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**Smugglers, Migrants, and Demons:**
*Cosmographies of Mobility in the Haitian Caribbean*

The United States has long targeted Haiti for containment and quarantine. Over the past three decades, such measures have evolved into a framework of intensive extraterritorial maritime policing that has subjected certain forms of Haitian mobility to increasing scrutiny and constraint. Coast Guard patrols in Haitian waters, blocked shipping routes, and potential confinement for migrants at sites like Guantánamo Bay have all become key features of American power projection in the region. Less visible than these sovereign performances, however, are the Haitian cosmologies of circulation, refuge, and wealth that have developed in dynamic tension with the militarization of Caribbean seascapes. This talk examines the spatial narratives and practices that Haitians have used to map a vast moral, ritual, and economic geography in the liquid borderlands that surround their island nation. The vision of a radically free Caribbean that lies at the centerpiece of this precarious world provides a glimpse into Haitian oceanic imaginaries and the frontier dialectics through which they unfold.

Jeffrey S. Kahn is an Assistant Professor of Anthropology at the University of California, Davis. His areas of research include migration, mobility, border policing, sovereignty, law, and ritual economies. He has explored these topics through ethnographic fieldwork in Haiti, North America, and the Republic of Bénin. Kahn is currently working on two related book projects. The first, *Islands of Sovereignty: Haitian Migration and the Borders of Empire*, is an examination of how boat migration from Haiti to the United States during the last three decades of the twentieth century led to the development of new forms of legal activism, border governance, and oceanic policing that would remake the spatiality of the American nation-state. The second manuscript looks to the practices of mobility, the material infrastructures, and the land and sea-based economies that Haitians have fashioned in a Caribbean increasingly saturated by American projects of containment and securitization.

Kahn holds a BA from Dartmouth College, a JD from Yale Law School, and a PhD from the University of Chicago. Prior to joining UC Davis, he was an Academy Scholar at the Harvard Academy for International and Area Studies and an Associate Research Scholar in Law and Robina Foundation International Human Rights Fellow at Yale Law School.