Monday, 25.07.2022; 4:15 - 6:00 pm CEST

Kristalyn Shefveland, University of Southern Indiana, USA:

Colonial Virginia: Plantation Economies, Atlantic Enslavements, and the Indigenous Slave Trade

Abstract:
In the late seventeenth century, Virginia colonist Edmund Scarburgh and his mistress Ann Toft owned and sold many Native laborers as indentured servants and slaves. A man of great ambition, Scarburgh engaged in economic activities throughout the Chesapeake, New England, New York, the Netherlands, and England. His occupations included county burgess, surveyor-general (1655-1670), amateur physician, maritime shipping and trade, the production of goods, namely tobacco and salt, and the brokering of Native laborers. All told, Scarburgh held 75,000 total acres of land and innumerable tithable English, African, and Native servants and slaves. When Governor Berkeley issued a proclamation arresting Scarburgh for oppression of the Natives of Accomack County the county removed him from office and deprived him of his profits for land speculation and the sale of Indian children. After this fall in stature, Toft ascended in power in the brokering of Native laborers. By understanding the types of labor and the economic activities of the Scarburgh and Toft plantations, this lecture will address the importance of Native labor to the early Virginia plantation economy and examine the personal and professional relationship of Toft and Scarburgh, power brokers of the Eastern Shore.

Bio:
Kristalyn Shefveland is the author of *Anglo-Native Virginia: Trade, Conversion, and Indian Slavery in the Old Dominion, 1646-1722* (University of Georgia Press, 2016) and is an Associate Professor at the University of Southern Indiana. Current research projects in progress include: *Old Florida: Yankee Settler Colonialism in the Land of the Aís and Seminole* (University of Florida Press) and a co-edited volume, *The Great Upheaval: War, Migration, and Transformation in Early Modern America, 1675-1725* (University of Nebraska Press)