

Mobility, Migration, and Belonging in the Early Global Iberian Atlantic

Wednesday April 22
Friday April 24, 2026

Room 276
Humanities Quadrangle
320 York St.
New Haven, Connecticut

This workshop addresses the intersection of mobility, migration, and belonging in the early modern global Atlantic, foregrounding both geographical movement and forms of social transformation. Bringing together scholars of Jewish Studies and Atlantic history, it engages critically with the conceptual frameworks of diaspora and networks, with particular attention to—but not limited by—the Sephardic diaspora. Rather than treating Sephardic mobility as a self-contained phenomenon, the workshop situates it within broader, intersecting circulatory dynamics that shaped identities, affiliations, and trajectories across the Atlantic world. By emphasizing individual and collective agency, the workshop seeks to recover the human dimensions of networks and diaspora, examining how mobility and migration were shaped by social, religious, economic, and political forces, as well as by processes of belonging, exclusion, and displacement.

Centered on the global early modern Iberian Atlantic, the workshop adopts a decentered, transimperial, and hemispheric perspective that highlights the Atlantic's entanglements with Africa, the Americas, Europe, and other global systems. It foregrounds the multidirectional and gendered nature of mobility, including forced migrations of Africans, Indigenous dispossession and relocation, intra-American movements, and trajectories toward Europe and Africa. Participants will explore how imperial legal frameworks and locally negotiated practices governed mobility and belonging, and how these dynamics contributed to the historical construction of exclusionary ideas based on lineage, bloodline, and race. Papers will be pre-circulated and discussed over a day and a half at Yale University, with the goal of workshopping emerging scholarship on mobility, migration, and belonging in the early modern world.

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Yale Program in Jewish Studies



Free Women of Color with their Children and Servants, Dominica (c. 1764-1796), Agostino Brunias, Public domain

ORGANIZERS

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Institute for Advanced Study - Princeton; funding for the visit this year is provided by the Martin L. and Sarah F. Leibowitz Member Fund

Yale Workshop, in collaboration with the Jewish Studies Program – Yale, the Cátedra de Estudos Sefarditas Alberto Benveniste – ULisboa, and the Center for the Humanities (CHAM) – NOVA FCSH

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Jewish Studies Program, Yale University

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Schedule

Wednesday April 22
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(all events will be open to the Yale community)

Mobility, Migration, and Belonging in the Early Global Iberian Atlantic

Wednesday, April 22nd

6:30pm-6:40pm	Opening Remarks Oren Okhovat
6:40pm-7:45pm	Opening Keynote <i>A Tale of Ships and Manioc Flour: Lives on the Move Across the Sephardic Atlantic</i> Giuseppe Marcocci, University of Oxford
8:00pm	PUBLIC RECEPTION AND DINNER

Thursday, April 23rd sessions

EARLY MORNING SESSION

9:00am-9:30am	BREAKFAST
9:30am-11:00am	Panel 1 Beyond Trade: Reframing Sephardic Diaspora
9:30am-10:00am	<i>Conversos, Sephardic New Jews and Empires: convergence and antagonism</i> Claude Stuczynski, Bar-Ilan University
10:00am-10:30am	<i>After Emancipation: Commerce, Community, and the Reconfiguration of the Sephardic Caribbean</i> Jessica Roitman, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam
10:30am-11:00am	Panel 1 Discussion Session Discussant Bruno Feitler, Universidade Federal de São Paulo (UNIFESP)
11:00am-11:15am	COFFEE BREAK

LATE MORNING SESSION

11:15am-12:45pm	Panel 2 Gendered Experiences of Displacement and Settlement
11:15am-11:45am	<i>Rethinking the Public Sphere in colonial contexts: Tracing enslaved and free Black women's lives and ideas in the Early Modern Global Atlantic</i> Chloe Ireton, University College London
11:45am-12:15pm	<i>"Because she said she could not write": Women among the León Pinelo family and the "converso problem"</i> Ignacio Chuecas Saldías, Universidad Finis Terrae
12:15pm-12:45pm	Panel 2 Discussion Session Discussant Aviva Ben-Ur, University of Massachusetts Amherst
12:45pm-1:45pm	LUNCH BREAK

AFTERNOON SESSION

1:45pm-3:15pm	Panel 3 Mobility of Persons and the Dynamics of Racialization
1:45pm-2:15pm	<i>Nacida en mi casa: Affective Economies and Contingent Liberty in the Early Modern Iberian Empire</i> Michelle McKinley, University of Oregon
2:15pm-2:45pm	<i>Festive Mobilities: Pardo Ethnoracial Self-Fashioning in Eighteenth-Century Brazil</i> Miguel A. Valerio, University of Maryland
2:45pm-3:15pm	Panel 3 Discussion Session Discussant Lisa Voigt, Yale University
3:15pm-3:30pm	COFFEE BREAK

LATE AFTERNOON SESSION

3:30pm-5:00pm	Panel 4 Multidirectional Motion: Rethinking Migration Trajectories
3:30pm-4:00pm	<i>Archipelagos and the Indies fleets: Rethinking trade and travel in the early Iberian Atlantic</i> David Wheat, Michigan State University
4:00pm-4:30pm	<i>Merchant Networks and Commodity Flows: From Brazil to Europe</i> Thiago Krause, Wayne State University
4:30pm-5:00pm	Panel 4 Discussion Session Discussant Max Deardorff, University of Florida

Friday, April 24th sessions

9:00am-9:30am	BREAKFAST
9:30am-11:00am	Panel 5: Spatial Awareness in a Global Atlantic
9:30am-10:00am	<i>The Many Lives of Elvira Manzorro: A Mestiza Woman's Trans-Oceanic Travails in the Early Atlantic</i> Gabriel Rocha, Brown University
10:00am-10:30am	<i>Provisioning Conquest and Feeding the Enemy: Mona Island ca. 1500-1590</i> Casey Schmitt, Cornell University
10:30am-11:00am	Panel 5 Discussion Session Discussant Anne Eller, Yale University
11:00am-11:15am	COFFEE BREAK
11:15am-12:45pm	Closing Keynote <i>Liberties in a Turbulent Sea: Atlantic Diasporas of Peoples and Ideas in the 1790s</i> Stuart Schwartz, Yale University
12:45pm-1:00pm	Closing Remarks Oren Okhovat, Susana Bastos Mateus, Pedro Cardim

