



Join us **Thursday, November 9th**
for our Atlantic History Talk with
Michael J. Jarvis

Thursday, November 9th, 2023
12:00 - 1:30 pm
6275 Bunche Hall and on [Zoom](#)

Castle Cormantine and Early English Africa, 1632-1672

The English Guinea Company established its first permanent foothold in Africa on a rocky hill near the town of Kormantin (modern Ghana) in 1632 in order to enter the fiercely competitive gold trade. Over the next three decades, three different English companies enlarged and fortified this strategic base as a headquarters for developing new emerging Atlantic and global markets. Intense international rivalries over the Akan gold and West African slave trades directly led to the Second Anglo-Dutch War and England's loss of Cormantine to Dutch forces in 1665. My talk draws upon archaeological, archival, and digital modeling research to situate this "lost" English Atlantic site within broader understandings of European, African, Atlantic, Diasporic, and global histories of the early modern world, positioning Cormantine between the East and West Indies and among shifting European and West African rivalries.

Michael Jarvis is an Associate Professor of History at the University of Rochester, as well as the Director of the Digital Elmina Project and Director of Smiths Island Archaeology Project. His research interests center on understanding historical worlds in motion—people and things transiting oceanic and conceptual spaces and the agents who move them. Specifically, Dr. Jarvis studies the creation of oceanic, imperial, international and intercolonial networks of trade, migration, and communication and the maritime infrastructure that underpinned them. His work is necessarily interdisciplinary; trained as a social historian and historical archaeologist, He also incorporates material culture, architecture, landscape/seascape studies, environmental history, and sensitivity to gender and race as historical cultural constructs throughout the early Modern Atlantic World.