

# **Centering Families in Atlantic Worlds, 1500-1800**

**February 28 - March 1, 2011  
UT Campus**

This conference takes an integrative approach to the history of families around the early modern Atlantic world, exploring how family issues are intrinsic to explaining larger Atlantic patterns. Families functioned as key political, economic, social, cultural, and religious units, whether or not individuals remained physically, emotionally, or economically connected to them. Households formed the basis of social, political, and economic order. The rhetoric of family relations underpinned diplomacy, politics, and religion. Secular and sacred authorities alike tried to regulate marriage, sexuality, and family in metropolitan and colonial contexts. The interplay of local particularities and general patterns shaped families as families in turn shaped local circumstances and broader trajectories. Embedded in households, kin connections, and gender dynamics, families were at the center of Atlantic worlds.

## **Sponsors:**

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