

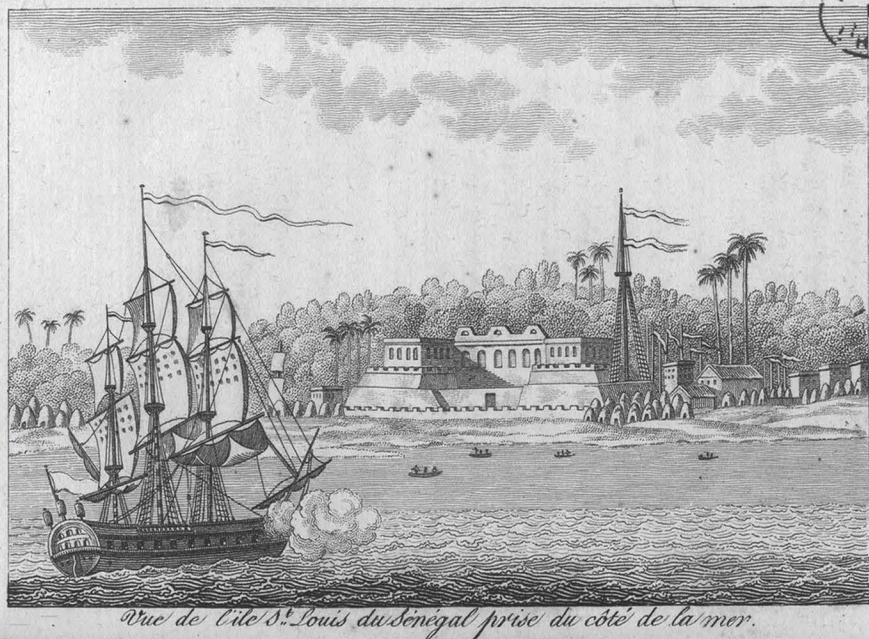
Early Modern Explorations: A Conference in Honor of Mary Terrall



Friday, June 3, 2022
8:45 a.m.–5:15 p.m.

314 Royce Hall
& Livestreamed on the
Center's Youtube Channel

Organized by
Theodore Porter, UCLA



The "Scientific Revolution," as the first generation of professional historians of science defined it, was set in early modern Europe. It was about rigor and mathematical abstraction, the distancing of self from nature. Mary Terrall's sense of early modern science appears radically different. It focuses on human actors, but also insects, frogs, instruments, and plants. Open one of her books or articles and you will meet not with towering abstractions, but with closely-observed actors, enveloped in details drawn from texts and archives that may at first appear remote from science. Yet mathematics is present too, and self-styled heroic adventurers carrying out those measurements and calculations by which the earth was ever-so-slightly flattened at the poles. The forms of early modern exploration that are brought together in her work connect with imperial and commercial adventures, animal husbandry, book history, and natural history collections. The new world of early modern science as she depicts it is dazzlingly heterogeneous, simultaneously literary and material, comprised of enlightened states and their academies; female as well as male collectors, readers, and mathematicians; far-flung adventures and finely-drawn caterpillars.

Speakers:

- Scottie Hale Buehler**,
Sam Houston State University
- Michael D. Gordin**
Princeton University
- Mi Gyung Kim**
North Carolina State University
- Catherine A. Molineux**
Vanderbilt University
- Karen Oslund**
Towson University
- Sean M. Quinlan**
University of Idaho
- Kapil Raj**
École des hautes études en sciences sociales
- Pamela H. Smith**
Columbia University

For more information and to register, please visit:
www.1718.ucla.edu/events/early-modern-explorations/

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18th-Century Studies

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