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**European notions of Northwest Africa and its centrality in-between time and space
in the early modern globalizing world**

In 1978, Andrew Hess memorably called early modern northwest Africa the *Forgotten Frontier*, a moniker that suggested a waning relevance for the area in an emerging global age.[1] Though recent work has revealed the continued importance of northwest Africa, this talk takes up Hess' line of thinking to examine curious classicizing tropes in European depictions of the area. European ideological structures helped produce textual sources and visual media that often associated northwest African features with ancient references, such as Tunis with Carthage. Moreover, the sources also represented the interior landmass, almost entirely unfamiliar to Europeans, as a landscape of territories bearing classical names appearing in Herodotus' *Histories*. These tendencies seem anachronistic in the expanding global, where Europeans had to adjust their classically- and biblically-derived mental structures to absorb new places and peoples. The throwing off of a tripartite division or Ptolemaic rendition of the world further abetted an emerging empiricism in the survey and recording of geographic location. Nonetheless, this talk looks to the anachronism as a beacon signaling the need to explore the enforcement of classical notions on northwest Africa *in conjunction* with its under-remarked role bearing the maritime routes between Europe and the world. I argue that Europeans placed northwest Africa *in-between time and space*, and this notion holds the key in rehabilitating the area, its peoples, and its history as a central intermediary between Europe's connection and understanding of the globe and its unfamiliar peoples and places.

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[1] Andrew Hess, *The Forgotten Frontier: A History of the Sixteenth-Century Ibero-African Frontier* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1978).