



Join us on **Thursday, April 24, 2025**, for our
Atlantic History Talk with **Emily Holloway**

Hybrid event

Bunche Hall 6275 & [Zoom](#)

Thursday, April 24, 2025

12:30-2:00 PM (New Time)



“Crisis in Rehearsal: A History of the Present at the Domino Refinery”

The Domino Sugar Refinery, a landmarked industrial building in Williamsburg, Brooklyn, was constructed in 1883. Now the centerpiece of a multibillion-dollar mixed use real estate development, the refurbished building has been adapted for commercial office space. Opening in the wake of the pandemic, the Refinery at Domino faces a pending crisis of surplus real estate, as businesses and workers in New York have shifted to flexible work arrangements. This crisis brings an alternative but important historical touchstone into relief that recontextualizes the building’s historicity: The Haitian Revolution (1791-1804). In this paper, I argue that the Domino Refinery’s prehistory begins with the Haitian Revolution, a world historical event that respatialized the global political economy of sugar production and, consequently, laid the foundation for the Refinery’s earliest iterations at the turn of the nineteenth century. I position the Haitian Revolution through the framework of what critical geographers call a “spatial fix,” or a geographic resolution to capitalist crisis.



Emily Holloway earned her PhD in urban geography from Clark University and is the Research and Editorial Fellow at the Lindy Institute for Urban Innovation at Drexel University. She has been a Research Fellow at the University of Pennsylvania’s Urban Heritage Project and Center for the Preservation of Civil Rights Sites, as well as the Brooklyn Waterfront Research Center. Her work has been published in *American Quarterly* and *Middle States Geographer*, and she is the Associate Managing Editor of *Urban Affairs Review*.

