

# SLAVERY AND FINANCE RESEARCH CLUSTER WORKSHOP

Ruth J. Simmons Center for the Study of Slavery and Justice | Brown University

May 9–10, 2025

*Each session is a discussion of pre-circulated works; papers on protected drive for participants only; questions to [zoe.i.clark@brown.edu](mailto:zoe.i.clark@brown.edu)*

## Friday, May 9

**11:30am-12:00pm Convene | Lunch**  
*at Simmons Center  
94 Waterman St.*

**12:00-12:15pm Welcome**

**12:15-1:45pm Session I**

### *Investment*

**Marlous van Waijenburg**, Harvard Business School, “Investing in Captivity: Investor Behavior in the Transatlantic Slave Trade”

**Isaac Mensah**, Brown University, “Slavery’s Banking: Bank of England and Plantation Foreclosures in Grenada”

**Erik Odegard**, International Institute of Social History, “The Brazilian Interest in the Dutch Republic: Financing Sugar and Slavery in Dutch Brazil and Beyond, 1630-1660”

**1:45-2:15pm Coffee Break**

**2:15-3:45pm Session II**

### *Commerce*

**Thiago Krause**, Wayne State University, “Atlantic Divergence: Brazilian Commodities and North Atlantic Competition in Seventeenth-Century European Markets”

**Brendan Greeley**, Princeton University, “Elephant and Castle: African Gold and the Monetary Origins of England’s Financial Revolution”

**Fabricio Prado**, College of William and Mary, “Financial Instruments in the US Trade in South America: Slave Trade, Commodities, and Bills of Exchange (1797-1812)”

## **4:00-5:30pm Public Keynote Lecture**

*at Friedman Hall Room 102*

**Rachel Swarns**, New York University, “Souls for Sale: Slavery’s Role in the Growth and Expansion of the Catholic Church and other American Institutions”

**6:30pm Dinner for participants**

## Saturday, May 10

**9:00am Convene | Breakfast**  
*at Simmons Center  
94 Waterman St.*

**9:30-11:00am Session III**

### *Institutions*

**Arielle Alterwaite**, University of Pennsylvania, “Abolition’s *In*finance: Herman Hendriks and the Haitian Mining Company”

**Ann Daly**, University of South Florida, “Minting America: The Labor and Politics of Money in the Early United States”

**Richard Cellini**, Independent Scholar, “Fruit of the Poisonous Tree: How Slavery Financed Boston’s Cultural Gems (1821-1865)”

**11:00-11:30am Coffee Break**

**11:30am-1:00pm Session IV | Summary**

**Hannah Farber**, Columbia University

**Lawrence Peskin**, Morgan State University

**Michael Ralph**, Howard University

**Sharon Murphy**, Providence College



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