

Keith Richards

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Education

2020 – Present

Tulane University, Ph.D. Candidate, History

Dissertation: Commerce and Colonialism: Eastern Cuba and the Seventeenth-Century Caribbean

Major field: Colonial Latin America

Minor field: Atlantic World & Early Spanish Caribbean

Advisors: Guadalupe García & Kris Lane

2022

Tulane University, M.A., History

2020

University of Central Florida, B.A., with honors, History & Spanish

Publications

Articles & Book Chapters:

Forthcoming

“Competing Loyalties in Eastern Cuba: The Bayamo Rebellion of 1603,” *The Americas*

Forthcoming

“Enslaved Testimony in a Colonial *Pesquisa*: Illicit Commerce in Eastern Cuba, 1684-1691,” in *The Contractual Monarchy of the Iberian World: Negotiating Power and Status in the Spanish Empire, 1500-1700*, eds. Héctor Linares and Rich F. Lizardo (Leiden: Brill, under contract)

Reviews & Essays:

Forthcoming

“Marc Eagle, *The Audiencia of Santo Domingo in the Seventeenth Century: Justice and Royal Authority in the Spanish Caribbean* (2025),” book review, *Bulletin for Spanish and Portuguese Historical Studies*

2024

“Reconceptualizing the Spanish Caribbean in the Long Seventeenth Century: A Review Essay,” *The Latin Americanist* 68, no. 2 (June 2024): p. 297-300
<https://doi.org/10.1353/tla.2024.a929910>

Fellowships, Prizes, & Awards

2026

Lydia Cabrera Award, Conference on Latin American History

2025 – 2026

Paul and Elizabeth Selley Doctoral Fellowship, Tulane University (12 months)

2025

Short-Term Fellowship, John Carter Brown Library, Brown University (2 months)

2025

Omohundro Institute Travel Grant, Omohundro Institute of Early American History & Culture

2024 – 2025	Lapidus–OI Slavery and Print Culture Fellowship , Omohundro Institute of Early American History & Culture (12 months)
2024	Atlantic Empires Colloquium Travel Award , The Folger Shakespeare Library
2024 – 2025	Graduate Studies Student Association Travel Award Grant , Tulane University
2024	American Historical Association Annual Meeting Travel Grant , American Historical Association
2024	Pennsylvania State University Conference Travel Grant , State College, PA
2023 – 2024	School of Liberal Arts Graduate Student Summer Research and Write-Up Award , Tulane University
2023	UF Center for Latin American Studies Travel Research Grant , University of Florida (2 weeks)
2023	William R. Hogan Fellowship Award for Excellence in Graduate Student Teaching , Tulane University
2022 – 2023	Tulane School of Liberal Arts Funding (funding for Dutch language courses), Tulane University (9 months)
2022	Stone Center/Tinker Summer Field Research Grant , Roger Thayer Stone Center of Latin American Studies, Tulane University (1 month)
2022 – 2025	Lurcy Conference Funding & Research Grants , Tulane University
2022	Newberry Library Renaissance Consortium Grant , Newberry Library, Chicago, IL
2021 – 2023	Greenleaf Fund (summer travel grants for students of colonial Latin America), Tulane University

Invited Talks & Workshops

Upcoming:

2026	“Plantation Dreams: The Illicit Slave Trade in Eastern Cuba, 1662-1691,” workshop paper, PEAES-FEEGI Works-in-Progress Workshop, Rutgers University , New Brunswick, NJ
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Past:

2025	“Knowledge, Trade, and Seascapes in the Seventeenth-Century Caribbean,” fellow talk, John Carter Brown Library, Brown University , Providence, RI
2025	“Black Legal Subjecthood, Contraband Trade, and Royal Authority in Santiago de Cuba, 1684-1691,” invited speaker, Suffolk University , Boston, MA.
2024	“Contrabando, esclavos y el archivo: una pesquisa en el oriente de Cuba a finales del siglo XVII,” invited speaker, La conflictividad esclava en los mundos ibéricos (siglos XVI-XVIII)

2024 “El contrabando en el Caribe a inicios de la Edad Moderna: perspectivas transnacionales,” invited speaker, **Escuela de Estudios Hispano-Américanos**, Seville, Spain

2023 “‘Provean de Ropa y Saquean sus Frutos’: Illicit Commerce in Eastern Cuba, 1600-1715,” workshop paper, **8th Summer Academy of Atlantic History**, Kingston Upon Hull, England

2022 “Public Space in the Lettered City: Mapping Whipping Routes in 17th-Century Santo Domingo, Stanford University,” workshop presentation, **Under-Mapped Spaces: New Methods and Tools for Critical Storytelling with Maps**

Conferences & Panels

Upcoming:

2026 “Creole Economies and the Illicit Slave Trade in Eastern Cuba, 1662-1691,” **Association of Caribbean Historians** annual meeting, Mona, Jamaica

2026 “Plantation Dreams: The Illicit Slave Trade in Eastern Cuba, 1662-1691,” **Forum on Early-Modern Empires and Global Interactions**, New Brunswick, NJ

Past:

2026 “Policing Cuba’s Tierra Adentro: Contraband and Colonial Pesquisas in the 17th Century,” **American Historical Association** annual meeting, Chicago, IL
[and panel organizer, “Visions of Royal Authority in the Early Modern Spanish Empire,” **American Historical Association** annual meeting, Chicago, IL]

2025 “Santiago de Cuba y las redes comerciales en el Caribe Sur, 1513-1700,” **XX Jornadas Internacionales de las Monarquías Ibéricas**, Medellín, Colombia

2025 “Land Use and the Environment in Cuba’s Cattle Industry, 1492-1700,” **Omohundro Institute of Early American History & Culture** annual meeting, Charleston, SC
[and panel organizer, “Environmental History in the Caribbean Beyond the Sugar Plantation,” **Omohundro Institute of Early American History & Culture** annual meeting, Charleston, SC]

2025 “The War Against Contraband: Projecting Royal Authority in 17th Century Santiago de Cuba,” **Association for Spanish and Portuguese Historical Studies**, College Park, MD

2025 “Beyond the Imperial Margins: Eastern Cuban Trade Networks in the 17th Century Caribbean,” **Southeastern Council of Latin American Studies** annual meeting, Mexico City, Mexico

2024 “Pirates, Merchants, and the Legions of Hell: Remedios and the Caribbean in the Late 17th Century,” **Forum on Early-Modern Empires and Global Interactions**, Providence, RI

2024 “Blackness on the Margins: Race and Eastern Cuban Society in the 17th Century,” **Black Experiences in the Wider Atlantic**, Pennsylvania State University, State College, PA

2024 “Creating Community: *Espejo de Paciencia* and the Fight Against Depopulation in 17th-Century Eastern Cuba,” **Conference on Latin American History, American Historical Association** annual meeting, San Francisco, CA [and panel organizer, “Community and Identity in the Circum-Caribbean,” **Conference on Latin American History, American Historical Association** annual meeting, San Francisco, CA]

2023 “Comercio ilícito en Cuba en los siglos XVI-XVII,” **VII Simposio Internacional de Historia y Arqueología Marítimas**, Lisbon, Portugal

2023 “*Espejo de Paciencia* and Revolt in Eastern Cuba, 1604-1608,” **Seminário Internacional de Pós-Graduados**, Lisbon, Portugal

2023 “Illicit Commerce and Eastern Cuban Society in the 17th-Century Spanish Caribbean Borderlands,” **Frontiers, Borders, & Borderlands in the Early Global World**, University of California Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA

2023 “Illicit Commerce and Violence in 17th century Eastern Cuba,” **Southeastern Council of Latin American Studies** annual meeting, Antigua, Guatemala [and panel organizer, “Visions of Subversions in Cuba,” **Southeastern Council of Latin American Studies** annual meeting, Antigua, Guatemala]

2022 “Imagining St. Augustine: Cartography and Public Space, 1586-1702,” **The Southern Historical Association** annual meeting, Baltimore, MD

2022 “Contested Empires: Eastern Cuba, Illicit Commerce, and the 17th Century Caribbean,” **Tinker Foundation Summer Research Symposium**, Tulane University, New Orleans, LA

2022 “Coerced Values: Lashings, Law, and Power in Spanish Florida, 1680-1700,” **Southeastern Council of Latin American Studies** annual meeting, Charlotte, NC

2021 “Digital Blassingame: An Exploration of Black New Orleans, Slave Testimony, and Slave Community (Roundtable),” **The Southern Historical Association** annual meeting, New Orleans, LA

2021 “Secret Prisons, Public Punishments: Havana and the Inquisition, 1610-1660,” **Transatlantic History Conference**, Arlington, TX

2021 “‘As Two Wings of the Same Bird’: Cuban Support for an Independent Puerto Rico, 1959-1978,” **Louisiana State University Graduate Student Association Conference**, Baton Rouge, LA

Public & Digital History Experience

2022 – 2023	Archival Assistant and Research Specialist , Preservation Hall, New Orleans, LA
2022	Participant , NEH-AHRC Spanish Paleography and Digital Humanities Institute, Unlocking the Colonial Archive, University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX
2021	Research Specialist , The Black New Orleans Project, LifexCode, Tulane University, New Orleans, LA

Departmental & Professional Service

2022	Publication Assistant , Society for American City and Regional Planning History
2021 – 2022	Graduate Studies Student Association Representative , History Department, Tulane University, New Orleans, LA

Teaching Experience

Tulane University

Spring 2023	Instructor of Record, Colonial Latin America
Spring 2022	Teaching Assistant, New Orleans History Prof. Rien Fertel
Fall 2021	Teaching Assistant, Early New Orleans Prof. Emily Clark
Spring 2021	Teaching Assistant, The Digital Revolution, from Ada to Zuckerberg Prof. Walter Isaacson

Languages

Spanish (full proficiency)
Italian (full proficiency)
French (reading proficiency)
Portuguese (reading proficiency)
Dutch (basic proficiency)

Professional Memberships

American Historical Association
Conference of Latin American History

Southeastern Council of Latin American Studies
Forum on Early-Modern Empires and Global Interactions
Association of Caribbean Historians