



# What's in a Name?

## Searching for the African Origins of "Samba" and "Zumbi" in Brazil



Nave Visiting Scholar

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**3:30pm**

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This presentation explores the contours and significance of prolonged searches for African origins of two of Brazil's most cherished, recognizable symbols: samba music and Zumbi, the last leader of the famous 17th-century quilombo (runaway slave community). Bridging my last and current book projects, the talk asks why and how scholars "etymologized" two unique forms of cultural-national patrimony—one intangible (samba) and the other a person and his legend—and what these searches for linguistic (and cultural, genealogical, etc.) origins may tell us about the creation of modern Brazil.

**Sponsors: Anthropology, African Cultural Studies, History, Latin American Caribbean & Iberian Studies, Nave Fund, and the International Division.**

*Talk in English, free, and open to the public*