

The Sixty-First Season of the
**TORONTO RENAISSANCE AND
REFORMATION COLLOQUIUM**

Founded by Natalie Zemon Davis and James K. McConica in 1964

<https://www.trrc.ca>



Prof. Jennifer Mara DeSilva
(University of Toronto)

**Enslaved Florence:
Mapping Early Modern Enslaver Households**

Thursday, 13 November 2025, 4:00–5:30 pm (EST;
i.e., Toronto time)

Location: in person at the Victoria University Senior
Common Room (read of 91 Charles St. W.) and
online at

<https://mcmaster.zoom.us/j/98138558897>

(Meeting ID: 981 3855 8897; Passcode: 685092)

Historians of slavery struggle to balance large-scale data with life stories. Seeing individual enslaved people in the records and establishing them in time and place is one method of resistance against the historical violence of enslavement. Mapping non-dominant groups is a powerful method of documentation when records of individual life experiences are thin. Not only does mapping bring to light enslaved people's presence in the city, but it serves as a useful reminder of their contributions to contemporary society. Given the nature of extant records, however, it is also a challenging task. This presentation will explore that process and the records and data that underpin it.



JENNIFER MARA DESILVA is an Associate Professor Teaching Stream at the University of Toronto, where she is also Vice Principal of Woodsworth College. She has published on the College of Cardinals, papal commemoration, nepotism, sex workers, and history on film. She is the author of *The Office of Ceremonies and Advancement in Curial Rome, 1466–1528* (Brill, 2022), the co-editor of the *Sixteenth Century Journal*, and editor of the Essays and Studies book series at the Centre for Renaissance and Reformation Studies at the University of Toronto.

Image: Detail from Ambrogio Lorenzetti, *Martyrdom of the Franciscans in Tana* (1320-1325), Church of San Francesco, Siena.