

The Forgotten Canopy:

Ecology, Ephemeral Architecture, and Imperialism in the Caribbean, South American, and Transatlantic Worlds

Conference 1: Ecology



Friday, November 4
10:00 a.m.–4:30 p.m.
UCLA William Andrews
Clark Memorial Library

Saturday, November 5
10:00 a.m.–12:45 p.m.
UCLA Mildred E. Mathias
Botanical Garden

& **Livestreamed** on the
Center's YouTube Channel

Ephemeral architecture has been long overlooked by scholars, with few exceptions, because of its relatively short life span, the lack of extant structures, and most importantly, the need to understand its complex ecological context. Our first conference, "Ecology," seeks to address this lacuna by exploring the complex and dynamic ecologies from which ephemeral architecture arises in the Indigenous circum-Caribbean and its transformation with the arrival of Africans and Europeans (with their flora, fauna and technologies). Scholars from a diversity of disciplines and countries are brought together to explore and challenge a variety of perspectives and theoretical approaches to local and cross regional ecologies and histories, from unique plants and cultural knowledge to complex ecosystems and critical human interventions. In the case of thatched roofs, which often drew upon short-lived grasses and had to be remade regularly, even slight ecological changes would have had profound impacts. It is precisely the material condition of this ephemeral architecture that ties its existence to even subtle changes in local ecologies, while also revealing overlooked histories and silenced voices of the Early Modern world.

Organized by **Stella Nair**, University of California, Los Angeles and **Paul Niell**, Florida State University

Speakers

Irvine Nanichi Auguiste, Caribbean Amerindian Development Agency
Michael D. Carrasco, Florida State University
Mónica Domínguez Torres, University of Delaware
Justin Dunnivant, University of California, Los Angeles
Christine Hastorf, University of California, Berkeley
Corinne L. Hofman, Leiden University & Royal Netherlands Institute of Southeast Asian and Caribbean Studies (KITLV)
Eduardo G. Neves, University of São Paulo
Jonah Rowen, Ahmanson-Getty Postdoctoral Fellow
Glenn H. Shepard Jr., Goeldi Museum, Belém do Pará, Brazil
Pamela Villaseñor (Fernandño Tataviam), Pukúu Cultural Community Services

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For schedule and conference registration:
www.1718.ucla.edu/events/forgotten-canopy-c1d1/