

## NICOLE SAFFOLD MASKIELL

**M**y research is focused on the colonial history of the Northeast, specifically colonial New York. I am interested in the networks that connected communities across racial lines in colonial New York to understand the ways in which kinship ties were maintained between slave and free, black, white and Indian, during Dutch rule of New Amsterdam in the 1620s, through New York's British dominion after 1663, until Britain's surrender with the Treaty of Paris in 1783. Several questions guide my inquiry: In what ways do informal and formal kinship ties redraw the boundaries of colonial New York, incorporating the Caribbean colonies of Curacao, Bonaire, Aruba and Barbados into the narrative? What effect did kinship networks have on the fur industry and informal networks of trade between whites, blacks and Indians? How were kinship bonds essential to maintaining these networks during the transition from Dutch to British rule? Conversely, how were they transformed by the transition?



I am currently focused on the lower Hudson Valley, including the city of New York, because of its large slave community. Inspired by recent work which places the colony of New York in a greater Atlantic context, I am also interested in exploring the bonds between the Caribbean, northern South America and colonial New York. A central portion of my research will be focused on Dutch language manuscripts housed in the state archives in Albany, regional archives in Westchester County and New York City, museums and material cultural artifacts in Willemstad, Curaçao, the archives of the Dutch West India Company, and documents located in the municipal archives in Amsterdam. I will also look at colonial British manuscripts in New York, Bridgetown, and London to understand the changing nature of colonial governance under British Imperial rule.

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