



Heinrich the Shoemaker and the S/Cistrunks that Followed: A Narrative of Black and White in the U.S. South

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There is a glaring irony in the story of Heinrich Sūsstrunck, emigrating from his Swiss-German home. Generations of white Sistrunks would claim and enslave generations of blacks in the U.S. South. Heinrich was indoctrinated into the new world plantation system and the reality that his whiteness was capital in this hemisphere during captivity in Cuba. Heinrich's experience in Cuba and his acclimation by the time he arrived in Charleston speaks to the borderless trans-Atlantic world that was connected through slavery. This lecture examines how this inter-colonial system laid pathways of contrasting generational fortunes for Heinrich's heirs and the descendants of Shadrick and Francis, two of the many blacks recorded in nineteenth century Sistrunk slave ledgers.

Elizabeth J. West received her Ph.D. in English with a certificate in Women's Studies from Emory University. Her teaching and scholarship focuses on spirituality and gender in early African American and Women's Literature, and African Diasporic Literatures of the Atlantic World. She co-edits the Roman & Littlefield book series, *Black Diasporic Worlds: Origins and Evolutions from New World Slaving*.