

The Fifty-Eighth Season of the
**TORONTO RENAISSANCE AND
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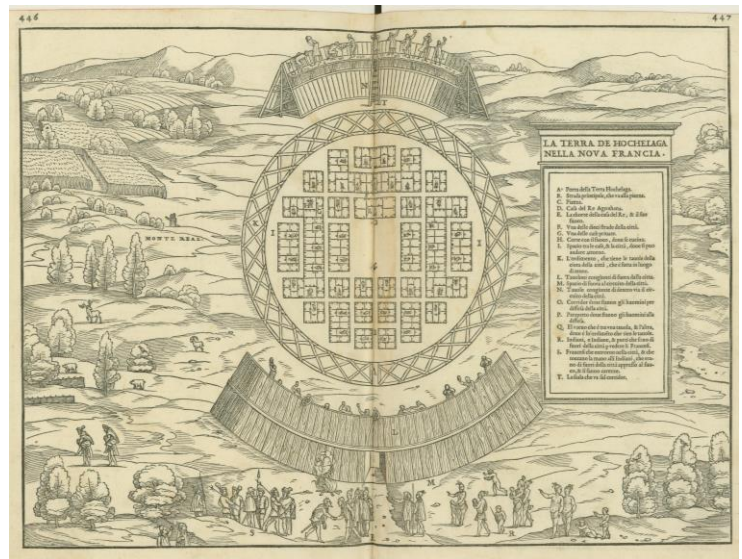
HEIDI BOHAKER **(University of Toronto)**

“Recentring the Renaissance: Early Modern Scholarship and the Decolonization of History”

Thursday, 2 February 2023
4:00pm EST via Zoom
To join, please use the following Zoom link:
<https://mcmaster.zoom.us/j/93997043107?pwd=Tm1hdXljL1k2S3g5UXdLQUh3NVZSZz09>

Scholars of the Renaissance and Early Modern period have long acknowledged its darker side in the global colonization projects of Europe. However, much less consideration has been given to the role that early modern scholars and scholarship could play in present-day decolonization movements and in contributing to the cultural revitalization projects of Indigenous peoples by engaging in research collaborations.

Building on her own experiences working as part of research collaborations in the Great Lakes region, this paper explores the evidentiary possibilities for reimagining the Early Modern in what is now “north-eastern North America,” by re-reading the colonial archive through the lens of Indigenous ontologies and epistemologies. How can understanding of the Great Law, or the stories of Nanabozho, the Great Hare, reveal new findings in the archival records left by European visitors, travellers, missionaries, and colonists? How in turn can those re-read documents provide new sources of new Indigenous historical experiences in this period? And what does ethical scholarly collaboration look like in a project to decolonize history?



HEIDI BOHAKER is Associate Professor of History at the University of Toronto. Her most recent book *Doodem and Council Fire: Anishinaabe Governance through Alliance* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2020). She is currently working on *Ontario's Treaties: First Law* and is co-director of GRASAC with Cara Krmpotich (GRASAC, the Great Lakes Research Alliance: <https://grasac.org>)

Image: “La terra de Hochelaga nella Nova Francia.” From Giovanni Battista Ramusio, *Navigazioni e viaggi*. (Venice: Nella Stamperia de’ Giunti, 1556), vol. 3, pp. 346-347.