



**University of Guelph
Department of History**

MA Thesis Defence

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| Student: Sara Perkins | Date: Thurs., May 12, 2016 |
| Time: 9:00 am | Place: MacKinnon Ext. Rm. 2020 |

Title

“AFRICANIZED COLONIES,” THE EXPLORATION OF AFRICAN SLAVE CULTURE IN COLONIAL SOUTH CAROLINA, 1690-1800

Abstract

The development of slave culture in North American colonies was a complex and dynamic process, which varied depending on place. Gwendolyn Hall argued that lower Louisiana was “clearly the most Africanized slave culture in the United States”.

Yet, through the exploration of slave culture in colonial South Carolina, between 1690-1800, it becomes apparent that even though each place provided slaves with unique environments, slaves were always able to maintain their African cultures. Moreover, each colony included variables that affected the lives of the slaves and the process of creolization. This work looks at how elements such as laws, frequency of resistance, plantation formation, ethnic make-up and distribution patterns, affected slaves’ cultural experiences in individual places. A comparison of South Carolina to Louisiana provides a fresh perspective of the creolization process of slave culture in South Carolina. Regardless of where slaves ended up in the United States, they all contributed to the development of the places’ society and at the same time contributed their African cultures.

Advisor: Femi Kolapo

Chair: Matthew Hayday

Committee Member: Susan Nance

External Examiner: Bill Cormack