

British Group of Early American Historians Conference
Freedom and Coercion in Early America
A 20th Anniversary Celebration of BGEAH and its founder, Dr. Betty Wood
Conference Schedule
Cambridge University
1-4 September 2016

Registration Information

-Registration at the following website by 19 August 2016 is essential.

http://onlinesales.admin.cam.ac.uk/browse/extra_info.asp?compid=1&modid=2&deptid=124&catid=1248&prodid=1669.

-A limited number of discounted and very convenient rooms have been booked at Robinson College, Cambridge (the conference is here and at the Faculty of History, about 5 mins walk away). You can book these directly at <http://kinetic.robinson.cam.ac.uk/KxBnB/>

Use promotional code 25217. The price includes full breakfast at Robinson.

-Any questions? Please contact Dr Sarah Pearsall, smsp100@cam.ac.uk

Thursday 1 Sept

1:30-2:15 Registration, History Faculty, Cambridge, Room 6. All events will take place here unless otherwise noted.

2:15-4:00 Welcome and Panel: 'Paradoxes of Slavery and Liberty'

Emily Clark, Tulane University, 'Liberty's Paradoxes: A Free Black Soldier in New Orleans, 1744-1804'

Erin Trahey, University of Cambridge, 'Free Women of Colour as "Domestic Entrepreneurs" in the Colonial Jamaican Economy'

Sarah Barringer Gordon, University of Pennsylvania, 'The First Separation of Church and State: Slavery and Disestablishment in Late Eighteenth-Century Virginia'

Chair: Sarah Pearsall, University of Cambridge

4:00-4:30pm Tea/Coffee

4:30-6:15 Panel in Celebration of Betty Wood

Sylvia Frey (Tulane University),

Mary Beth Norton (Cornell University),

Catherine Clinton (Queen's University, Belfast/University of Texas, San Antonio)

Chair: Ben Marsh, University of Kent

6:15-7:15 Keynote Lecture by Betty Wood

Chair: Sylvia Frey

Dinner on your own

Friday 2 Sept

History Faculty, Cambridge, Room 6

9.00-10:45 Slave-Catching and Kidnapping

Jordan Grant, American University, “‘For Want of A Certain Reward’”: The Governance of Runaway Bounties in the Upper South’

Christine Walker, Texas Tech University, “‘He Took Her Slaves’”: Slave Theft, Gendered Conflicts, and the Legality of Slave Ownership in Colonial Jamaica’

Richard Bell, University of Maryland, ‘Black Kidnappers and the Reverse Underground Railroad’

Chair: David Silkenat, University of Edinburgh

10:45-11:15 Tea/Coffee

11:15-1pm Slavery and Resistance in Eighteenth-Century Scotland

Simon Newman, University of Glasgow, ‘An enslaved Virginian in Scotland: Jamie Montgomery and New World Freedom-Seekers in Eighteenth-Century Britain’

Nelson Mundell, University of Glasgow, ‘Maintaining the Illusion of Power: Comparing British and North American runaway slave advertisements’

Stephen Mullen, University of Glasgow, ‘Bound labour in a land of liberty: White and Black runaways in Eighteenth-Century Scotland’

Chair: Betty Wood, University of Cambridge

1:00-2:00 Lunch

2:00-3:45pm Structures of Coercion in the Middle Colonies

Christopher Fritsch, Mountain View College, “‘Those who used force for religion never could be in the right’”: The politics of conscience and the institutionalisation of toleration in William Penn's colonial world’

Dan Johnson, Bilkent University, Ankara, ‘Varieties of Tyranny in the Colonial City: Debt, Currency, and Servitude in Philadelphia, 1682-1754’

Andrew Wells, Georg-August-Universität Göttingen, ‘Intellectual Freedom and Religious (In)tolerance in the British Atlantic World, 1708-1756’

Chair: Simon Middleton, University of Sheffield

3:45-4:15 Tea/Coffee

4:15-5:45pm Foreign Matters

Gareth Davis, University College London, 'Werewolves and Bishops and Wares, oh my! Quebec in the British American Orbit 1763-1774'

Gaye S. Wilson, International Center for Jefferson Studies, "'We are the lowest and most obscure of the whole diplomatic tribe": American Diplomats and the Importance of Perceptions, 1784-1789'

Jon Singerton, University of Edinburgh, "'Angels of the New Republic: Central European Perceptions of American Freedom, 1776-1787''

Chair: Nick Guyatt, University of Cambridge

5:45-7:00pm Book Club: Diana Paton, *The Cultural Politics of Obeah: Religion, Colonialism and Modernity in the Caribbean World* (Cambridge University Press, 2015)

Chair: Nuala Zahedieh, Edinburgh

7:00-8:00pm Reception at Crausaz Wordsworth Building, Adams Road, Robinson College

Saturday 3 September

ALL events today are at Crausaz Wordsworth Building, Adams Road, Robinson College

9.15-11:00 The American Founding in the 21st century

Saul Cornell, Fordham University, 'The Original Debate over Original Meaning Revisited'

Tom Cutterham, Oxford University, 'Constitutionalism and democracy in the early republic: The concept of "constitutional democracy''

Max Edling, King's College London, 'The Constitution and individual rights: The founding as a non-event in the history of liberalism'

Chair: Karin Wulf, Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture/ William & Mary College

11:00-11:30 Tea/Coffee

11:30-1:15pm Law and Freedom in the Caribbean

Kennedy Sanderson, University of Cambridge, 'Kemeys v Clarke, a Jamaican Case Study of Private Dispute Resolution and Public Coercion in the Transatlantic Legal System, 1767-1782'

Jenny Shaw, University of Alabama, 'Legal Freedom "beyond the line": Absenteeism and the Limits of Metropolitan Power in the Early 18th Century Caribbean'

Nuala Zahedieh, University of Edinburgh, 'Freedom to Trade: The Growth and Success of the Jewish Community of Jamaica, 1660-1730, and the Limits of Metropolitan'

Chair: Simon Newman, University of Glasgow

1:15pm-2:15 Lunch

2:15-4pm Adjusting to Empire, 1700-1750

Ian Chambers, University of Idaho, “The Challenge from the Periphery: The Rebellions of 1715”

Ben Marsh, University of Kent, ‘Explaining a Strange Episode of Geophagy [earth-eating] on the Savannah River’

Debra Burnett, University of Glasgow, ‘From Ship to Shore: The Journey of Transported Convicts to Colonial America in the Mid-Eighteenth Century’

Chair: Geoff Plank, University of East Anglia

4-4:30 Tea/Coffee

4:30-6:15pm Ideas in Print in the Eighteenth Century

Simon Middleton, University of Sheffield, ‘William Fishbourne’s “misfortune”: paper money and the early eighteenth-century political economy of empire’

Daniel Robinson, University of Cambridge, ‘British Nationalism, the Liberties of Europe, and the Language of Politics in Colonial North America, c. 1755 – 1775’

Angel-Luke O’Donnell, King’s College London, “‘Pregnant with Many Advantages to America’”: Almanacs, Lotteries, and Consumer Politics in Philadelphia, 1765 – 1775’

Chair: Inge Dornan, Brunel University

7pm Conference Banquet

Sunday 4 September

Enjoy the sights of Cambridge. Perhaps go punting? Or just nurse your hangover and stagger back home regretting that last glass of wine? (the true Cambridge experience)