the Transatlantic slave trade to Spanish America regularly crossed national boundaries.

January 2019: American Historical Association Conference, New York, New York.

“‘And that is all he knows’: Witness Testimony and Local Knowledge of Transatlantic Slave Trading Connections in the Spanish Caribbean, 1620s-1630s,” an examination of how a royal inquiry during the 1620s into illicit slave trading in Santo Domingo and Puerto Rico reveals substantial local knowledge of transatlantic connections related to the slave trade.

January 2017: American Historical Association Conference, Denver, Colorado.

“Counting the Captives: Slave Licenses and Slave Voyages to Spanish America in the Sixteenth Century,” on the challenges of using royal grants of slave trading licenses and cargo registries giving projected numbers of African captives to be transported to understand actual slave arrivals in sixteenth-century Spanish America.

October 2016: Workshop, “The Spanish Caribbean in the Long Sixteenth Century,” University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida.

“The Early Slave Trade to Spanish America: Caribbean Pathways, 1530-1580,” about the early evolution of slave routes to Spanish Caribbean destinations during the sixteenth century.

May 2016: “I Encuentro Internacional 3C: Crisis globales, respuestas locales. Cultura material y conflicto social en una arteria del Imperio, siglos XVI-XVII,” Universidad Pablo Olavide, Seville, Spain.

“Redes ocultas: trayectorias de la trata de esclavos hacia Tierra Firme en el siglo XVI,” jointly presented with Dr. David Wheat of Michigan State University, on the financial networks that organized slave voyages to the region of Panama in the sixteenth century.

May 2016: “Seminario permanente de historia esclavitudes atlánticas: continuidades y transformaciones,” Universidad de Sevilla, Seville, Spain.

“La trata de esclavos y los portugueses en el Caribe español, 1560-1650,” an invited talk on the role of Portuguese merchants and local residents in the Spanish Caribbean before, during, and after the 1580-1640 Union of the Crowns of Spain and Portugal.

March 2016: “Seminario Internacional: Los negocios de la esclavitud. Tratantes y mercados de esclavos en el Atlántico ibérico, siglos XV-XIX,” Universidad de Sevilla, Seville, Spain.

“Tiempos contrarios: arribadas de barcos negreros en la Isla Española, siglo XVI,” about emergency requests for shelter used by slave ships in the sixteenth century to land and sell African captives in Hispaniola without royal permission.

October 2015: Sixteenth Century Society Conference, Vancouver, B.C.

“Crossing National Boundaries: Portuguese Slave Traders in the Eastern Spanish Caribbean, 1580-1640,” on the contrast between royal policy during the union of the crowns of Spain and Portugal meant to keep colonial empires separate and the freedom with which Portuguese subjects connected to the slave trade lived in and traveled through the eastern part of the Caribbean region.

January 2015: American Historical Association Conference, New York, New York.

“The Early Iberian Slave Trade to the Spanish Caribbean, 1500-1640,” jointly presented with

Dr. David Wheat of Michigan State University, giving an overview of our current and planned research plans for a comprehensive review of the early transatlantic slave trade to Spanish America in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.

January 2014: American Historical Association Conference, Washington, D.C.

“Smugglers in the Seventeenth-Century Caribbean: ‘Forced Arrivals’ in Santo Domingo,” about unauthorized vessels, both foreign and Spanish, using claims of distress to enter the port of Santo Domingo to circumvent the Spanish crown’s restrictions on shipping and participate in contraband trade with the assistance of officials and local residents.

April 2013: Rocky Mountain Council for Latin American Studies, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

“Portraits of Bad Officials: *Residencia* and *Visita* Charges from Seventeenth-century Santo Domingo,” using accusations of malfeasance against specific royal officials to understand contemporary views of corruption and abuse, in contrast to the more idealized perspectives of royal law and legal treatises.

April 2011: Rocky Mountain Council for Latin American Studies, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

“Restoring and Conserving the First of the Indies: Advocacy and Arbitrismo in Seventeenth-Century Spanish Hispaniola,” a presentation on the relationship between proposals emanating from the Spanish colonies and the concurrent metropolitan literature of advice and projects for the king meant to reverse the declining fortunes of the monarchy.

April 2010: Southeastern Council for Latin American Studies Annual Meeting, Mexico City, Mexico.

“Collusion and Conflict between the Audiencia and Archbishop in Santo Domingo, 1600-1700,” on corruption and the relationship between ecclesiastical and secular authorities in colonial Santo Domingo.

April 2009: Society for Spanish and Portuguese Historical Studies Annual Meeting, Kansas City, Missouri.

“Poverty and Patronage: The President-Governors of Santo Domingo, 1600-1700,” a discussion of lower-level patronage relations in the seventeenth-century Spanish Caribbean.

April 2009: Faculty Colloquium, History Department, Western Kentucky University.

Preliminary presentation and discussion of SSPHS conference paper to department members.

April 2008: Rocky Mountain Council for Latin American Studies, Flagstaff, Arizona.

“Tracing Slave Smuggling in the Seventeenth-Century Caribbean,” a paper on connections among illicit slave traders in the Spanish Americas and the difficulties encountered by contemporary and modern investigators in uncovering the paths of African slaves from Angola to the islands of the Caribbean.

January 2006: Special Presentation, Tulane University, New Orleans, Louisiana.

“Royal Administration in Seventeenth-Century Santo Domingo: Considerations on an Institutional Approach,” a discussion of how best to combine a focus on administrative institutions with an understanding of their social context in order to achieve a broader understanding of colonial Latin American history.

January 2006: American Historical Association Conference, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

“Institutional Disunity: Interpersonal Conflict on the Audiencia of Santo Domingo during

the Seventeenth Century,” an examination of internal dissent in the Dominican tribunal as a way to analyze the ambiguous boundaries of institutional identity. Joint session with the Conference on Latin American History.

March 2004: Southwestern Historical Association Conference, Corpus Christi, Texas.  
“Towards a Geography of Power in the Seventeenth-Century Spanish Caribbean,” on contemporary understanding and use of official and unofficial nodes of authority around the Caribbean. Joint session with the annual conference of the Southwestern Social Sciences Association.

April 2002: Roundtable Series, Escuela de Estudios Hispanoamericanos, Seville, Spain.  
“La Audiencia de Santo Domingo en el siglo XVII,” preliminary findings from archival research presented to members of the local academic community and visiting scholars.

### **ACADEMIC HONORS**

Gilder-Lehrman Center, MacMillan Center, Yale University, February 2025: in-residence fellowship. Funding for research on the theme of “Comparing Archival Perspectives: The Transatlantic Slave Trade from the Sixteenth to the Nineteenth Century.”

RCAP II Research Grant, Western Kentucky University, Summer 2023. Funding for digitization and transcription of records housed in Archivo General de Indias, Seville, Spain, about 1562 shipboard revolt by African captives.

RCAP II Research Grant, Western Kentucky University, Summer 2017. Funding for follow-up archival research in Seville and Simancas, Spain for “Iberian Slave Routes” research project.

ACLS Collaborative Research Fellowship, 2015-2016 academic year. Salary replacement and expenses to work on joint research project entitled “Iberian Slave Routes: The Transatlantic Slave Trade to Spanish America, 1500-1640” with Dr. David Wheat of Michigan State University.

Potter College Faculty Research Grant, Western Kentucky University, Summer 2015. Funding for archival research in Seville, Spain.

RCAP II Research Grant, Western Kentucky University, Summer 2012. Funding for archival research in Seville and Madrid, Spain for scholarly articles and book manuscript.

New faculty grant, Western Kentucky University, Summer 2009. Funding for additional research in Havana, Cuba to convert dissertation into publishable manuscript.

Summer research grants, History Department, Tulane University, 2003 and 2004. Financial support for dissertation writing during summer academic breaks.

Fulbright-IIE dissertation research grant, 2001-2002 academic year. Awarded nine months of funding for research in the Archivo General de Indias in Seville, Spain.