

GLOBAL EARLY AMERICA BEFORE 1700

2026 WMQ–EMSI Workshop

January 30 - 31, 2026

The Huntington Library in San Marino, California

Sponsored by the *William and Mary Quarterly* and the
USC–Huntington Early Modern Studies Institute





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The WMQ–EMSI Workshop Series is designed to identify and encourage new trends in our understanding of the history and culture of early North America. It fosters intellectual exchange among scholars working on thematically related topics that may be chronologically, geographically, or methodologically diverse. The participants are primarily mature scholars working on second or subsequent book projects; they share their work in progress with the aim of deepening and enriching their perspectives, their approaches, and ultimately the final products of their research. Subsequently, the convener may write an essay elaborating on the issues raised at the workshop for publication in the *William and Mary Quarterly*.



The WMQ–EMSI Workshops are sponsored by the University of Southern California–Huntington Early Modern Studies Institute (with financial support from the USC Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences, the Mellon Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and Carole Shammas) and the Omohundro Institute of Early American History & Culture and are hosted by the Huntington Library and the University of Southern California.



From the Call for Proposals

Was there a global early America? Atlantic approaches to early America have become commonplace, as have perspectives rooted in ideas about “vast” early America, yet little scholarship has sought to situate early America in a global context. Is such a context useful? What might it illuminate about the history of early America before 1700? This WMQ-EMSI Workshop invites scholars in history and related disciplines to explore these questions from a diverse array of methodological and geographic perspectives. Participants are urged to think about what global contexts might entail as broadly and creatively as possible, considering connections, comparisons, and convergences as well as shared processes or experiences.

Participants will discuss a pre-circulated, unpublished chapter-length portion of their current work in progress along with the work of other participants. Audience members will then be invited to join the conversation.





Friday, January 30, 2026

The Huntington Library

9:00 – 9:30 am

Coffee

9:30 – 10:00 am

Welcome and Introduction

Welcome

Julia Gaffield, *William and Mary Quarterly*

Peter Mancall, Early Modern Studies Institute

Convener's Introduction

Alison Games, Georgetown University

10:00 – 11:00 am

SESSION 1

Paul Musselwhite, Dartmouth College

***“The Early American Plantation in a Global
Agricultural Revolution”***

Comment: Michelle McKinley, University
of Oregon

Chair: Peter Mancall, Early Modern
Studies Institute

11:00 – 11:15 pm

Morning Coffee

11:15 am – 12:15 pm

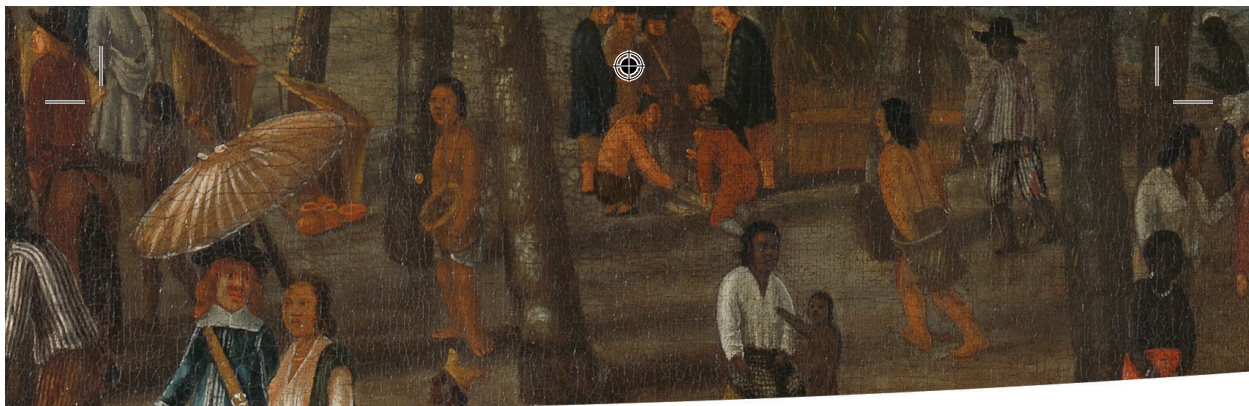
SESSION 2

Susanah Romney, New York University

***“Negotiating the Wild Coast: Indigenous-
European Interactions in Early Seventeenth-
Century Guayana”***

Comment: Scott Berthelette, Queen's University

Chair: Julia Gaffield, *William and Mary Quarterly*



12:15 – 1:45 pm

Lunch

1:45 – 2:45 pm

SESSION 3

Kristie Flannery, Australian Catholic University

“The Miracle of the Crab and the Conquest of the Sea”

Comment: Melissa N. Morris, University of Wyoming

Chair: Joshua Piker, Omohundro Institute

2:45 – 3:00 pm

Afternoon Coffee

3:00 – 4:00 pm

SESSION 4

Casey Schmitt, Cornell University

“Mona Island: Global Trade and Resistance in the Sixteenth- and Seventeenth-Century Caribbean”

Comment: Andrea Mosterman, University of New Orleans

Chair: Peter Mancall, Early Modern Studies Institute



Saturday, January 31, 2026

The Huntington Library

9:00 – 9:30 am

Coffee

9:30 – 10:30 am

SESSION 5

Michelle McKinley, University of Oregon

“Amas de leche: Wetnurses in the Early Modern Iberian Empire”

Comment: Susanah Romney, New York University

Chair: Julia Gaffield, *William and Mary Quarterly*

10:30 – 10:45 am

Morning Coffee

10:45 – 11:45 am

SESSION 6

Melissa N. Morris, University of Wyoming

“Shipboard Encounters and the Making of the Modern World”

Comment: Casey Schmitt, Cornell University

Chair: Joshua Piker, Omohundro Institute

11:45 am – 1:15 pm

Lunch



1:15 – 2:15 pm

SESSION 7

Scott Berthelette, Queen's University

*“Ouréhouaré’s Odyssey: The Journey of a
Haudenosaunee Headman Through the
Seventeenth Century French Atlantic World”*

Comment: Kristie Flannery, Australian
Catholic University
Chair: Peter Mancall, Early Modern
Studies Institute

2:15 – 2:30 pm

Afternoon Coffee

2:30 – 3:30 pm

SESSION 8

Andrea Mosterman, University of New Orleans

*“Neither Enslaved nor Free: The Struggle for
Freedom of New Netherland’s Black Community”*

Comment: Paul Musselwhite, Dartmouth College
Chair: Julia Gaffield, *William and Mary Quarterly*

3:30 – 4:30 pm

Final Discussion

Moderator: Alison Games, Georgetown University

Image Credits:

“The Castle of Batavia” by Andries Beeckman, ca. 1656 Courtesy of the Rijksmuseum

“A lande Crab” by John White, 1585-1593 Courtesy of the British Museum

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