

Florida Humanities Speakers Directory



Engaging Speakers



Compelling Topics



Thought-provoking
Discussions



J. Michael Francis

Scholar

Dr. Michael Francis received his PhD in History in 1998 from the University of Cambridge. Between 1997 and 2012, Dr. Francis taught at the University of North Florida, where he also served briefly as Chair of the Department of History. He has taught and written extensively on colonial Florida and Latin America. In 2011, US Secretary of the Interior, Ken Salazar, appointed Dr. Francis to serve on the St. Augustine 450th Commemoration Commission.

Programs Available

Before Jamestown: Europeans, Africans, and Indians in La Florida, 1513–1607

The early history of European settlements in Florida with a focus on Florida's rich yet largely neglected Spanish colonization, which began nearly a century before Jamestown with St. Augustine, the first European settlement of North America established in 1513.

Murder and Martyrdom in Spanish Florida: Don Juan and the Guale Uprising

In the late fall of 1597, Guale Indians murdered five Franciscan friars and razed their missions to the ground in what is known as Juanillo's Revolt. It brought the missionization of Guale territory to an abrupt end, shedding light on the complex nature of Spanish-Indian relations and the dramatic early history of Franciscan missions in Spanish Florida.

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Program Format:

- In-person
- Virtual

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