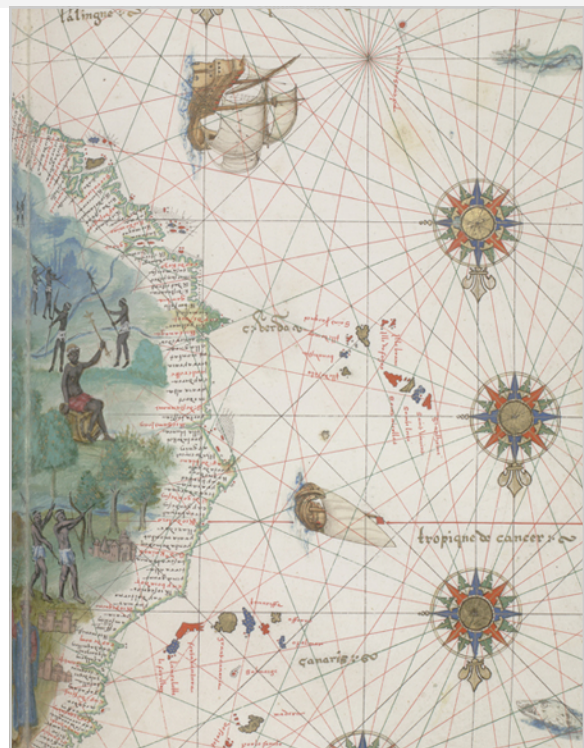




ATLANTIC  
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## East Atlantic Crossings Before 1550



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Gabriel de Avilez Rocha, PhD

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12:30 - 2:00pm

Atlantic historians tend to understand transoceanic crossings along an east-west axis, with people and goods seen as traversing the space between Africa and/or Europe, on the one hand, and the Americas, on the other. Yet in the early decades of the sixteenth century, even as the broader contours of Atlantic circumnavigation were becoming more evident to members of various maritime communities, impressions of transoceanic mobility did not yet assume the east-west axis as normative. Frequently traveled thoroughfares linking Seville to the Canaries, São Tomé to the Azores, and Cabo Verde to Rouen were themselves widely seen as transoceanic in scope, even if they hewed to the eastern side of the Atlantic. The weight of tradition, dating back to patterns of voluntary and coerced movements from well before 1492, lay behind this conventional wisdom. Considering the shifts and continuities of the eastern Atlantic corridor before 1550, this talk brings together individual stories of conflict, negotiation, and struggle waged by a diverse range of individuals in order to recover a largely overlooked geographic and temporal dimension of early Atlantic history

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