

**UNIVERSITY GRADUATE SCHOOL BULLETIN  
ANNOUNCEMENT**

**Florida International University**  
*University Graduate School*

Doctoral Dissertation Defense

**Abstract**

The Bible Against American Slavery: Anglophone Transatlantic Evangelical Abolitionists' use of  
Biblical Arguments, 1776-1865

by

**Richard Rodriguez**

Abolitionists from both sides of the Atlantic used the Bible as their authority in their condemnation of American slavery. Though abolitionist biblical arguments emerged with 18<sup>th</sup> century Quakers, the American Revolution marked the first time a national calamity was tied to slavery by transatlantic abolitionists. Henceforth, they warned of a future national calamity that would be divine punishment for American slavery—a national sin. This study traces and investigates the biblical basis for the abolitionists' claims that American slavery was a national sin, especially against enslaved women and African American families, and should be immediately abolished. Abolitionist fiery biblical prophetic rhetoric sparked not only a movement, but galvanized a generation of female anti-slavery activists. Attention is paid to how the abolitionists' prophetic claims that the nation would suffer divine retribution for its oppression of enslaved African Americans, culminated with future abolitionists, northern pastors and President Abraham Lincoln interpreting the Civil War as divine retribution for slavery.

This study used the *Gale Cengage Learning Slavery and Antislavery Transnational* and *Sabin Americana* databases to find and analyze printed and published pamphlets and books from the Revolutionary Era through to the Civil War, as well as other printed and published matter. The study was organized around the works and activities of key protagonists, both male and female, on both sides of the British Atlantic.

**Date:** November 15, 2017  
**Time:** 2:30 p.m.  
**Place:** MMC, SIPA room #335

**Department:** History  
**Major Professor:** Dr. Jenna Gibbs