

THE HISTORY OF SCIENCE SOCIETY
& NEW ORLEANS PHARMACY MUSEUM PRESENT

HSS ELIZABETH PARIS LECTURE:

Of Desperation and Dirt-Eating: Rethinking Medical
Knowledge among Enslaved Communities
by Dr. Rana A. Hogarth

Descriptions of *Cachexia Africana* or dirt eating, a mysterious affliction of enslaved populations, peppered medical treatises and plantation guidebooks that circulated throughout slave societies of the Atlantic World. Dirt eating was notorious for leaving slaves so debilitated that they could no longer work; it caused panic among planters concerned with productivity and left white physicians largely powerless to treat it. Competing theories about dirt eating abounded, alongside suspicions of slaves who fell victim to it.



Dr. Rana A. Hogarth, author of
*Medicalizing Blackness: Making Racial
Difference in the Atlantic World,
1780-1840*

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NEW ORLEANS PHARMACY MUSEUM
514 CHARTRES STREET
NEW ORLEANS, LA 70130



History of
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