

The 2011 Jane B. Hart Distinguished Lecture

Christopher R. DeCorse  
Syracuse University

## **The African Atlantic World: West Africa Before and After**

Thursday, November 10, 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.  
1957 E Street NW, Room 214

The Atlantic trade linked Africa and the Americas for more than four centuries, engendering consequences for societies on both sides of the ocean. Archaeology, which directly reflects the lives of ordinary people, has revealed how Africans both transformed and maintained their cultures across the Atlantic world. Following an overview of major contributions of archaeology to the study of the Atlantic world, the lecture examines particularly how the Atlantic trade affected and transformed West African societies.

Christopher DeCorse is Professor and Chair of the Anthropology Department, in the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, Syracuse university. His work in West Africa focuses on the Atlantic period, particularly the impacts of the slave trade, and the understanding of these transformations in terms of Africa's pre-Atlantic past. He currently directs projects in coastal Ghana and Sierra Leone, including work at Elmina, the site of the first and largest European trade post in sub-Saharan Africa and at Bunce Island, the European trade center between the Senegambia and coastal Ghana. His principal publications on African archaeology include: *An Archaeology of Elmina: Africans and Europeans on the Gold Coast, 1400-1900* (Smithsonian Press, 2001) and *West Africa during the Atlantic Slave Trade* (Continuum Press, 2001)