

The Department of Anthropology Presents:

## The Material Expressions of Central African Religiosity in Brazil in Documents and Artifacts

April 9, 2020  
4:00- 5:00 pm  
204 Maxwell Hall

Historical reports from the nineteenth-century, in northern Brazil, describe maroon settlements with “houses of saints”. These houses presented, in their interior, “extravagant dolls made of wood, gourds fulfilled with herbs, and stones”. Starting from this kind of description, and based on historic, ethnographic and archaeological sources, this lecture will explore the material expressions of Central African religiosity in Africa and in the Portuguese America from the 18<sup>th</sup> century to the present. The focus will be on the possible ways that Central Africans, particularly those ones with a Bakongo cultural background, appropriated items found in plantations contexts from western and southeastern Brazil, such as crosses, crystals, bottles, ceramic pots, and iron slag, to express worldviews and cosmologies of their own.



**Dr. Luís Cláudio P. Symanski**  
Federal University of Minas Gerais  
Department of Anthropology

**Maxwell**  
Syracuse University

If you have any questions or require accommodations, please contact JoAnn L Rhoades at [jlrhoade@syr.edu](mailto:jlrhoade@syr.edu) by 26 March 2020.