



**YORK/UNESCO/SSHRCC  
NIGERIAN HINTERLAND  
PROJECT  
NEWSLETTER**



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## **African Diaspora Newsletter**

**Paul E. Lovejoy, editor**

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## The Research Agenda for a Canadian Centre of Research on the African Diaspora

**Paul E. Lovejoy**

The following notes were delivered at Dartmouth College at a workshop to explore issues of gender in the study of the African diaspora and the history of slavery. On the occasion of the workshop, I wanted to highlight issues of demography and theory, the first raising questions about who exactly the women were who gave birth to the “creole” societies born in the Americas, and secondly, what the ethnic origins of the female population might suggest about the nature of the transmission of “African” culture to the new, “creole societies” of the Americas.

Our view of the emergent societies can be informed by the visual images of enslaved women drawn from Brazil in 1834-39 by the talented and sensitive Jean-Baptiste Debret, who examined the hairstyles, body markings, tattooing, clothing styles, and jewelry of the coloured women of means in Brazil. While such images overlook the naked and bruised, and represent a stylized and romanticized view of African Brazil, the range of images is suggestive of the complexities of fashion and history.



**“Slaves of different nations”  
Jean Baptiste Debret  
1834-1839**

Behind the images, one can imagine the relationship between mothering and culture, and that is too often forgotten that women gave birth to creole society. They provided the sustenance for community and continuity. In a cultural environment that denied paternity, the role of the mother cannot be exaggerated. Mothers knew they could lose control of their children at any time, through sale, either their own or their child’s or children’s, and hence the maternal will had to be enforced more purposefully than might be considered “natural”. In the extreme, as Renée Soulodre-La France has demonstrated in her analysis of the tragic case of a woman in colonial Colombia, the killing of children represented the ultimate, distorted effort of enslaved mothers to prepare their children for the horrors of the real, enslaved world. Such child killing, it should be noted, virtually always happened, as far as known, in the context of attempted suicide by the woman.

The sex ratios of the slave trade were ideally 2:1, male to female, and over the course of the slave trade this ratio was achieved, approximately. Such a measure disguise considerable variation over time and among the different regions, and hence ethnic, origins of the enslaved populations. Moreover, the ratio of

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males of females has to be seen in the context of all overseas migrations, in which males virtually always outnumbered women, and before the twentieth century, it can be stated, the predominance of males in overseas migrations cannot be overstressed. The movement of enslaved Africans involved more women than other migrations, which were almost entirely male, at least until the twentieth century. Moreover, the ratios of males and females changed over time, affecting the demography of each colony. There were proportionately many more Igbo women than Muslim women, for example. That is, the numbers of women of specific ethnic backgrounds varied considerably, depending entirely upon the number of women who came from Africa and where they settled.

This correlation between slavery and gender is striking, as the Caribbean scholars, particularly Brathwaite and his school, have demonstrated, highlighting the striking difference between the period when the African-born population predominated, and period when “creole” came to predominate; this dominance affected attitudes towards how people should be treated and the reaction of the enslaved, both men and women, as to how women should respond.

Hence the images from Debret of enslaved African women and creole-born women are important in understanding gender and the identity of women under slavery. The project being identified here, therefore, is one that intends to create a database of images of individuals, as part of a biographical database, and as a means of establishing identities for the purpose of generating an historical atlas of slavery.

The establishment of the Harriet Tubman Centre for Research on the African Diaspora at York University is intended to consolidate various research initiatives that have arisen out of the network of scholars and institutions focusing on the “Nigerian” hinterland and the diaspora of enslaved Africans that originated there. The memory of Harriet Tubman is invoked because of her association with resistance to slavery in North America, and her roots to the Underground Railroad in Canada, thereby directing attention to the place of Canada in the history of slavery and its abolition.



## **Harriet Tubman (1820-1913)**

**Political activist and feminist, personally led hundreds of African Americans to freedom in Canada before the American Civil War**

The Harriet Tubman Centre draws on a number of research programs, specifically: the Canada Research Chair in African Diaspora History, a grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, under its Major Collaborative Research Initiatives Program, affiliation with the UNESCO Slave Route Project, Division of Intercultural Projects, and the Canada Foundation for Innovation and various partnerships associated with the provision of necessary infrastructure to sustain a broad-ranging research agenda, including IBM, Island Corp., and the Ontario Innovation Trust.

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The program of research centers on four areas. The first focuses on the Nigerian hinterland and the African diaspora, including research projects on a variety of issues organized within the seven areas of research concentration outlined in the Nigerian Hinterland mandate (preservation and accessibility of primary documents; biographical database; historical atlas of slavery; ports of the Bight of Benin and Bight of Biafra; ethnicity in the trans-Atlantic setting; cross-Atlantic linkages; and the Muslim factor.

The second area of concentration focuses on enslaved Africans in the Muslim world, including North Africa, the Islamic heartlands, Iran, and the East African coast.

The third area of focus is the Kongo/Angola and the African diaspora, which highlights the links with Brazil but also with virtually all parts of the diaspora in the Americas.

The fourth area of concentration is on North America, particularly the Underground Railroad, and the role of Ontario in the history of slavery and abolition.

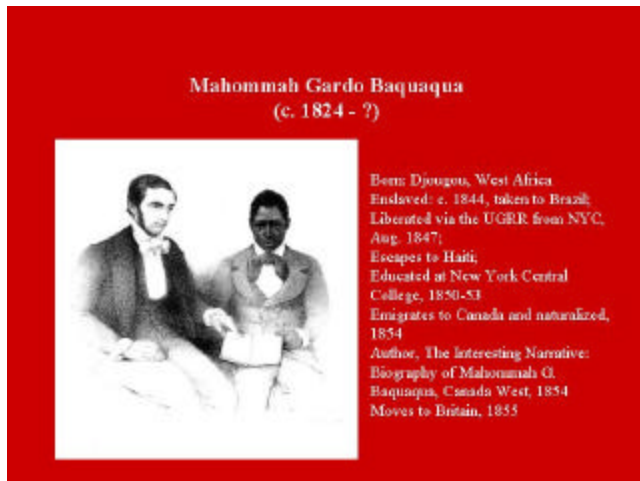


**Mary Ann Shadd**

There is also an active program of dissemination and outreach, such as the CJRT/Ryerson program on the African diaspora by Trotman; various books, papers, conference proceedings, probably amounting to at least 20 volumes over the next eighteen months. The website of the Nigerian Hinterland Project ([www.yorku.ca/nhp](http://www.yorku.ca/nhp)), the weekly Harriet Tubman Seminar and Lecture Series, and the documentation series, *SHADD – Studies in the History of the African Diaspora – Documents*, named after Mary Ann Shadd, of the *Provincial Freeman*, 1853-57, Windsor, Toronto, Chatham, Canada West (Ontario).

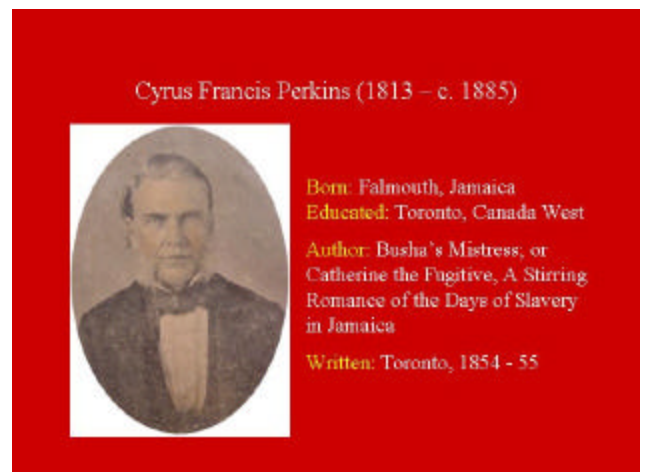
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This far-reaching agenda of research is closely integrated with the training of students, including graduate teaching and supervision, undergraduate courses in methodology and history, and conferences, workshops, and symposia for discussion and presentation of research results.



The impact of this research agenda is far-reaching and suggests that the impact of the African diaspora crosses national boundaries in interesting ways. Two examples will be sufficient to demonstrate the complexities of the African diaspora. The first is the unusual travels of Mahommah Gardo Baquaqua from West Africa to Brazil, the USA, Haiti, and Canada; Baquaqua writing his biography in Chatham, Ontario in 1854, although until now not previously recognized as part of the Canadian or diaspora corpus of texts on slavery and emancipation.

Similarly, the author, Cyrus Francis Perkins, bridges Jamaica and Canada. His unknown novel, *Busha's Mistress, or Catherine the Fugitive: A Stirring Romance of the Days of Slavery in Jamaica*, was written in Brantford, Ontario in 1855, although the novel represents new voices that have not previously been heard on the history of slavery in Jamaica. I am currently working on a new edition with Verene Shepherd and David Trotman. The novel is an interesting depiction of an enslaved woman, and the description of gender relationships, although fictionalized, adds a powerful voice to the record of slavery.



**THE HARRIET TUBMAN CENTRE  
FOR RESEARCH ON THE AFRICAN DIASPORA\***

**Department of History  
York University**

## Introduction

York University, with support from the Canadian Foundation for Innovation and other sources, is establishing a Canadian Centre for Research on the African Diaspora, to be named in honour of Harriet Tubman, activist and feminist associated with the Underground Railroad that brought thousands of refugees to Canada from the United States before the American Civil War. Infrastructure support is being provided in two areas: first, for the renovation of dedicated space to house the centre; and second, for the acquisition of the appropriate technologies to implement the research agenda of the Centre and establish a digital library on the African diaspora, including the construction of databases on the forced migration of enslaved Africans during the slave-trade era, and on subsequent developments pertaining to Black people throughout the diaspora, including Canada.

A centre of excellence has emerged at York University in the area of race relations and African diaspora studies that requires infrastructure support. Indeed such support is essential to maintain and consolidate an exceptional concentration of research strengths, entirely unique in Canada and virtually unmatched anywhere in the world. The principal researchers associated with this proposal have to a large extent set the course of research on the African diaspora which now requires strong infrastructure support. The award of CFI funding indicates that the research being conducted is indeed exceptional by international standards, having a major impact, and being highly innovative. An outline of the major research programs and activities to be supported by the infrastructure suggests that the anticipated impact of the infrastructure on the research programs of the principal users will result in major achievements. Recruitment of additional researchers is planned. Indeed York University has a concrete plan for hiring in a manner that will enhance the research capability underlying the Tubman Centre.

The considerable strengths at York University upon which the Tubman Centre would depend include, first, a significant concentration of specialists in the Department of History who focus on broadly similar themes throughout the lands of the African diaspora and the Atlantic world. Existing areas of concentration are to be found in the Centre for Research on Latin America and the Caribbean (CERLAC), the Centre for the Study of Blacks in Canada, and undergraduate area studies programs, which are essential foundation for the proposed Centre. There are also related areas of expertise at York in arts and culture, religious studies, area studies, law, and social and political thought. York also has an established and growing reputation in Fine Arts and ethnomusicology, two areas which this Centre expects to pioneer in research on the African diaspora. Our international connections, especially in Brazil and Cuba, place us in an enviable position to pursue research across several linguistic boundaries in order to establish databases on different aspects of African music and arts in the Americas.

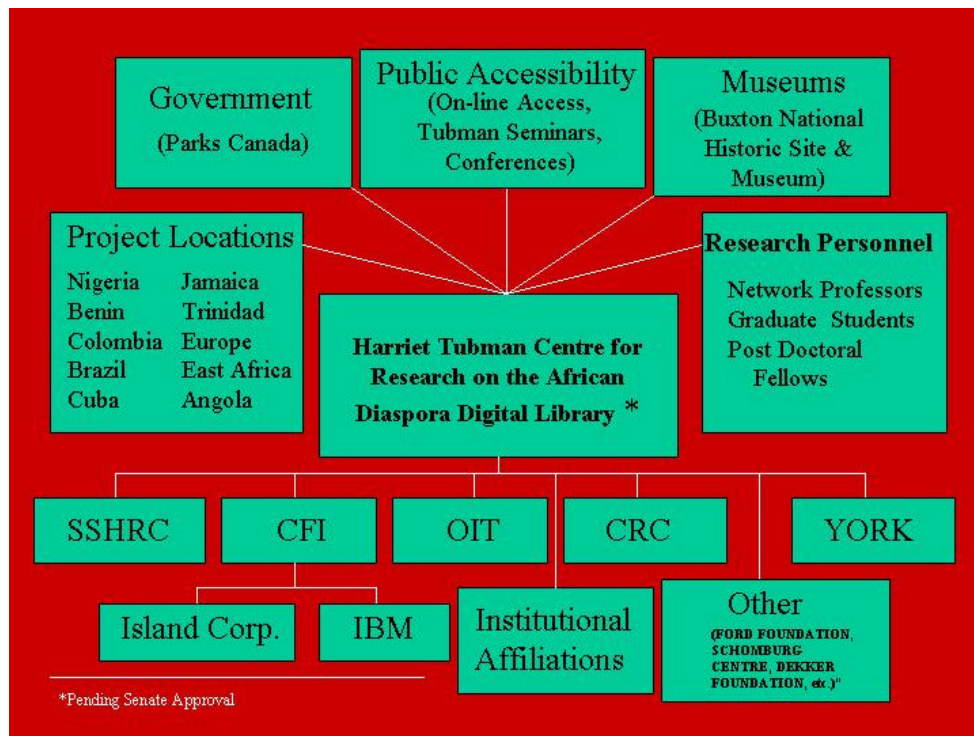
The Tubman Centre will help to coordinate a network of institutions that are already involved in the generation of appropriate data in association with the York/UNESCO Nigerian Hinterland Project, funded

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\* Approval by the Senate of York University pending.

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by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada. Building on this existing network, the Centre will be affiliated with Queen's University, the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture (New York Public Library), the African Studies Centre and Black Atlantic Program at Rutgers University, the University of the West Indies in Jamaica, the Wilberforce Institute at the University of Hull (UK), the Nigerian National Archives (Enugu), Arewa House Centre for Historical Documentation and Research at Ahmadu Bello University (Nigeria), the Escuela de Historia at the Universidad de Costa Rica, Université Naionale du Bénin in West Africa, and UNESCO (Intercultural Projects Division, and especially the "Slave Route" Project). It is expected that other such linkages will be established or otherwise consolidated in Cuba, Curaçao, France and elsewhere.



## Research on Slavery and Abolition: Significance and Trends

The rise and fall of African slavery in the Americas is among a handful of historical issues that have shaped the ideological parameters and social history of the modern world. From the perspective of the end of the twentieth century, the abolition of slavery both created and continues to reflect a preoccupation with human rights, economic efficiency and social identity. This conjunction accounts for its centrality in the historiography on the development of the Atlantic world since 1492 as well as an emerging fascination with African slavery and the Black diaspora among a wider public in Canada and the rest of the world. The forced shipment over several centuries of millions of Africans to the Americas where they became victims of exploitation unparalleled in human history profoundly influenced the history of American societies that employed slaves, the African societies whence they came, and the European nations centrally involved in colonising the Americas. Transatlantic slavery and the forces that produced its formal abolition in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries were clearly vital in helping to define for others the identity of black peoples.

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But they were also crucial in shaping European colonialism and imperialism and the identities of 'whites', thus creating legacies of racism and division that still have profound social consequences throughout the Atlantic world and remain the subject of research in all the social sciences as well as the humanities. While the rise and fall of the plantation complex was the rise and fall of a system of production, slavery and abolition raised and, indeed, still continue to raise fundamental issues of community and identity for people in Europe, Africa and the Americas.

The outpouring of research on slavery, abolition and the Black diaspora began in the mid-1950s, reflecting concerns, among other things, about civil rights in the USA. Under the influence of Canada-based scholars, this research has generated huge quantities of data that in many respects still await coordinated examination and analysis, nationally and internationally. Advances in knowledge, moreover, have been uneven. At present, for example, we know much more about patterns of slave arrivals in North America and the West Indies than in Brazil and more about arrivals in general than about the ethnicity of slaves, conditions in Africa, and transatlantic linkages between Africa and the Americas. The recent publication of a CD-ROM of 27,000 slaving voyages (Eltis, Richardson et al) fills some of these gaps, though less in the case of Brazil than other areas, and is likely to intensify research on slave origins, patterns of transatlantic linkages, and African heritage and transnational communities. A further surge in research on the Black diaspora as well as on related aspects of transatlantic slavery is thus to be anticipated.

Specific findings apart, modern research on transatlantic slavery and its abolition has had two dominant characteristics. First, the records relating to slavery and abolition are abundant, albeit widely dispersed among repositories throughout the Atlantic. Second, the electronic revolution has begun to overcome some of the problems arising from the scattered location of records. During the last fifteen years, researchers have assembled and stored large bodies of information from records in many countries in data sets. As in other areas of history and the social sciences, it is thus increasingly unusual for any research on slavery, abolition or the Black diaspora to proceed without reference to such bodies of data, regardless of whether the analysis itself is quantitatively oriented. In response to such trends, institutes for research on transatlantic slavery or Black diaspora studies have appeared in a number of countries to act as gathering points for source materials, a clearing house for international intellectual exchange, and a base for the development of new research techniques or methodologies. The Tubman Centre will be the first of its kind in Canada and indeed elsewhere as well.

The research programme of the Tubman Centre will focus on the evolution of the African diaspora in its widest sense, historical, cultural, and demographic. Named after the famous abolitionist and freedom fighter, Harriet Tubman, the Centre will reflect the important role that Canada played in the abolition of slavery. As a Canadian research facility, the Tubman Centre will undertake world-class research into issues of slavery and its legacy, providing the research infrastructure to inform major policy issues relating to racism, ethnic tensions and the quest for world peace. The Canadian contribution to the African diaspora was its key role in welcoming fugitives from the United States, one of the first refugee populations in Canada and an early example of humanitarianism affecting public policy. The Canadian role in the fight against slavery underscores the significance of resistance and struggle in the dispersion of Africans through slavery and highlights the vitality of a black Canadian identity. The location of the Harriet Tubman Centre at York University builds on the considerable research strengths of the University in area studies, especially Africa, the Caribbean, and Latin America, as well as Europe and North America, and into the subjects of race relations, ethnicity, and gender, especially in the disciplines of history, anthropology, literature, linguistics, and the humanities. Specifically, the Nigerian Hinterland Project, funded under the major Collaborative Re-

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search initiative Programme of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, has been enormously successful, now reaching a scale of operation that requires the infrastructure of the Tubman Centre.

Africans entered the modern era through slavery and the slave trade, and hence the study of the African diaspora, as the focus of the Tubman Centre, is the study of how slavery peopled the modern world. It recognizes that the creation of the African diaspora constituted one of the most important population movements of the modern era, and resulted in the forced migration of black Africans not only to the Americas but throughout the Islamic world. Hence a study of the African diaspora not only focuses on the Americas, but also on the Sahara, North Africa, the Ottoman domains, and the shores of the Indian Ocean. The themes of study include the impact of Islam on the modern world, as well as the impact of western Europe on the Atlantic and accommodation with the indigenous environment in which Africans found themselves in the Americas. Such research also recognizes the important impact of migration and settlement on the Native Peoples with whom enslaved Africans, and especially fugitives from slavery, interacted.

Given that a diaspora by its nature cannot exist without a homeland and the quest to re-attain that homeland, the Centre focuses on those themes in African history which are relevant to our understanding of the dispersal of Africans to the Americas and to the Islamic heartland. Geographically, the concentration includes everywhere that Africans had an impact, from Pushkin's Russia to Harriet Tubman's Underground Railroad. As the Nigerian Hinterland Project attempts to do, the relationships between the homeland and the diaspora reveal a series of sub-diasporas, broadly organized along ethnic lines in the Americas, and representing especially Kongo, Mbundu, Igbo, Yoruba, Gbe, Akan, Hausa, Mandinke, and a few other ethnic groups. These groups can be identified in significant concentrations sufficient to have affected culture and the course of history, but in specific places in the Caribbean, Brazil, and Hispanic America, as well as anglophone and francophone colonies.

The cultural manifestations of the African diaspora are worth considering. In key areas, such as music, art and religion, the diaspora has helped to shape the modern world, its tastes and sensibilities. Pan-Africanism in its broadest sense of self-awareness and conscious expression has been a major force in exposing racism and the power of legacy. The focus of research for this Centre will be targeted at specific linkages between homeland and diaspora as well as within the diaspora. In terms of methodology and paradigms, the research agenda is intended to benefit from a range of disciplines and also contribute to the debates of the different disciplines. York faculty members are involved in exploring all of these key issues. Areas of expertise reveal several key concentrations of specialists and interests. These include literature in francophone and Caribbean contexts; linguistic issues relating to culture change and language; Underground Railroad and 19th century blacks in upper Canada; Nova Scotia and the Sierra Leone connection; Caribbean immigration and 20th century cultural revival; Islamic heartland and black Africa; ethnic and racialist theories and ideologies; archaeology and material culture; religion; artistic expression; music.

## Training and Coordination of Researchers

The Tubman Centre will substantially assist Canadian and other researchers to contribute more to innovations in research methodologies in this field and thus to shaping the ongoing research agenda that such data sets suggest. We have in mind a subject-based archive, similar to that at the University of Wis-

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consin, that transcends national, physical or cultural boundaries and that will house both traditional and electronic forms of archive documentation. We see this as an access-point to source materials for Canadian scholars and also as an official or quasi-official repository for sources that would with similar archives abroad. Located within a National Research Institute, such an archive would be an indispensable research resource for Canadian scholars and research students as well for visiting scholars from abroad. It would also provide opportunities to present training sessions on data sets for researchers as well as to organize methodologically-orientated and interdisciplinary international conferences at which Canadian (and other) researchers could acquire advice from and engage in discussion with leading data-basing practitioners in the field.

The establishment of a research centre for the study of the African diaspora represents a major innovation in addressing potentially serious issues in advance. In the case of issues of race and the legacy of slavery, there is an increasingly vocal call for reparations although from whom and to whom is not always clear. Nonetheless, the demand for reparations pushes the subject matter of the Tubman Centre to international and strategic levels. It is essential that policy decisions be fully informed of what is known in the historical record, so that if and when reparations becomes a more serious issue than now, a Canadian think-tank will have been centrally involved in the collection and analysis of information essential in shaping public policy. Issues of race and ethnicity have been shown to disturb world peace and draw Canada into international confrontations in the quest to restore peace. The provision of infrastructure support for the Tubman Centre would consolidate the existing research strengths at York University and thereby provide the foundation for more informed public policy decisions.

CFI infrastructure support, and matching funds from the Province of Ontario, will enable the Harriet Tubman Centre to undertake the training of highly qualified personnel in an area of critical importance to the strength of the social fabric of Canada and to the central role that Canada often plays on the international arena in peace-keeping and in the promotion of human rights. Those who have worked on one or more projects associated with the proposed Centre will have been highly trained in issues relating to ethnicity, race, and the legacy of slavery. Moreover, such individuals will be well qualified to advise this country and responsible agencies on matters relating to these issues, which continue to be of major international concern. In addition, those individuals affiliated with the project will have mastered technical skills in the collection and analysis of large bodies of data on human society, and these skills are such that they are certainly transferable to other topics and interests. Thus, an important byproduct of the establishment of a digital library on the African diaspora and the capability to generate databases to help feed that library will assure that there are trained personnel in this country who are capable of using and developing the necessary high-tech know-how to keep Canada in the forefront of knowledge-based and information management fields.

Research and training are always closely integrated in the various research projects that underpin this Canadian Centre. Because research training is an essential part of the graduate programs in history and related disciplines, graduate students are integrated into every phase of the research enterprise, from searching documents, scanning materials, coding and entering data, and otherwise acquiring and practicing the skills needed as professional scholars. Students have to learn the business and professional side of scientific research through direct involvement. Hence the training of personnel in the collection, entering, coding, and analysis of data is fundamental to the graduate programme of each student, and indeed each prospective visitor to the Centre.

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The training that will be associated with the Centre depends on a variety of circumstances and settings, from the training of undergraduate work/study students, to graduate training, to Ph.D. thesis supervision, etc. Moreover, graduate students from other institutions, particularly those associated with the scholars listed in this proposal, can be expected to take advantage of the training opportunities of the Centre. Given the disparity between incomes and access to advanced technologies in the countries directly relevant to this subject field, it is also expected that training in the construction and use of databases will be important to visiting scholars, as well as students. Finally, through our web site, the general public will have access to materials that will require sensitive, user-friendly techniques, which in effect amount to training.

Supervision of researchers in the field will be closely tied to training. Graduate students will be trained in the use of digital equipment, and a strategy of document recovery will be devised for each student, in conjunction with the individual research interests and needs of the student with regard to degree requirements. The various scholars in the network associated with this proposal have often assisted in supervision of graduate students, and increasingly, following the lead of the Nigerian Hinterland Project, thus trans-institutional, international collaboration in advising and training students is being regularized so that students receive the maximum benefit of professional advice and experience.

## The Research Agenda

The research agenda of the Tubman Centre will be coordinated with the activities and initiatives of the UNESCO Slave Route Project and draws on extensive international linkages in the Caribbean, Hispanic America, Brazil, Britain, Germany, West Africa, and the United States. In effect, the Centre will serve as the Canadian node in an international network of repositories and research institutes. As a research centre, the core program of research will focus on database construction, the maintenance of a suitable repository for materials used in the construction of such databases, and the creation of a digital library to enable access to these and other databases, as well as to facilitate the interface among databases. The Tubman Centre would have the following components or sections:

1. Digital Library based on database construction, and information management projects, focusing on textual storage of information collected throughout the diaspora, and including visual and audio materials, as well as text and quantifiable data. This collaboration links research projects centred in Nigeria, the République du Bénin, Brazil, Costa Rica, Colombia, the United States, Germany, England, and Angola, and will expand to include other countries.

2. York/UNESCO Nigerian Hinterland Project, which involves a series of collaborative research projects divided into sections on archival preservation and dissemination, a biographical database of enslaved Africans, an historical atlas of slavery, and thematic research projects on the ports of the Bights of Benin and Biafra, the Islamic sector of the African diaspora, ethnicity, and trans-Atlantic linkages.

3. Underground Railroad Project, including the creation of a database of materials relating to fugitives from slavery in Canada, and will involve linkages with various Underground Railroad initiatives in Ontario, Ohio and New York.

4. Biographical database of people of African descent in Canada, beginning with Blacks who moved

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to Nova Scotia, slaves who were held in Quebec and Upper Canada, and the fugitives who sought sanctuary from slavery and racism via the Underground Railroad. The database will be compatible with a similar data base on recent immigration of Blacks to Canada, and the biographical database of enslaved Africans being constructed by the York/UNESCO Nigerian Hinterland Project.

5. Program for dissemination of materials, including traditional publication and other means. The principal goal is to enhance the accessibility of data that is now widely scattered. The strategy for dissemination includes on-line access, Web site management, CD-ROM development, and publications in journals, editions, inventories, and indexes. There will also be conferences, workshops, and other venues for communicating research results and engaging in scientific discussion.

6. Outreach and community programs, including the identification of a suitable historic site for the commemoration of the slave route and the struggle to emancipate slaves at an appropriate site in Canada, in association with the UNESCO Slave Route Project, and the Canadian UNESCO Delegation, Parks Canada, and the Government of Ontario. Linkages with artistic and cultural community, and the Ontario Black History Society, including the retrieval of primary source materials on the history of Blacks in Canada, and participation in Black History Month. Development of a museum and display facility for exhibitions on art and material culture.

7. Training program for graduate students and visiting scholars, including international collaboration in supervision and research training, and exchange programs for students. Institutional linkages would be enhanced to facilitate the training of graduate students and young scholars in database construction and management.

## Research Results and Milestones

The Tubman Centre will initiate, oversee, and participate as a collaborating partner in numerous research projects, as outlined below. Specific research projects are tied to funding and incorporate graduate training as an integral part of the project.

1. Underground Railroad Project, centred at York University, in collaboration with the Buxton Museum and Historic Site, and supported by the Canada Research Chair in African Diaspora History, under Lovejoy.

2. Biographical database of enslaved Africans, centred at the York/UNESCO Nigerian Hinterland Project, York University, and funded principally by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada. Principal investigator: Lovejoy and many collaborators

3. Text and Testimony Collective, centred at the University of the West Indies, Jamaica, with support from the Nigerian Hinterland Project and the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture. Principal investigators: Trotman, Beckles and Shepherd.

4. Database of slaving voyages (upgrade), coordinated from the Wilberforce Institute, University of Hull. Focus will be on data in Brazil and Hispanic America. Principal investigators: Richardson, Eltis, Flor-

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entino, Curto.

5. Archival documentation projects, including Hispanic America databases, initially concentrating on Central America, Colombia, and Cuba, using baptismal, marital, and probate records. Also including archives in Nigeria, Jamaica, Trinidad, and eventually the archives of the smaller Caribbean islands, including inventories of selected documents, web site development, and scanning of selected documents. Various funding applications pending, with support from the Nigerian Hinterland Project, the Schomburg Center, and the Dekker Institute. Principal investigators: Soulodre-La France, Escorcia, Landers, and Caceres on Hispanic America; Brown, Lovejoy, Trotman, Shepherd and others on West Africa and the Caribbean.

6. Database of visual images on slavery and the slave trade, to be centred at the Universität Trier, Germany, and jointly coordinated with the Nigerian Hinterland Project, funding pending with Volkswagen Foundation. Principal investigators: Schmidt-Linsenhoff, Carvalho Soares, Adande, Lovejoy

7. Audio and video/film sources on slavery and its legacy, including oral interviews, music, videos, and other materials; project is in the planning phase. Principal investigators: Trotman and others

8. Oral History Projects, Bight of Biafra, Central Sudan, Afro-Brazilians in Benin, and other projects in Hausa, Yoruba, Igbo and other languages; various funding sources, including the Nigerian Hinterland Project, Rutgers University, the Schomburg Center. Principal investigators: Brown, Soumonni, Lovejoy, and others.

9. Liberated Africans Projects: construction of databases on liberated Africans, focusing on the records of the British anti-slave trade patrols, "free" and indentured labor movements in the 19th century, and the return-to-Africa movement. Principal investigators: Eltis, Trotman, Shepherd and others.

10. Primary texts and documentation: transcription, annotation, and indexing selected published and unpublished documents; approximately 100 volumes in various stages of completion. Materials being prepared in limited numbers for hardcopy distribution; otherwise materials are being digitized. Many funding sources, including the Nigerian Hinterland Project. Principal investigators: Law, Lovejoy, Hunwick and others. Many of these texts will be available on-line through *SHADD, Studies in the History of the African Diaspora - Documents*.

The intended results of these projects are the digitization of materials to permit easier access to primary materials and large collections of data. While the core focus of the research remains in the discipline of history, other disciplines are essential to the research program, as reflected in the project areas. It can be expected that research will expand into related areas, particularly in cultural studies, genetic mapping, linguistics, and archaeology. The major task of collecting and processing large quantities of data that are widely scattered will inevitably require a considerable degree of coordination and collaboration. Moreover, the research strategy is flexible to take advantages of new discoveries of documents and other materials and the recording of interviews, performances and rituals.

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## Institutional Affiliations

The network of institutions involved in the generation of appropriate data with which the York Centre will be affiliated includes:

- UNESCO Slave Route Project: In terms of partnerships, the link with the UNESCO Slave Route Project of the Intercultural Projects Division (Director: Doudou Diene) deserves special mention. The proposal to create a national centre is in keeping with this international initiative.
- The Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture (New York Public Library), support for Proyecto Orunmila (Regla, Cuba), distribution of 27 volumes of primary source material; support for oral history project in eastern Nigeria and for archival preservation project, Nigerian National Archives, Enugu Branch. Howard Dodson, Chief, Schomburg Center, serves on the board of the Nigerian Hinterland Project.
- African Studies Centre and Black Atlantic Program at Rutgers University, Nigerian projects, co-applicant to Ford Foundation. Carolyn Brown is coordinating various projects that are jointly sponsored with the Nigerian Hinterland Project.
- The University of the West Indies, Mona, Jamaica, through the Text and Testimony Collective, for a project to complete an inventory of all Jamaican newspapers as a pilot project before doing the same for the whole of the Caribbean. Goal is to digitize all newspapers.
- The Wilberforce Institute at the University of Hull (UK), various projects on retrieval of primary source material currently in private hands in Britain and elsewhere; indexing Parliamentary Papers on slavery and the slave trade. David Richardson and Law have separate funding for these projects.
- The Nigerian National Archives (Enugu), and the Nigerian National Archives (Kaduna): projects on preservation of documents and digitization of key materials.
- Arewa House Centre for Historical Documentation and Research at Ahmadu Bello University (Nigeria), formerly under the directorship of Professor Abdullahi Mahadi, who recently was appointed Vice Chancellor of the University, and now under the direction Dr. Hamidu Boboyi. This project is in the process of being rekindled.
- Escuela de Historia at the Universidad de Costa Rica, and the development of a graduate program in diaspora and Atlantic history, with a focus on filling a void in Hispanic America. Rina Caceres-Principal Investigator.
- Universidade Federal da Bahia, and its Centre of Asian and African Studies, under Ubiratan Castro de Araujo, and research with João Reis developing a database organizing probate records;
- Universidade Federal da Rio de Janeiro, Brazil - project to supplement the database of slaving voyages; Richardson and Eltis, Principal Investigators
- IBERDA, Université Nationale du Bénin, directed by Elisée Soumonni; including projects on oral his-

*(Continued from page 14)*

tory, art history project (under Joseph Adande); study of the ports of the Bight of Benin, with various researchers involved, including Robin Law and his graduate students.

-- Universität Trier (Germany), and visual image project, through Professor Viktoria Schmidt-Linsenhoff, joint application for funding pending with the Volkswagen Foundation. Pilot project funded by the Universität Trier.

-- Jacob Gelt Dekker Institute for Advanced Cultural Studies (Curaçao), for support on organizing database conferences, networking in the Caribbean, and research funding for specific projects involving archaeology for example.

-- Buxton Museum and Historical Site and Ontario Black History Society; design of project on the Underground Railroad; identification of suitable historical site to commemorate the history of slavery. Our collaboration is directed at the submission of funding proposal to SSHRC under the University/Community Research Program to fund the research on the Underground Railroad. Bryan Prince, Principal Investigator.

-- Enugu Historical Documentation Bureau; oral history project, including filming of interviews and ceremonies. In collaboration with the Ford Foundation, the aim is to identify and support Nigerian NGO's who might prove capable of surmounting the terrible infrastructure problems of that country. Anayo Enechukwu-Principal Investigator.

-- Proyecto Orunmila, Regla, Cuba, under the direction of Dr. Ernesto Valdes Janet; collection of primary documents of Ocha Ifá (Santería): 27 volumes already prepared.

## Brief description of the infrastructure

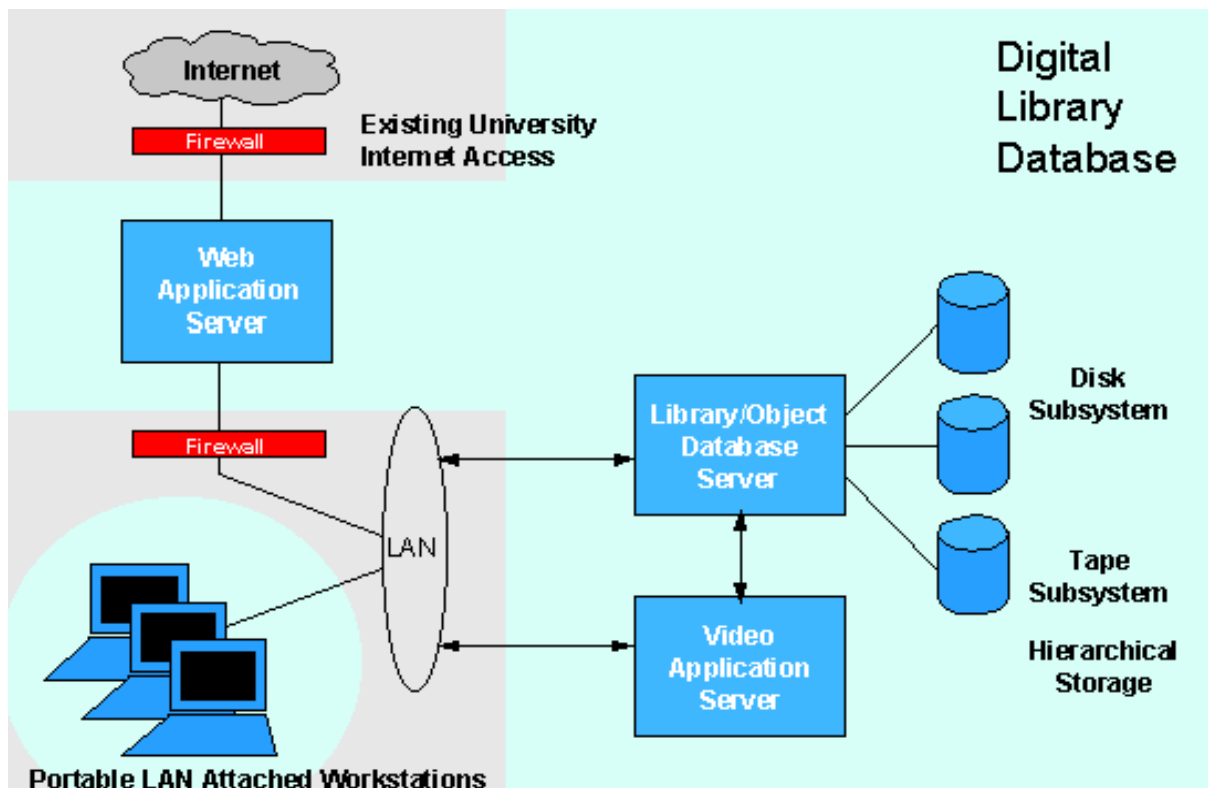
The Centre will provide the infrastructure and an environment to develop the capacity and reputation of Canada to produce and disseminate high quality research in an internationally burgeoning field of historical and contemporary interest, in which York University already has a major international presence. Identification with Harriet Tubman's name will enhance the Centre's profile nationally and internationally among both researchers and the knowledgeable public at large, and will allow it to compete for international funding and other forms of support for promoting and developing Canada's research potential on slavery, the abolition movement and the African diaspora. In supporting research, it will, among other things, create a subject-based archive for both traditional and electronic documentation. Facilities will allow both access to and disseminate of materials, and as a result increase opportunities for scholars in Canada to interact with their counterparts in other countries. The Tubman Centre will thus project Canada's continuing commitment to and capacity for world class research into this politically crucial and intellectually vibrant area of international research.

The Centre will be housed in its own facilities, with dedicated space for research, data storage, data processing, and the support staff required for the handling of digitized projects and databases. The focus of research is the digitization of textual materials, visual imagery, and sound in the construction, upgrading, and integration of complex databases. Storage and archival space are necessary to house hard copies of rare documents, visual imagery, sound recordings, and other materials. The digital focus of documentation re-

trieval is essential to the Centre's dissemination strategy, and for this reason, space will be required for specialist technicians and appropriate working and storage facilities, as well as the technical requirements for a world-class facility. The Centre will have a meeting facility that can accommodate upwards to 150 people in a multi-purpose room and facility, with access to modern technologies capable of being upgraded as technologies change. Additional space needs include offices for visiting scholars, post-doctoral fellows and graduate students working on Centre projects. The Centre will also include offices for a director, associate director, research coordinator, and support staff. Two seminar/conference rooms will serve as display areas for material culture and visual representations.

Infrastructure support includes the renovation of 10,000 sq ft of space, including the provision of suitable office and other equipment. The appropriate technologies required for the construction of a digital library and to undertake the research necessary to create new databases and integrate existing databases is described below. The installation of multi-media presentation is also planned.

The establishment of a digital library on the African diaspora is an innovation. In this case, the Centre would work closely with IBM. IBM has extensive experience worldwide on Digital Library projects at different stages in a variety of research areas. Its most extensive project is in partnership with the Vatican. (For more information on IBM's Digital Library solution, see <http://www-4.ibm.com/software/is/dig-lib/>). The research and extensive data collection lend themselves well to IBM's Digital Library product suite. The continued growth of research results may potentially lead to changes and improvements in IBM products as IBM and the Centre share information and work together in developing the right solution throughout. IBM brings value through its experience as well as by bringing opportunities of information sharing and collaboration through visits to their Santa Theresa Labs (where DL development occurs), through briefing sessions at its centre in Hawthorne NY, and through potential linkages with other IBM DL partners worldwide.



The Centre, through its partnership with Island Corporation, will undertake to develop new software that will facilitate searching large bodies of text in a variety of languages and formats. Existing technologies are inadequate for many purposes of search and comparison, and hence there will be an effort to develop the kind of package that would improve on fuzzy search capabilities, voice and image recognition, and other techniques. There will also be considerable effort spent dealing with problems of translation and interface between different databases and datasets, again with the potential for software development fully explored. In short, this project lends itself to the development of new technologies in the management and analysis of large bodies of information.

## Conclusion

Fundamental to the Tubman Centre is the multicultural nature of modern Canadian society and, as factors determining this, Canada's involvement in the abolition of slavery as an early example of a strong humanitarian tradition. Contemporary issues of race and ethnic relations in Canada and elsewhere are obvious concerns of the Tubman Centre, although certainly in today's world it is not necessary to provide scientific justification for the study of slavery, abolition, and the racist legacy resulting from the enforced migration of Africans throughout most of the world. Despite collective amnesia of the subject of the African contribution to the modern world, there have been important advances in the attempts to 'break the silence' (UNESCO), prompting museums at Liverpool and Bristol, with advice from the applicants associated with this proposal, to establish in the 1990s exhibits on slavery. Attempts to jog the public conscience about 'Britain's Slave Trade' (Channel 4, 1999) also continue in the media, while the African burial ground discovered in Manhattan unleashed a public campaign of public awareness that has resulted in renewed interest, including the allocation of major funding, in the Underground Railroad. The establishment of a National Research Centre on slavery, abolition and the African diaspora would seem, therefore, to be a natural further step in raising public consciousness in Canada about its cultural heritage and the place of the African diaspora in the history of the modern world. Reflecting modern research findings, such a Centre would clearly help to refocus public awareness on, among other things, the personal and social creativity of enslaved Africans and their strategies of resistance to exploitation, thereby highlighting the positive contributions of enslaved Africans and their descendants to the heritage of the modern world. Effective projection of this message requires that, in terms of location, the Centre be seen as a national rather than local centre. This will enhance the quality of life of Canadians in terms of multiculturalism and appreciation of the Canadian commitment to human rights.

The potential benefits of the research to Canada lie in the anticipated contributions to increased economic activity arising from software development, educational materials, and tourism. Hence the Centre would be both a catalyst in the further development of strong and important areas of the Canadian economy, and hence would also yield a major, sustainable benefit in terms of quality of life in this country. Tourism and the Underground Railroad deserve special note, since one of the research projects involves digitization of all source materials on the Underground Railroad. It should be noted that the United States has invested heavily in the reconstruction of the history of the Underground Railroad and the promotion of Underground Railroad sites as historic monuments. Legislatures in both New York State and Ohio have budgeted considerable sums of money for projects related to the Underground Railroad, and a new, national centre dedicated to research on the Underground RR will be opened in Cincinnati in 2002. The focus on Black History Month, tourism arising from Black Americans wanting to visit Canadian sites, and summer music festivals would all be reinforced. Indeed a logical activity of a Centre would be the collaboration with UNESCO in identifying an appropriate Canadian landmark commemorating the history of slavery and its abolition.

**THE RESEARCHERS**

José Curto Assistant Professor	History York University
David Eltis Professor	History Queen's University
José Escorcia Professor	History Universidad da Colombia
Manolo Florentino Associate Professor	Historia Universidade Federal da Rio de Janeiro
Jane Landers Associate Professor	History Vanderbilt University, USA
Paul Lovejoy Canada Research Chair	History York University
David Richardson Professor	Wilberforce Institute University of Hull, UK
Soulodre-La France, Renée Research Scholar	Nigerian Hinterland Project York University
Elisée Soumonni Coordinator	History IBERDA, Benin
David Trotman Associate Professor	History York University
Gwendolyn Hall Professor Emeritus	History Rutgers
Abdullahi Mahadi Vice Chancellor	Ahmadu Bello University Nigeria
Carolyn Brown Associate Professor	History Rutgers University, USA
Hilary McD. Beckles Pro-Vice Chancellor	Univ of the West Indies
João Reis Professor	History, Univ Federal da Bahia, Brazil

John Hunwick Professor	History & Religious Studies Northwestern University
Mohammed Ennaji Professeur-chercheur	History Universite Muhammad V, Morocco
Kristin Mann Associate Professor	History Emory University, USA
Maureen Warner-Lewis Professor	Literatures in English Univ of the West Indies, Jamaica
Philip Morgan Professor	History The Johns Hopkins Univ
Rina Caceres Gomez Assistant Professor	History Universidad da Costa Rica,
Robin Law Professor	History Univ of Stirling, Scotland
Thabit Abdallah Assistant Professor	History York University
Verene Shepherd Reader	History Univ of the West Indies, Jamaica
Viktoria Schmidt-Linsenhoff Professor	Art History Universitat Trier, Germany

## Historical Atlas of Slavery



### The Legacy of the African Diaspora in Africa and the Americas.

The primary aim of this area of research is to collect factual material on the ethnography, linguistics, and geography of the "Slave Route" and to organize and analyze this material in a form that can be reduced to CD-ROM and Internet for easy access by specialists, students, and the general public. The material gathered will also be published as a book. The database will summarize available information on the ethnic and geographical organization of the slave trade, including the findings arising from the development of the slave-trade voyage database, as well other appropriate digitized databases and new information from other materials that will assist in the identification of places and commercial patterns of the slave route. The ethnic, linguistic, and geographical details of the trade will be presented in a form that makes for easy reference. Initially, the *Historical Atlas of Slavery* will concentrate on the "Nigerian" hinterland and its diasporas, but the intention is to expand the *Atlas* to encompass the geography of the African, Atlantic and Islamic trades. In generating this atlas, historical documents and artifacts will be used, as well as contemporary maps. The project is a principal focus of the York/UNESCO Nigerian Hinterland Project, with the support of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, and involves institutional collaboration with the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture (New York Public Library), Universidad de Costa Rica, and other institutions whose extensive resources and connections are important in the conduct of a professional search for new materials and the quest to make such materials accessible to students and a wider public.

### Structure

As a project, the *Historical Atlas of Slavery* is a "Collective" of researchers, with a scientific committee that includes Mariza da Carvalho Soares (Brazil); Renée Soulodre-La France (Canada); Jane Landers (USA); Paul Lovejoy (Canada); Robin Law (UK); Elisée Soumonni (Bénin), and Rina Caceres (Costa Rica), who will also serve as Coordinator.

### Objectives

The general objective of this project is to explain the various names and terms that were used to identify the different African groups and peoples who arrived in the Americas in the period 1500-1890, i.e., from the first settlement of the Spanish in the Caribbean to the last days of the illegal commerce in enslaved Africans to Brazil and Cuba. Since many terms and names relate to geographical places, languages, and ethnicities, the purpose of the database is establish a chronological reconstruction of when and where particular terms appeared and therefore help to establish what these terms have meant in historically specific situations and

how these meanings have changed over time.

An initial objective is to construct a bibliography of published and unpublished information on names and terms. Existing databases will be examined for purposes of consolidating information into a single database. Among the databases to be considered are those developed by Jane Landers on Florida; Gwendolyn Hall on Louisiana; Rina Caceres on Central America, Rafael Diaz on Colombia, and David Eltis on Africans liberated by British anti-slave trade patrols. Various lists and data that relate to Afro-Colombians, Afro-Argentinians, Afro-Mexicans, and Afro-Brazilians will be combined. Other information from primary sources such as the writings of Alfonso de Sandoval, Ahmad Baba, and other contemporary observers will be incorporated. Additional research is planned to follow the different groups in the Americas and to identify places of settlement and concentration. Another objective is to collect visual representations and descriptions of individuals, including paintings, "gravados", photographs, newspapers, etc. Facial and body markings will be examined to construct a "map" of ethnicities. A final objective is to display information through cartography and website access in English, Spanish, French and Portuguese.

## Meetings and Workshops

A meeting of the Scientific Committee will be held each year, beginning in 2001. In addition, workshops on the construction of databases will be organized, with the assistance of the Dekker Institute, Curaçao; a conference is planned for June 2002. Finally, a symposium of Africanists and specialists in Latin America and the Caribbean will be arranged to analyze the results of the research.

**IMAGENS DA ESCRAVIDÃO:  
A project to create a database on images of  
Atlantic slavery  
by  
Mariza de Carvalho Soares**

A Research Proposal to the York/UNESCO Nigerian Hinterland Project, in collaboration with the Historical Atlas Collective

versão provisória, junho de 2001

## PROJETO

### 1 - TEMA

Constituição de uma base de dados com imagens relativas à escravidão atlântica entre os séculos XV e XIX.

### 2 - OBJETIVO

Oferecer aos pesquisadores da História da escravidão subsídios para suas pesquisas, viabilizando o acesso a um banco de imagens sobre a escravidão atlântica para consulta nas instituições geradoras do banco e oportunamente também na internet.

O projeto foi originalmente concebido para ser desenvolvido em âmbito local no Laboratório de História Oral e da Imagem-LABHOI do Departamento de História da Universidade Federal Fluminense e aplicado às imagens da escravidão no Brasil e mais especialmente na cidade do Rio de Janeiro.

A possibilidade de sua implantação no âmbito do projeto “UNESCO/SSHRCC Nigerian Hinterland Project” dirigido pelo Prof. Paul Lovejoy da Universidade de York/Canadá tem demandado algumas alterações em sua concepção original já parcialmente incorporadas à versão aqui apresentada. Ficam em aberto entre outros itens como cronograma de sua implementação, a equipe dele participante e mesmo sua abrangência geográfica e temática e os programas e as modalidades virtuais de divulgação mais adequadas.

### 3 - JUSTIFICATIVA

A introdução de modernos instrumentos no campo da pesquisa histórica tem ampliado a gama de fontes a serem utilizadas pelo historiador. Nesse sentido o recurso às imagens tornou-se item indispensável em todos os levantamentos de fontes, especialmente naqueles onde a pesquisa arquivística se vê prejudicada pela escassez de fontes escritas, como é o caso da pesquisa sobre os povos africanos escravizados. Assim sendo, esse projeto fornecerá aos pesquisadores um conjunto de imagens relativas ao universo da escravidão recolhidas e organizadas através de metodologia adequada de modo a facilitar a consulta e uso das mesmas.

#### 4 - METODOLOGIA

A proposta do projeto é a organização de uma base de dados a partir das imagens disponíveis sobre a escravidão atlântica. Fazendo uso de um programa de computador de fácil acesso aos interessados e elaborado com vistas à constituição de bases semelhantes o projeto deverá por à disposição dos interessados um amplo conjunto de imagens já reproduzidas e catalogadas que poderão ser acessadas em terminais de computador nas instituições envolvidas no projeto, por CDROM ou via internet.

A base de dados deverá ainda contar com dois catálogos auxiliares e um *site* na internet:

**CATÁLOGO DE ARTISTAS:** Paralelamente à constituição da BASE DE IMAGENS, será feito um catálogo com a biografia dos artistas nela incluídos.

**CATÁLOGO DAS PESQUISAS ASSOCIADAS:** Deverá indicar os pesquisadores que estão trabalhando com a BASE assim como os temas tratados e os trabalhos publicados dela resultantes. Esses trabalhos serão classificados e indicados entre as SÉRIES.

**OBS.** Sempre que possível esses trabalhos deverão ser reproduzidos sendo dado acesso a eles a todos os interessados.

**SITE NA INTERNET:** A divulgação do projeto através da internet deverá ser discutida por todas as instituições envolvidas no projeto de modo que todas tenham iguais condições de acessibilidade aos dados e à sua política de divulgação. Uma vez constituída a BASE com um número razoável de informações, a mesma deverá ser colocada à disposição dos pesquisadores num *site* da internet onde poderão proceder a consultas. Nesta etapa do trabalho novas contribuições deverão ser anexadas. Para garantir o controle de qualidade da BASE elas deverão ser enviadas à coordenação do projeto e só então incorporadas à BASE. Fica a cargo de posterior avaliação a definição das condições de acesso e uso das imagens divulgadas, assim com a periodicidade da atualização e a responsabilidade da manutenção do *site*.

#### 5 - CRONOGRAMA

Ao longo do primeiro semestre do ano de 2001 foram feitos os testes da metodologia desenvolvida no ano anterior com base no programa Cumulus 5.0.

O segundo semestre será dedicado ao preenchimento das primeiras fichas para teste final do banco de dados e de sua compatibilidade com as imagens recolhidas. Para isso será tomado como projeto piloto o conjunto de imagens relativas à escravidão no Rio de Janeiro devendo-se dar destaque à catalogação dos seguintes autores: Debret, Rugendas, Julião e Frond.

Uma vez concluído o trabalho relativo ao Rio de Janeiro o mesmo deverá ser estendido ao restante do país assim como à África e outros países da América atlântica. O desenvolvimento do trabalho está condicionado à sua capacidade de recrutamento de uma equipe especializada para reprodução das imagens e catalogação das informações. Por esse motivo não se dispõe ainda de um cronograma definitivo mas apenas de uma previsão em relação aos quatro autores citados cuja catalogação deverá estar pronta até o final do ano de 2001.

#### 6 - RECURSOS HUMANOS

**Coordenadora:** Mariza de Carvalho Soares. Doutora. Professora adjunta do Departamento de História da Universidade Federal Fluminense. Brasil.

**Estagiário:** Carlos Eduardo Costa. Graduando em História. Aluno do Departamento de História da Universidade Federal Fluminense. Brasil.

Pesquisadores associados: o projeto deverá contar com a colaboração de outros pesquisadores cujos nomes serão agregados à equipe conforme o andamento dos trabalhos.

A partir de julho o projeto deverá contar com uma pesquisadora associada, a doutoranda Mariana Cândido, bolsista da Universidade de York/Canadá, orientanda do Prof. Paul Lovejoy.

#### 7 - RECURSOS MATERIAIS

- uma máquina fotográfica digital do “UNESCO/SSHRCC Nigerian Hinterland Project”;
- um scanner do “UNESCO/SSHRCC Nigerian Hinterland Project”
- um programa de computador “Cumulus 5” do Laboratório de História Oral e Iconografia. Ressalva: autorizado apenas para uso interno, sem possibilidade de multiplicação de cópias ou de acesso via internet.

#### 8 - PROPOSTA DE PARTICIPAÇÃO DA BIBLIOTECA NACIONAL NO PROJETO

A reprodução das imagens tem sido feita através das cópias acessíveis, a maioria delas de propriedade particular dos pesquisadores ou da biblioteca na universidade. Na maioria das vezes cópias recentes e reproduções de qualidade duvidosa. A ampliação do universo da pesquisa assim como de seus usuários passou a exigir a reprodução, sempre que possível, de imagens de melhor qualidade. Em função disso foi feito contato com a Biblioteca Nacional, no Rio de Janeiro com vistas a reproduzir o material aí existente.

O acesso acervo iconográfico da BN será de inestimável valia para o projeto não apenas pela qualidade gráfica da documentação aí disponível, mas também por sua variedade e raridade. O projeto poderá contar ainda com a assessoria da equipe técnica dessa instituição o que dará ao projeto a garantia de um trabalho realizado segundo as normas internacionais de catalogação de imagens.

Em contrapartida o projeto se dispõe a depositar na Biblioteca Nacional uma cópia do banco de imagens para consulta dos usuários e tão logo o banco possa ser veiculado na internet deverá sê-lo concomitantemente pelas três instituições envolvidas: o Laboratório de História Oral e Iconografia, o “UNESCO/SSHRCC Nigerian Hinterland Project” e a Biblioteca Nacional.

Com isso, deverão ainda participar do projeto na condição de pesquisadores associados, os técnicos do Setor de Iconografia da Biblioteca Nacional.

## MANUAL PARA PREENCHIMENTO DA BASE DE DADOS “IMAGENS DA ESCRAVIDÃO”

#### 1 - NÚMERO DE ORDEM

Cada imagem inserida na BASE deverá receber um número seqüenciado de acordo com sua ordem de entrada que será sua identificação básica a partir da qual poderá ser identificada em qualquer modalidade de organização.

## 2 - COLEÇÃO

As imagens poderão ser inseridas na BASE individualmente ou em grupo. De toda forma constituem coleções que podem incluir de um a centenas de imagens dependendo de seu autor. Assim sendo as gravuras de Jean Baptiste Debret constituem a coleção “Debret”, as fotos de Victor Frond a coleção “Frond”, assim como uma única aquarela de um artista anônimo pode constituir uma coleção de uma só imagem que receberá o título “Anônimo 1”, “Anônimo 2” e assim por diante.

Essa entrada permite que mesmo com o nome incompleto do artista suas imagens sejam imediatamente identificadas. Permite também perceber a diversidade dos artistas anônimos assim como organiza-los e eventualmente reunir numa mesma coleção imagens sem identificação nominal de autor mas reconhecidas como pertencentes a um mesmo artista.

## 3 - AUTOR

Nome completo ou incompleto do autor do desenho, pintura, aquarela ou fotografia. Em caso de litografias e outros métodos o nome do litógrafo poderá entrar nas observações como dado complementar. Se em algum momento a informação for considerada relevante suas imagens poderão ser reunidas numa SÉRIE e a informação inserida como mais um item da BASE.

## 4 – CONTINENTE

Indicação genérica de utilidade apenas para os casos em que não é possível uma localização mais precisa conforme solicitado no item PAÍS. No caso de imagens do tráfico mostrando embarques deverá ser considerada África, assim como no caso de imagens de embarcações em trânsito. Apenas no caso de desembarques deve ser considerado o país ou continente de destino dos escravos.

## 5 - PAÍS

Deve ser considerado o atual país representado na imagem. No caso das gravuras antigas de difícil identificação será feita uma identificação aproximada da distribuição contemporânea dos países atlânticos. Esse procedimento aproximativo deverá estar descrito no item OBSERVAÇÕES.

## 6 – ESTADO/PROVÍNCIA/DEPARTAMENTO

Deve ser considerada a divisão interna atual do país representado na imagem. No caso das gravuras antigas de difícil identificação será feita uma identificação aproximada da distribuição contemporânea. Esse procedimento aproximativo deverá estar descrito no item OBSERVAÇÕES.

## 7 - LOCALIDADE

O item indica a localização exata da imagem sempre que tal informação esteja disponível. Assim sendo, pode ser uma cidade, uma estrada, uma praia ou qualquer outra forma de identificação simples ou composta. É o caso, por exemplo, da imagem de Rugendas que indica cidade do Rio de Janeiro, Rua Direita.

## 8 - DATA DA OBRA

Refere-se ao ano de execução da obra. A data pode ser obtida na própria imagem ou em fontes complementares. No caso de uso de fontes complementares será necessário cuidado para não confundir o período de estadia do artista numa localidade com a data das imagens por ele reproduzidas na medida em que essas podem ser posteriores. Na ausência de uma datação mais precisa deverá ser indicado o século da obra de acordo com o período produtivo do autor da mesma.

## 9 - TIPO

Esse item resulta de uma classificação a ser realizada pelo encarregado da catalogação que deverá distinguir entre RETRATOS, CENAS e PANORAMAS. As cenas e panoramas poderão ser: URBANAS, PERIFERIA URBANA, RURAL ou SELVAGEM.

## 10 - TÉCNICA

Registro a ser elaborado pela equipe técnica da BN segundo as normas internacionais de catalogação de imagens em arquivos.

## 11 - ASSUNTO

Esse item resulta de uma classificação a ser realizada pelo encarregado da catalogação que deverá constituir um conjunto de palavras chaves a serem usadas. A listagem das palavras chaves resultará das primeiras coleções a serem criadas e depois constituirão um conjunto fechado. A inserção de novas palavras exigirá que toda a BASE seja repassada para que as novas palavras sejam inseridas das fichas antigas, quando couber.

## 12 - SÉRIES

As séries são subconjuntos temáticos que incluem trabalhos de vários autores e que são constituídas em função do interesse dos pesquisadores. Cada pesquisador poderá selecionar um conjunto de imagens para seu próprio trabalho e a condição para o uso da BASE DE IMAGENS é que seu trabalho reverta benefício da mesma. Assim sendo ao separar as imagens a serem analisadas deverá constituir uma SÉRIE que receberá um nome e poderá ser recuperada por todos os demais usuários. Assim sendo, uma pesquisa sobre vestimentas ou marcas faciais dará origem a uma SÉRIE “Vestimentas” e a uma SÉRIE “Marcas faciais”. O mesmo para o caso de uma pesquisa sobre as imagens de Debret na cidade do Rio de Janeiro que deverá dar origem a uma SÉRIE “Debret no Rio”.

## 13 - LEGENDA

A legenda de cada imagem deverá ser elaborada pelo responsável pelo preenchimento da ficha e corresponde também ao nome do arquivo de cada imagem. Pode ser a mesma do autor ou do editor da obra ou não. Nos casos em que a legenda do banco diferir da do autor/editor ou houver qualquer informação sobre isso deverá ser anotado no item observações.

#### 14 - FONTE

Registro a ser elaborado pela equipe técnica da BN segundo as normas internacionais de catalogação de imagens em arquivos.

#### 15 – CONDIÇÕES DE REPRODUÇÃO DA IMAGEM E ELABORAÇÃO DA FICHA

Informar o modo de aquisição da imagem (fotografia, scanner, etc.), programa usado para registro da imagem (tif, jpg, etc.); a data de reprodução, o autor da ficha

#### 16 - OBSERVAÇÕES:

Esse item é aberto e deve conter todas as informações não passíveis de catalogação relevantes para a identificação da imagem. Por exemplo:

- a) informações sobre legendas ou textos do autor das imagens.

Exemplo: reprodução das legendas completas ou parciais de Debret, de trechos do texto de Rugendas, das legendas de D. Lygia referentes às pranchas de Julião, de trechos do texto de Ribeyrolles relativo às fotos de Frond.

- b) detalhes sobre localização, época
- c) imagens correlatas (informar se constam da base e onde)
- d) textos de outros autores referidos a situações correlatas à reproduzida na imagem.

Exemplo: transcrição de trechos de outros trabalhos que tratem do tema da imagem catalogada como é o caso dos escritos de Thomas Ewbank, John Luccock e outros viajantes para as imagens relativas à cidade do Rio de Janeiro no século XIX.

## **The Text and Testimony Collective (TTC)**

### **The University of the West Indies Mona, Jamaica**

#### **Background:**

The Text and Testimony Collective is dedicated to the recovery of the voices of Africans and their descendants who have peopled the Americas. The TTC is centred at the University of the West Indies (Mona) and is affiliated with various institutions, including the York/UNESCO Nigerian Hinterland Project.

The TTC is managed by a Steering Committee under the direction of:

Hilary McD. Beckles -- Professor of History and Pro Vice Chancellor, UWI; and member of the Advisory Board, York/UNESCO Nigerian Hinterland Project, York University

Verene A. Shepherd -- Senior Lecturer, Department of History, University of the West Indies (Mona) and Network Professor of the York/UNESCO Nigerian Hinterland Project

David V. Trotman -- Associate Professor, Department of History, York University, and Associate Director, the York/UNESCO Nigerian Hinterland Project

#### **Objectives:**

The objectives of the TTC are:

1. To stimulate and facilitate the uncovering of the voices of subaltern men and women in Africa and the African diaspora.
2. To form a network of scholars and academic institutions that will work together in producing texts based on the voices of enslaved and free black people in Africa and the African diaspora.
3. To form partnerships with academic publishers/presses in order to facilitate the wide dissemination of the voices of enslaved and free black people in Africa and the African diaspora.
4. To establish links with scholars and institutions (e.g. York/UNESCO NHP; University of North Carolina; University of Suriname) involved in constructing biographical databases as such databases are vital sources for illuminating the experiences of subaltern peoples
5. To facilitate the dissemination of information on the themes central to the TTC via public lectures, seminars and workshops.

#### **Significance:**

Slavery lasted well into the 20<sup>th</sup> century in many places in Africa and for four centuries in the American section of the African diaspora. Over these centuries, a considerable body of literature concerned with capture in Africa, enslavement in Africa & the Americas, the Middle Passage, resistance, emancipation and

free society was generated. Most of the published literature projects the accounts of these experiences by missionaries, travelers, colonial residents and planters. Few represent the voices of those who lived the experience; yet some of the enslaved did document their experiences. Oppressed peoples not only 'spoke' through their resistant activities, but wrote back as part of an ontological positioning with colonialism and imperialism that placed systems of domination under their literary gaze. Many of these writings still remain buried, though it is widely accepted that the texts written by oppressed peoples occupy special places within literary traditions. These voices, indeed, constitute a counter-discourse to the oppressors'. This project proposes to add to this growing literature by facilitating the excavation of new voices, revisit already discovered voices [Mary Prince, Olaudah Equiano, Montejo, etc] as well as texts that engage with the discourse of 'subaltern voices'. While the recovery of the voices of enslaved Africans and their descendants (through mining written documents as well as oral sources) will form the major aspect of the Project, the TTC is also concerned with the voices and experiences of other forms of bonded labourers which developed in the aftermath of the abolition of African enslavement.

### International Advisory Committee (Proposed):

Judith Byfield (Dartmouth College)  
 Carolyn Brown (Rutgers University)  
 Digna Castañeda (University of Havana)  
 Edward Cox (Rice University)  
 Richard Goodridge (University of the West Indies, Cave Hill)  
 Juan González-Mendoza (Universidad Interamericana de Puerto Rico)  
 Maurits Hassankhan (University of Suriname)  
 Gad Heuman (University of Warwick)  
 Franklin Knight (Johns Hopkins)  
 Paul Lovejoy (York University)  
 Rex Nettleford (University of the West Indies, Mona)  
 Djibril Niane (Guinée)  
 Nneka Osakwe (University of Nsuka, Nigeria)  
 Colin Palmer (Princeton University)  
 Rita Pemberton (University of the West Indies, St. Augustine)  
 David Richardson (University of Hull)  
 Monica Schuler (Wayne State University)  
 Renée Soulodre-La France (York University)  
 Elisée Soumonni (Université Nationale du Bénin)  
 Rosalyn Terborg-Penn (Morgan State University)  
 Waibinte Wariboko (University of the West Indies, Mona)  
 Maureen Warner-Lewis (University of the West Indies, Mona)

### Institutions affiliated with the Collective:

York University (through the York/UNESCO Nigerian Hinterland Project)  
 The University of the West Indies  
 Dartmouth College (Venue of the May 2001 TTC workshop)

Other institutions and individual scholars will be invited to join the TTC. Their membership in the TTC will be based on the

- Commitment to the excavation of the voices of subaltern peoples in Africa and the African diaspora.

- The ability/willingness to organize and fund workshops, public lectures and seminars in order to facilitate the discussion of new material and the dissemination of research findings.
- Participation in publication initiatives and, in the case of individual scholars in participating institutions, assistance in the editing of materials resulting from this initiative.

Membership in the TTC will not only provide scholars with another method of networking with those in their field, but will also help academic institutions to build inter-university links, identify resource persons, source material for libraries and participate directly in an international publication project. The organizers of workshops, for example, will automatically join the editorial advisory board of the series of publications that will result from content workshops. For more information contact the TTC secretariat:

### Programme of Activities, 2000-2001:

1. Public Lecture by Prof. Eliséé Soumonni, Network Professor, York/UNESCO Nigerian Hinterland Project, at the UWI, Mona, February 2001.
2. Public launch of the TTC at the UWI, Mona, February 2001.
3. Workshop at Dartmouth College (in association with UWI and the York/UNESCO Nigerian Hinterland Project), on “Atlantic Crossings: Women’s Voices, Women’s Stories in the Nigerian Hinterland and the Caribbean”.

### TTC Secretariat:

For further information contact Verene A. Shepherd

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## THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD IN UPPER CANADA

### A History of Blacks in Canada

The Underground Railroad (UGRR) is directly linked to the history of Blacks in Canada and the role of Canada in the movement to abolish slavery and emancipate enslaved Africans. As the history of the UGRR demonstrates, the Canadian heritage includes its role in the shaping of the African diaspora. In welcoming fugitives who were oppressed by the injustices of slavery and racism in the United States, Canadian society grappled with one of its first refugee populations and demonstrated an early commitment to humanitarianism, as reflected through contemporary public policy. An estimated 20,000 immigrants arrived in Ontario (known then as Upper Canada, and administratively as Canada West, after 1850) in the 1840s and 1850s, and as a result African Canadians contributed significantly to the settlement and development of the province, both at the time and continuing after the end of the American Civil War in 1865 and Canadian Confederation in 1867. The role of Canadians in the fight against slavery underscores the significance of resistance and struggle in the dispersion of Africans through enslavement, and moreover, highlights the vitality of a black Canadian identity.

On Tuesday March 6 2001 a workshop focusing on the Underground Railroad was held at York University, under the sponsorship of the York/UNESCO/SSHRCC Nigerian Hinterland Project. The participants included representatives from York University, the Buxton National Historic Site and Museum, and Parks Canada. The object of this initiative was to enhance the collaborative research being undertaken by community-university-government ventures focusing on the Underground Railroad. One of the goals of this collaboration is the designation of an appropriate site to commemorate the history of the routes of resistance against slavery according to the mandate of the UNESCO Slave Route Project, as well as advancing research on individuals who came to Canada to achieve and sustain their freedom. Under the sponsorship of the Canada Research Chair on the African Diaspora, a text-based biographical database is being constructed at the Harriet Tubman Centre for Research on the African Diaspora (Senate approval pending). Research on the Underground Railroad is being done in collaboration with the Buxton Museum, Parks Canada, and various international institutions.



The UGRR Project is intended to enhance public awareness about the role of the Underground Railroad in Canada, promote historical and cultural tourism, facilitate the dissemination of knowledge about these issues, and inform the public on cultural and educational levels.