

# “Rumors of Hope, Rumors of Fear in the Age of Atlantic Revolutions”

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What drove non-elite men and women to join the revolts that marked the Age of Revolutions (1775-1830)? This lecture analyzes rumors as an essential source of information for literate and illiterate people. A distinction will be made between two types of these rumors. First, the fearful ones, usually foreign invaders were said to be intent on spreading death and destruction. Second, hopeful rumors confirming the hope of a specific social group (serfs, slaves) that the monarch or other authorities had issued a decree emancipating them, but that it had been withheld by local authorities and landowners.

Professor Klooster has taught at Clark University since 2003. He has published widely on the Dutch Atlantic, smuggling, Jewish history, and the age of revolutions. His books include *Revolutions in the Atlantic World: A Comparative History* (2018), *The Dutch Moment: War, Trade, and Settlement in the Seventeenth-Century Atlantic World* (2016), and *Illicit Riches: Dutch Trade in the Caribbean, 1648-1795* (1998). His latest books are *Spanish American Independence Movements: A History in Documents* (2021) and *Realm between Empires: The Second Dutch Atlantic, 1680-1815* (2018).

*Friday, February 25*  
*(3:15 – 5:15 pm)*  
*via Zoom*

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