

SURFACE WRITING: ON THE WATER IN NEW FRANCE

A lecture by

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In this talk, Ibbett will think through accounts of river navigation from sixteenth- and seventeenth-century New France. These accounts repeatedly return to the difficulties of staying afloat in new waters, and to the techniques needed to do so. This body of knowledge shapes what Ibbett calls a literature of buoyancy; she will ask how these concerns about staying at the surface shape European appraisals of Indigenous knowledge and behavior, and how we might think about them in relation to problems of what's been called surface reading.

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