We are convening specialists on urban slavery in early modern Africa, Europe, and the Americas to study Atlantic history as a space of relentless exploitation but also incessant transnational circulations. Roughly between 1450 and 1850, Atlantic urban slavery from Mexico to São Salvador (Kongo) to Kingston to Bahia to Lisbon to Ouidah to Le Cap François generated unprecedented patterns of geographical mobility and hybrid ethno genesis among Atlantic Africans. As slaves, sailors, conquistadors, pirates, soldiers, Protestant itinerant preachers, Catholic bishops, settlers, and merchants, Africans and their European and New World descendants crisscrossed the Atlantic. We are bringing together sixteen leading scholars on the urban Black Atlantic to explore cities as laboratories of transnational ethno genesis in order to address, but also go beyond, current debates on the "Creole" and "African Diaspora" origins of Afro-Atlantic culture. In addition to the urban dimensions of enslavement, we are particularly interested in exploring markets, secret societies, Catholic sodalities and cabildos, reverse migration, and armies (particularly in the south Atlantic and the Caribbean) as forces of Atlantic transculturation. We are asking our distinguished guests to explore Afro-Atlantic ethno genesis paying attention also to the role of other non-African historical actors in the Atlantic: Europeans, to be sure, but also Amerindians and Asians. The original contributions will be published in an edited volume.

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