The Early Modern Atlantic World, 1450-1850  
Ph.D. Research Field  
Michael Jarvis

Since its first emergence in the late 1980s/early 1990s, Atlantic History has grown exponentially. It is an enormous area, physically and conceptually, and overlaps significantly with oceanic, hemispheric, and global historical approaches. This research field introduces you to key works and concepts within an Atlantic History approach and invites you to develop a particular topical or geographical focus area within a transnational framework. This list is by no means definitive (since new Atlantic histories are being published monthly) and you may make reasonable substitutions in consultation with me.

Conceptualizations

David Armitage, “Three Concepts of Atlantic History,” in David Armitage and Michael Braddick, eds., The British Atlantic World, 1500-1800 (New York, 2002), 21-26


Alison Games, “Atlantic History: Definitions, Challenges, and Opportunities,” American Historical Review CXI (2006), 741-757


Systems, Comparisons, and Early Works


Round Table Conference: The Nature of Atlantic History, Itinerario XXIII (1999), 48-161

Alfred Crosby, Ecological Imperialism (Cambridge, 1986)


Philip Morgan, “British Encounters with Africans and African-Americans, circa 1600-1780” in Bailyn and Morgan, eds., *Strangers Within the Realm* (Chapel Hill, 1991), 157-219


**Connections, Circulations, and Networks**


Nicholas Canny, “The Ideology of American Colonization: From Ireland to America,” *William and Mary Quarterly* 3rd ser., 50(1973): 575-598


Eli Faber, *A Time for Planting: The First Migration, 1654-1820* (Baltimore, 1992)


Herbert Klein, *The Atlantic Slave Trade* (Cambridge, 1999)


**Atlantic Places**


Christine Heyrman, *Commerce and Culture: The Maritime Communities of Colonial Massachusetts, 1690-1750* (New York, 1984)

Franklin Knight and Peggy Liss, eds., *Atlantic Port Cities: Economy, Culture and Society in the Atlantic World, 1650-1850* (Knoxville, Tenn., 1991)

Peter Mancall, ed., *The Atlantic World and Virginia, 1550-1624* (Chapel Hill, 2007)


Peter Pope, *Fish into Wine: The Newfoundland Plantation in the Seventeenth Century* (Chapel Hill, 2004)

**Atlantic People**


Charles Johnson, *General History of the Pyrates* (1724-28, rpt. 2001), read the biographies of at least FIVE pirates.


Janet Schaw, *Journal of a Lady of Quality; Being the Narrative of a Journey from Scotland to the West Indies, North Carolina, and Portugal in the years 1774 to 1776*, Evangeline and Charles Andrews, eds. (New Haven, 1923)


**YOUR Atlantic World**

(A written statement to be appended to your research field essay)

In 2-3 paragraphs, compose your own working definition of Atlantic History and the Atlantic World by drawing from the variety of approaches reflected above. State the themes, topics, populations, and areas best suited toward taking an Atlantic approach and
how Atlanticizing these topics or places enhances or challenges prevailing interpretations.

NEXT, develop a particular, personally relevant subfield within Atlantic studies grounded in a particular region or colony and/or topical or methodological approach. Define this explicitly and list the equivalent of eight books (with four articles = one book) that would be required reading for your chosen subject.