

CENTRAL NEW YORK EARLY AMERICAS CONSORTIUM



Dr. Mitchell will be pre-circulating a paper titled:

“After Sale: Gender, Childhood, and Smallpox in the Slave Trade and Domestic Slavery in Cumaná”

In November 1769, an enslaved African girl and her forty-seven shipmates journeyed from San Juan to Cumaná on a Compañía Gaditana ship. The girl was sold to Cumaná's treasurer and, several days later, members of the household became ill with smallpox, which they attributed to the enslaved girl. Officials first quarantined her and her shipmates, eventually sending the surviving enslaved people back to Puerto Rico. In conversation with scholarship on medicine, the Spanish slave trade, and gender and urban slavery in the Caribbean, my paper examines how gender, childhood, kinship, and the classification of “*bozal*” informed Cumaná's public health policies and enslaved people's experiences of them. The enslaved girl's status made her vulnerable to physical scrutiny and sanctioned her quarantine and re-embarkation. Her intra-Caribbean voyages and movements through the morbid geography of Cumaná's quarantines illustrate the degree of precarity that newly enslaved Africans experienced when caught in the crosshairs of the slave trade, enslavement, and public health policies.

Join us for a conversation with Dr.
Elise A. Mitchell, Princeton
Presidential Postdoctoral Fellow at

Cornell University, location TBA

Thursday, March 28 at 5:00pm EST



Central New York
Humanities Corridor

For a copy of the paper, to RSVP for the dinner, or to join our listserv,
please email:

Tessa Murphy at temurphy@syr.edu or
Casey Schmitt at cs2437@cornell.edu