



THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG

The Caribbean Research Institute and the Department of Anthropology

proudly present guest lecturer:

**Dr. Tamara Varney**

“The life and health in the British Royal Navy serving  
in Antigua, West Indies during the Napoleonic War era (c. 1800)”

During the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries the British Empire spanned the globe with colonies including islands in the Caribbean/West Indies with the aid of their powerful Navy. Sometimes referred to as the ‘Graveyard of Englishman’, the West Indies posting included many challenges to the health of all British colonists such as tropical diseases and heavy metal poisoning. Over the past two decades, investigations of a cemetery formerly associated with a British Royal Naval Hospital has revealed some interesting insight into what life was like for Naval personnel posted to the West Indies during the Napoleonic War Era (c. 1793-1822). This hospital served the Royal Naval Dockyard at English Harbour, Antigua, West Indies and both regular and enslaved personnel owned by the Royal Navy were interred in the cemetery allowing for a nice representation of lower ranking Naval personnel.



**Wednesday, February 8th 2017**  
**12:30-2:30 pm**  
**Room 2C13**

**Contact us today for more information**  
**204-789-4201**  
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**Dr. Tamara Varney** is a Bioarchaeologist and Associate Professor in the Anthropology Department at Lakehead. She holds a BSc in Anthropology & Biology from Trent University (1991), a MSc in Human Biology from the University of Guelph (1994), and a Phd in Archaeology from the University of Calgary (2003). Her primary expertise is the analysis of human skeletal remains with a focus on the reconstruction of diet and health in past populations. She applies natural science techniques (stable isotope and trace element analyzes of bone) to address questions of social interaction and status. Most notably her recent research has involved the application of techniques at Canada’s only synchrotron facility, the Canadian Light Source, to investigate lead poisoning in the colonial era British Royal Navy, including the West Indies, Newfoundland (Canada), and the Franklin Expedition. She leads a multidisciplinary team of researchers from the University of Saskatchewan (Saskatoon), McEwan University, Memorial University, and the National Parks Authority of Antigua & Barbuda in this project which is the first to address questions of social history using this technology at the Canadian synchrotron.

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