

The Traditions of Liberty in the Atlantic World

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The term *Atlantic World* has been coined to provide geographical coherence to a cultural and political diverse area. Politically, the Atlantic World is most often studied from the perspective of the *democratic revolutions* (Robert Palmer) of the XVIII century. J.G.A. Pocock also popularized the idea of an Atlantic republican tradition stemming from Renaissance Italy that would eventually reach the Northern shore of the American continent. However, neither the Canadian nor the Latin American political tradition are usually included under this template. The present Workshop is an attempt to clarify the classical discussion on the origins and development of liberal democracy through a *spatial* and *temporal* orientation: what we here call the *traditions of liberty*. What this means is that democracy cannot be conceived as a mere formal device made out of rights, norms and institutions. It is also an array of collective practices rooted in cultural, intellectual and political traditions. With the Bicentennial of the Latin American Independences gathering momentum, this workshop offers an opportunity to reconsider the genealogy of the western conceptions of liberty and to connect the political traditions issued from both sides of the Atlantic World.