

Monday, 30.01.2023; 4:15 - 6:00 pm CET

Chloe Ireton, University College London, UK:

Imagining Freedom: Enslaved Black people in Sevilla and their personal cartographies of the Atlantic World

Abstract:

Drawing on rare first-hand accounts penned by an enslaved Black woman in early seventeenth-century Sevilla, this talk explores how enslaved Black people in Sevilla imagined freedom and the strategies they deployed to obtain it. It also traces their interactions with the urban geography of the city where they lived and the broader Atlantic world. The talk explores the collective and fractured memories in Sevilla of histories of liberation from slavery among neighbours, and mutual aid between Black kin that sometimes spanned the Atlantic.

Bio:

Chloe Ireton is a Lecturer in the History of Iberia and the Iberian World 1500-1800, and works on the histories of race, slavery, freedom, and empire in the early Southern Atlantic world. She is currently at work on *Slavery & Freedom in Black Thought in the Early Spanish Atlantic*, a monograph that explores how free and enslaved Black men and women in the early Atlantic world conceptualized two strands of political thought – freedom and slavery. She is the author of various articles including (2021) "L'imaginaire éthiopien dans le premier monde hispanique: esclavage et baptême dans le *Catéchisme évangélique* de Sandoval," *Revue d'Histoire Moderne & Contemporaine*, 68-2, avril-juin 2021, 102-128. Stable link: <https://doi.org/10.3917/rhmc.682.0104> and (2020) "Black Africans' Freedom Litigation Suits to Define Just War and Just Slavery in the Early Spanish Empire," *Renaissance Quarterly*, 73(4), 1277-1319. Awarded the Renaissance Society of America William Nelson Prize for best article published in the *Renaissance Quarterly* in 2020. doi:10.1017/rqx.2020.219. Stable link: <https://cup.org/20I2Ywb> and (2017) "'They Are Blacks of the Caste of Black Christians': Old Christian Black Blood in the Sixteenth- and Early Seventeenth-Century Iberian Atlantic." *Hispanic American Historical Review*, 97:4, 2017, 579-612. Stable link: <https://doi.org/10.1215/00182168-4214303>