Prof. Sweet will discuss his AHR article that draws together Domingos Alvares (Africa/Latin America) with Olaudah Equiano (Africa/British American), explaining how he came to the realization that Alvares' trajectory might add to the well-worn debates about Equiano. How could an Afro-Portuguese story tell us something about an Afro-British story and vice versa? This will lead to a discussion of broader issues of methodology--how one approaches sources, the kinds of questions one asks of the sources, etc. Then Sweet will pan out and examine some broader "macro" questions related to the positive benefits of mastering a historical "field," but also the possible limitations of that narrow mastery.

James Sweet’s research and teaching center on Africans and their descendants in the broader world. He teaches courses on comparative slavery, race and nation in the Atlantic world, comparative world history, the history of Brazil, and the history of South Africa. His research has concentrated on the social and cultural histories of Africans in the Atlantic world. His next book will focus on the international dimensions of slavery in the United States, and he has begun several research projects related to South Africa.

Professor Sweet’s website: [http://history.wisc.edu/people/faculty/sweet.htm](http://history.wisc.edu/people/faculty/sweet.htm)