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Crystal Eddins, University of Pittsburgh, USA

### **Black Women and Reproductive Resistance in the Atlantic World**

#### **Abstract:**

This presentation asks how issues related to intimacy – such as sexuality, pregnancy, sexual violence and coercion, and family and children – shaped, constrained, or at times motivated enslaved women's decision-making about resistance during slave rebellions in British and French Caribbean colonies and the U.S. South. Although reproduction, intimacy, and kinship were central to enslaved women's experiences, these perspectives are often neglected or marginalized in historical archives, primary sources, and secondary literature on enslaved resistance, revolts, maroon communities, and revolutions. Yet, enslaved women reclaimed their power in various ways, such as ending pregnancies to deny enslavers access to a future generation of chattel property, removing themselves and their children from plantations to build liberated maroon spaces, and using their sacred knowledge to forge solidarities and accumulate power within resistance communities. Work in progress aims to demonstrate the importance of family, kin networks, and reproductive autonomy to enslaved women's navigation of their social, biological, and political worlds within collective efforts to overthrow or resist bondage. Thus, in challenging the confines of the historical archive and expanding the scope of secondary literature, this project will illustrate the constraints and possibilities of enslaved women's resistance and power in subverting the capitalist system of Atlantic slavery that deeply exploited their reproduction.

#### **Bio:**

Crystal Eddins is an Associate Professor of Sociology at the University of Pittsburgh where her areas of research and teaching include the African Atlantic diaspora; Social Movements and Revolutions; Race and Ethnicity; Women and Gender with a focus on reproductive justice. Her first book, *Rituals, Runaways, and the Haitian Revolution* (Cambridge University Press, 2022), is an interdisciplinary case study that explores the relationship between ritual life, collective consciousness, and marronnage before the Haitian Revolution of 1791-1804. She is currently developing a second project that explores enslaved women's power, reproduction, and resistance in eighteenth-century British and French Caribbean colonies.