

William Pettigrew

"American and English Exceptionalism in the Development of American Slavery"

ABSTRACT

This talk will assess the parts played by American and British identities in the development and escalation of American slavery and the trans-Atlantic trade in enslaved Africans from the 1660s to the 1720s. It examines the political debates and tactics during the trans-Atlantic dispute about how the labour needs of the American colonies could best be served. It also reflects on the historiographical tendencies that have allowed reified American and English treatments of the rise and fall of American slavery and its legacies.