



International Coalition of  
**SITES of CONSCIENCE** UOM

## UNESCO DAY OF REMEMBRANCE OF ABOLITION OF SLAVE TRADE 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2022

Venue: Board Room, ISM Mauritius, 1 Quay Street, Port Louis

Time: 1 - 3 p.m. (Mauritian Time)

To conclude the Mauritius contribution to the SLAFNET/SLAMNARET project, an activity is planned on 23<sup>rd</sup> August to coincide with UNESCO's Day of Remembrance of the Abolition of Slave Trade. This activity will take place in collaboration with ISM Mauritius who has offered the venue. The activity will consist of i) Launch of a pilot project: *'Inventory of Materials on slave trade, slavery, indenture and other forms of unfree labour in the Southwest Indian Ocean'* followed after a short break by ii) A two -hour Online Workshop on *'Towards an Intercontinental slave trade and slavery database for Mauritius and the region?'*

### **Brief on the SLAFNET Inventory**

This is a pilot project emanating from the Slavery in Africa Network (SLAFNET) initiated by Dr Marie-Pierre Ballarin and funded by the European Commission. The long-term aim is to create a website and database to make accessible materials on slave trade, slavery and other forms of unfree labour that exist on the Southwest Indian Ocean. Researchers from several countries followed a training in metadata input using the Dublin Core format in Mauritius and also attended workshops at Nantes University on mapping ship voyages and another training on using the Omeka software. The materials are organised according to country and consist of inventories of materials as well as a selection of the materials. Samples of copies of archival documents, photos of historical sites, publications, maps, and oral data are included. This is an on-going project, and we hope to embark on a more ambitious project of a database on slave trade and slavery. Contributions of materials on this site are welcome from researchers working on Slave Trade, Slavery, Indenture and Other Forms of Unfree Labour in the Southwest Indian Ocean.

### **Brief on workshop 'Towards an Intercontinental Slave Trade and Slavery Database for Mauritius and the region'**

ISM Mauritius is expected to set up an International Slavery Research Centre as one of the main long-term research activities of the future Museum. To this end, one of the most important themes is the colonial Intercontinental Slave Trade with which Mauritius was deeply involved in eighteenth to mid-nineteenth centuries. The history of slavery in the Southwest Indian Ocean islands is also interconnected and merits to be understood together, especially the histories of Mauritius, Rodrigues, La Reunion, Madagascar, Seychelles, Chagos and Agalega. The idea of a slave trade and slavery database was presented to a French expert mission in Mauritius in October 2021. An offer to send a database expert was then made by Expertise France in their report.

With a view therefore, of providing the ISM with a design brief for the database, an internal review of existing slave trade databases and individual brainstorming session with experts in the Mauritius slave trade is being held. Several workshops have also been held over the years, at the University of Mauritius, in the SLAFNET project and in other institutions in Europe. It was observed by ISM Mauritius that in the survey conducted by Dr Klara Boyer-Rossol on slavery databases in the world, that not a single database was located in Africa.

Further discussion to examine the issues involved in creating a Slave trade and Slavery Database for Mauritius and the region is on-going. We hope this workshop in August 2022 can add further to refine a concept and design for a future database in Mauritius. Participants include specialists in SWIO / Mauritius Slave Trade, and researchers familiar with slavery databases or historical databases.

Oral individual contributions will be limited to 10 minutes maximum, to allow all guest speakers to speak and to have time for questions, discussion, and recommendations by other participants. Languages used will be English and French.

## PROGRAMME

### SLAFNET Inventory of Materials on Slave Trade, Slavery, Indenture and other forms of Unfree Labour

**1 p.m. – 1.15 p.m.** Joint Welcome by ISM Chairperson Mr Jean Maxy Simonet and Ag. Vice Chancellor, Professor Sanjeev Sobhee, University of Mauritius

Launch of Inventory in presence of Dr Marie Pierre Ballarin, PI SLAFNET Project and UoM and online presence of regional members by Zoom

Short Break

### Joint ISM/SLAFNET/UoM Workshop 'Towards an Intercontinental Slave Trade and Slavery Database for Mauritius and the region'

**1.20 p.m. – 3 p.m.** Welcome by CRSI UoM Coordinator Ms Vina Ballgobin  
Start of Workshop

Convener/chair: Vijaya Teelock

Speakers will have maximum 10 minutes each for their presentation

#### Guest speakers

**Edward Alpers** – Professor, University of California Los Angeles, USA

*Some Thoughts on the Concept and Design of a Slave Trade and Slavery Database for Mauritius and the Southwest Indian Ocean region (pre-recorded)*

**Preben Kaarsholm** – Professor Emeritus Roskilde University, Denmark

*Danish participation in the Indian Ocean slave trade: Sources, periodisation, and extent*

**Pedro Pombo** – Associate Researcher, Centre for Research on Slavery and Indenture, UoM

*Slave trade to Mauritius from Portuguese possessions in Asia: Macao and Goa*

**Alexander Meckelburg**, SLAFNET Researcher and UCL Research Fellow

*Slave trade and slavery in Ethiopia: sources, extent, and datasets*

**Rafael Thiebaut** – Postdoctoral researcher, Musée Quai Branly

*La traite des esclaves de Madagascar vers les Mascareignes XVIIe-XIXe siècle including Dutch trade from Madagascar to Mauritius and the Cape*

**Stephanie Tamby**, Part-time Researcher, ISM Mauritius, **Doorga Ujodha**, **Gundeea Narrainen**, UoM and Technical Researchers SLAFNET

*Issues in Mapping slave voyages for Mauritius*

**Matthias van Rossum**, **Merve Tosun**, **Ulbe Bosma** - Slave Trade in Asia database project, Leiden University  
Joint presentation

*Exploring Slave Trade in Asia database project: an update*

#### **Participants to discussion:**

Members of the SLAFNET Project

Nigel Worden, Emeritus Professor of History, University of Cape Town

Benigna Zimba, University of Eduardo Mondlane

Dominique Taffin, Directrice, Fondation pour la Mémoire de l'Esclavage

Chaplain Toto, University of Toamasina

Thomas Vernet, Université de Paris I Sorbonne

Klara Boyer-Rossol, Part-time Researcher ISM Mauritius

Julio Machele, University of Eduardo Mondlane

**2.30 p.m. Discussion** 'A slave trade and slavery database for Mauritius and the region'

**3.00 p.m.** End of session