



Image : Joaquín UBEDA, "Palacio de los Virreyes de México" (c. 1676-1700) held in Museo de América

Accounts of Slavery: Money and Mobility among Enslaved People in Seventeenth-Century New Spain

PRESENTER:

Norah L. A. Gharala, *Assistant Professor of History, University of Houston*

MODERATOR:

Trent Barnes, *PLAS Postdoctoral Fellow, Princeton University*

The transpacific galleon trade enriched Mexican merchants, who relied on enslaved and free dependents to manage merchandise and cash. Hundreds of pesos routinely moved in the pockets of enslaved people as they traversed baroque Mexico City. This talk examines lawsuits among merchants to extract fragmentary data on enslaved people trafficked through Asia to Mexico and their involvement in merchant networks. Entrusting sums of money to certain members of their households, enslavers structured hierarchies of dependents. Men from East Africa and South and Southeast Asia received money and mobility in exchange for their service. The process of distributing funds became one of making dependents and bolstering the power of enslavers to determine the prestige and compensation of particular tasks. For enslaved men, handling money on behalf of a merchant represented a mark of both autonomy and unfreedom.

Tues., Sept. 21, 5:00pm (EST) | Register [HERE](#)

PLAS

PROGRAM IN LATIN
AMERICAN STUDIES



**PRINCETON
UNIVERSITY**

Visit plas.princeton.edu/events for full details.