



**Join us Thursday, May 16th,
for our Atlantic History Talk with
Professor Hannah Anderson**

**Thursday, May 16th, 2024
12:00 - 1:30 pm
6275 Bunche Hall and on [Zoom](#)**

Caribbean Cabbage Trees: Settlers and Botany in England's Early Atlantic Empire

The seventeenth-century Caribbean was filled with strange vegetation that fascinated early modern European observers and compelled them to develop new ways of representing nature's variety. Whereas many natural historians sought to explain this vegetation within emerging classificatory schemes, many English settlers in the Caribbean, who were neither a part of transatlantic natural historical networks nor invested in the discipline's principles, developed alternate traditions for conceptualizing unfamiliar flora. This talk

considers the exchange of knowledge between settlers, Indigenous people, and African people in seventeenth and early-eighteenth century Barbados and Jamaica. These diverse populations shared practical traditions of plant use that birthed alternative ways of understanding nature beyond the developing norms of natural history.

Hannah Anderson is an Assistant Professor of History at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock and a 2023-2024 Dibner Long-Term Research Fellow in the History of Science and Technology at the Huntington Library. Previously, she was the University College Fellow of Early American History at the University of Toronto. Her book manuscript, *Lived Botany: Settlers and Natural History in the Early British Atlantic*, examines how settlers exchanged botanical knowledge with Indigenous and African people and argues that these interactions both shaped the development of the science of natural history and the fate of England's Atlantic empire. Dr. Anderson's work has been supported by many institutions, including the McNeil Center for Early American Studies, the American Philosophical Society, the Consortium for the History of Science, Technology, and Medicine, the John Carter Brown Library, the American Antiquarian Society, the Library Company of Philadelphia, and the New England Regional Fellowship Consortium. She holds a Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania.

The Atlantic History Colloquium generates innovative scholarship on the relations linking Africa, Europe and the Americas by investigating the expansion of markets during the slave trade; the production of literary texts and forms of historical memory; the politics of religious dissent and conversion; the growth of colonial science and cartography; Native American ethnogenesis; the rise of abolitionist and Pan-African ideologies; and the dynamics of race, gender and creolization throughout the Atlantic world.

Please visit [UCLA Atlantic History](#) for more information and a complete schedule of events in 2024.