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SWP Newsletter - June 2025

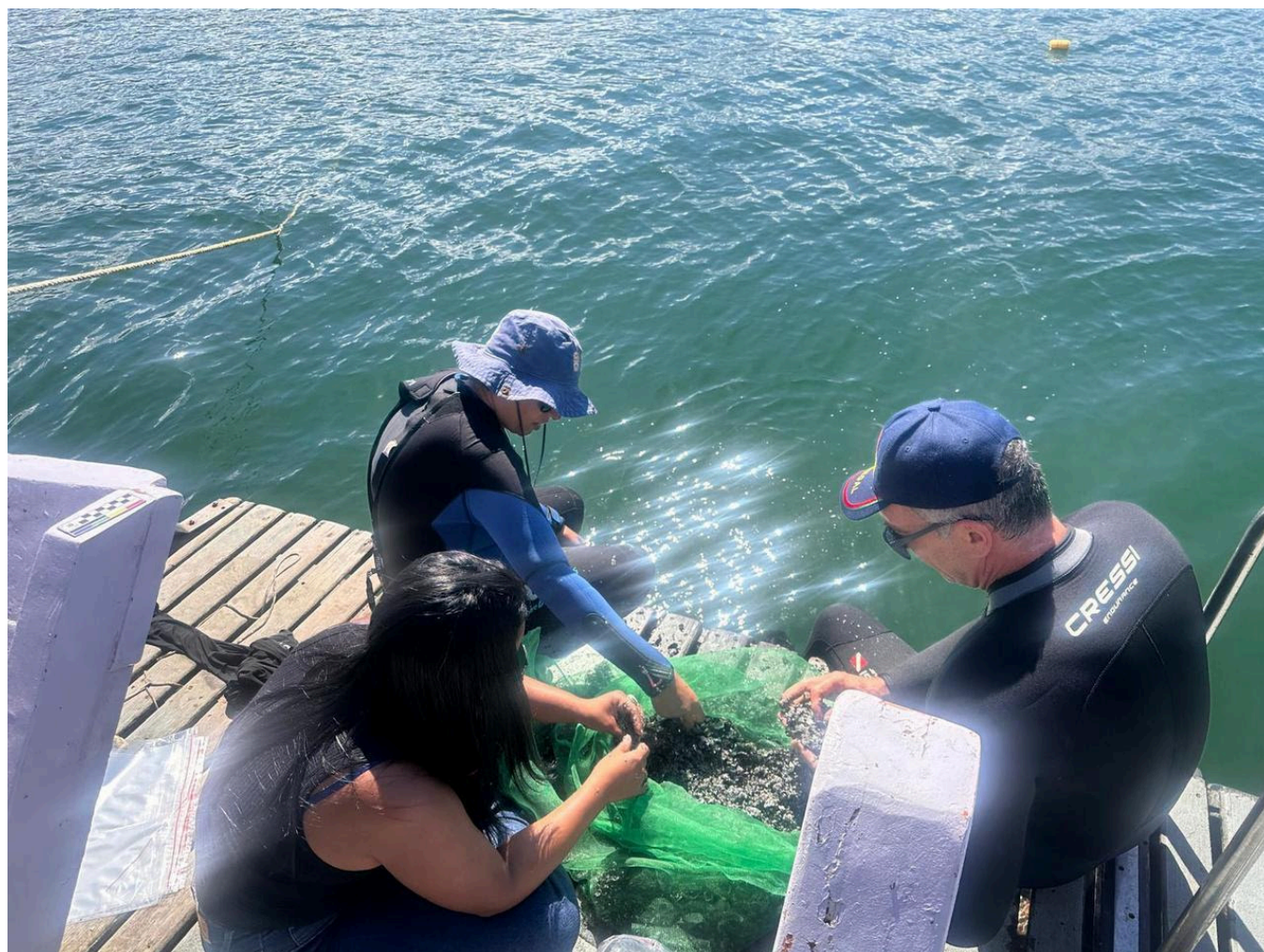
2 messages

Slave Wrecks Project <yrt@gwu.edu>

Reply-To: yrt@gwu.edu

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Fri, Jun 13, 2025 at 2:00 PM



SWP and Instituto AfrOrigens researchers investigating the Camargo site in Brazil (May 2025)

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SWP Newsletter - June 2025

"Archaeological campaign reinforces the historical importance of the Camargo ship in Angra"

The Brazilian city of Angra dos Reis recently featured the Slave Wrecks Project (SWP) on its website in a report on the wreck of the slave ship Camargo. The fieldwork conducted by SWP and its partners, including the AfrOrigins Institute and the University of Sergipe, involves the direct involvement of the local community. These efforts are representative of SWP's mission to foster the stewardship of shared history, and to bring the realities of the transatlantic slave trade to the surface. The ongoing maritime archaeological research of the Camargo wreck has been a "work of rescuing and valuing the Afro-Brazilian memory that makes our city proud," Angra's website says.

Angra (Portuguese)

SWP Fieldwork & Updates

Summer is here and SWP has a lot to look forward to—but also many accomplishments to reflect on. From conferences to fieldwork, here's what we've been working on.

Continuing Camargo Fieldwork in Brazil



From May 6 to May 20, researchers from SWP and AfrOrigins continued their archaeological assessment of the submerged site associated with the presumed wreck of the slave brig Camargo. Previous activities related to the wreck, which sank in 1852, were centered around surveying the site. Last month, researchers continued to develop an understanding of the site, and also moved forward by excavating test units within

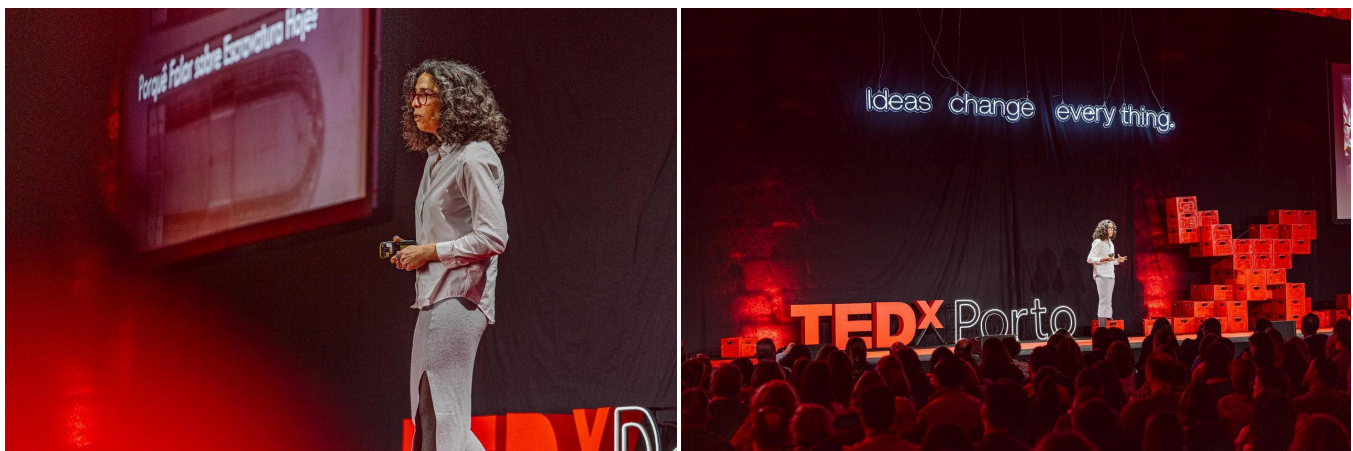
the shipwreck area. These efforts are key in expanding knowledge about the Camargo wreck.

SWP Featured at GW's Inaugural InnovationFest



On May 1, George Washington University hosted its inaugural InnovationFest event, a showcase that shared the impactful research, scholarship, creativity, and entrepreneurship conducted at the university with the public. Visitors learned about SWP's international research, fieldwork, and initiatives in the field of maritime archaeology. InnovationFest was a great opportunity to further connect with GW's community and promote education on the realities of the transatlantic slave trade.

TEDxPorto Anthropology Talk



In late March, SWP researcher Dr. Raquel Machaqueiro gave a presentation on anthropology and the importance of talking about the history of the slave trade at TEDxPorto. The annual event is one of the largest in TEDx's global network and was well-attended by a diverse audience. This year, the event's theme was A Grande Questão, or The

Big Question. Speakers discussed the importance of innovation and cultural understanding in a rapidly changing world.

TEDxPorto (Portuguese)

In Slavery's Wake Programming



In April, Smithsonian NMAAHC hosted the a public program entitled Freedom Making Through the Arts. Inspired by the role of art and artists in freedom movements and practices, the event featured a conversation with artists Daniel Minter and Tiffany McNeil. Minter, who in 2021 created the Slave Wrecks Project logo in collaboration with the SWP network, is a painter, illustrator, and educator who deals with themes of displacement and diaspora.

Both Minter and McNeil's works were displayed in the exhibition. Audience members were able to explore the exhibition following the panel discussion, and engage in hands-on activities to explore the role of art in Black freedom making practices.

The exhibition closed in Washington, DC on June 8 and will be heading to the Museu Histórico Nacional in Rio de Janeiro, where it will be displayed from November 2025 to March 2026.

Learn more about the exhibition below.

In Slavery's Wake at the NMAAHC

Upcoming Events in Portugal



This month, the Teachers' Training at the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation returns for its second edition, equipping educators and museum professionals with the tools to engage with difficult histories—particularly Portugal's role in the transatlantic trade of enslaved people. Led by SWP, in collaboration with the Gulbenkian Foundation, this immersive course blends historical context, museum visits, and practical workshops to rethink how these narratives are taught and remembered. Courses will be primarily in Portuguese, with select sessions in English and simultaneous translation. Designed for history teachers but open to educators from various fields, the two week-long sessions will take place **June 30 – July 4** and **July 7 – 11**, with a public talk concluding each session.

These public talks will discuss the importance of slavery's legacy in Portugal, Brazil and the United States, as well as some of the legal and pedagogical tools to fight it. Historians from globally renowned universities, as well as the Smithsonian Museum of American History, will speak at the Gulbenkian Auditorium in English (**July 4**) and Portuguese (**July 11**).

[Register for Teachers' Training Here](#)

[Public Conference Information](#)

Public Talk Speakers



Aurora Almada e
Santos (Nova

Lucimar Felisberto
(State University of Rio

Orlando R. Serrano, Jr.
(Smithsonian Museum

Comings and Goings

New Beginnings: Celebrating Kate McMahon's Legacy and New Journey in Preserving History



It is with bittersweet feelings that we announce Kate McMahon's departure from the National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC). She has worked for the Museum's Center for Study of Global Slavery since 2018, where she worked significantly for and with the Slave Wrecks Project network. From fieldwork and coordinating research to interpretation and building SWP's website, Kate was central to the activities and growth of the coordinating office. Her research and public history work on Maine and wider New England's role in the global slave trade continue to make impact in academia and have wide and growing influence in public spaces and places. She will begin a new position as the Director of the Castine Historical Society in Maine this month. While her departure is a loss for the museum and the project, we are excited for her new opportunity and will look for ways to involve her and her expertise in SWP's global collaborations in the future. The staff and members of SWP thank her and wish her well on this new journey.

Meet Gracie Wagnon, CSGS's New Program Assistant



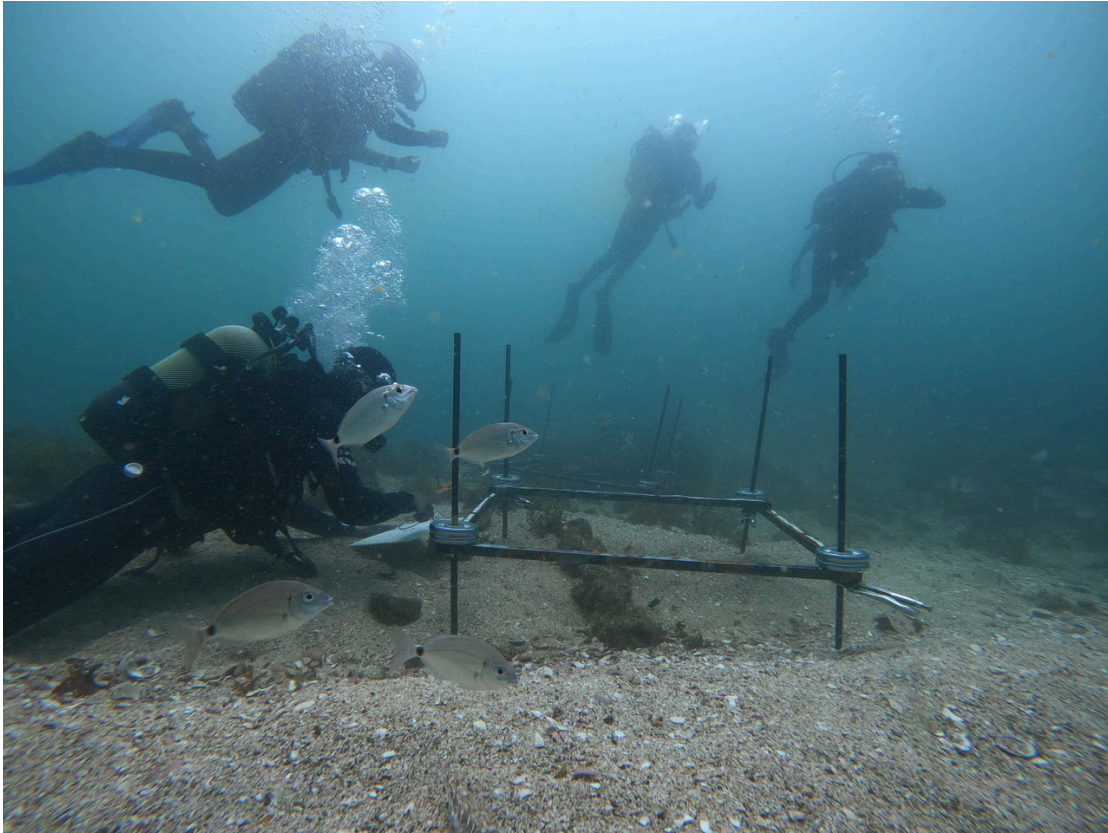
Gracie Wagnon is the new Program Assistant for the Center for the Study of Global Slavery at the National Museum of African American History and Culture. Previously an intern at NMAAHC in 2023, her work will center around SWP's website, digital assets, and social media. She is based in Washington, DC, and formerly worked for the National Park Service as a Park Guide at the White House and President's Park. She graduated with a BA in History and International Affairs from George Washington University in 2023, where she first learned of SWP's work when Steve Lubkemann spoke to her 200-person Introductory Anthropology class. Her background includes working with web-based educational and interpretive tools, asset organization, and public event management. She's an avid reader, hiker, and an extremely amateur knitter.

New Website!

Have you explored our newly designed website yet? It's live and ready for you—visit today and keep up our latest projects, research, and updates!

slavewreckproject.org

SWP in the Spotlight



In May, Gabrielle Miller, Program Specialist and Archaeologist for the NMAAHC's Center for the Study of Global Slavery spoke with host Melissa J. Nelson in the Archives & Things podcast (episode 29). The podcast interview explores the role Black memory, archives, and history play in SWP's work.

Listen to the full conversation on [Spotify](#) or [iTunes](#).

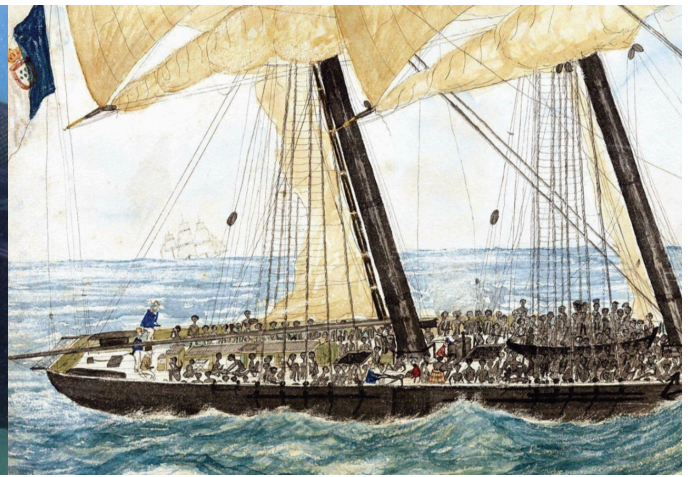
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[iTunes](#)



Article: Slave Ship Wrecked in Itaipuaçu
May Inspire Documentary (Portuguese)

Gazeta 24 Horas Rio



Podcast: Revealing the Realities of the
Slave Trade (Portuguese)

Rádio e Televisão de Portugal

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