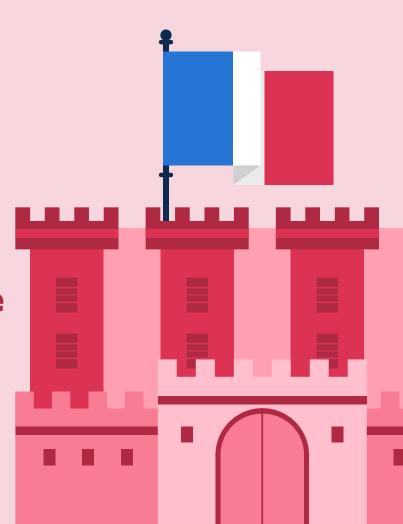
# Moralizing & Mobilizing:

Women of Color as Bearers of Male Citizenship in 18th Century Saint-Domingue

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DIO CUSO ION PURE PRESENTANTE AND A CONTROL OF THE PRINCE FROM THE PRINCE FROM

#### **Saint-Domingue**

#### Where

- Western third of Hispaniola
- Haiti and Dominican Republic

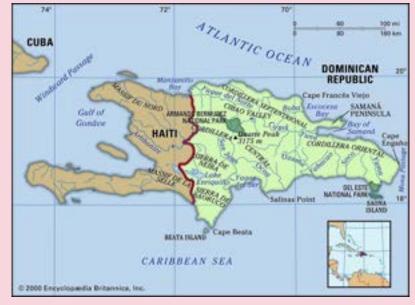
#### **■** Who

- Gens de couleur
- White colons
- Free women of color (mulâtresse)

#### **■** When

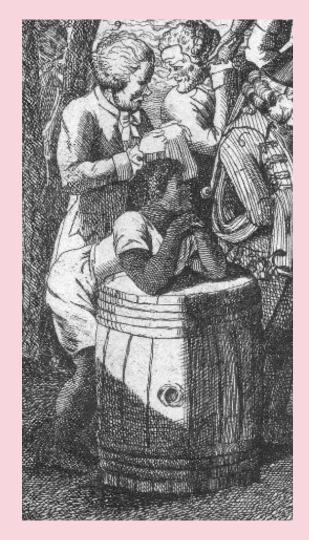
- Acquired by French in 1640s
- Focus: 1763-1791







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#### **Preliminary Thesis**

In arguing over the citizenship of gens de couleur, men on both sides - those who sought to suppress and those who sought to uplift the civil rights of free men of color - utilized arguments around the morality and mobility of free women of color and their reproductive labor. As a result, women's bodies - and their treatment by White men - became the setting for debating citizenship and race in the whirlwind period straddling the Seven Years War, the French Revolution, and the outbreak of the Haitian Revolution.

# LABO(U)R

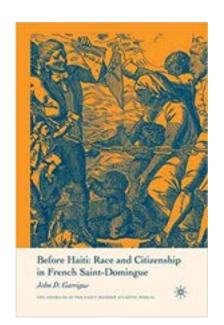
Men's political labor (enfranchisement, petitioning, legislating)

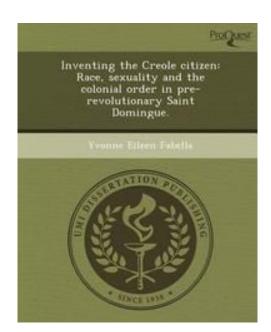
Men's economic labor (property ownership, trade, plantations)

Slave labor (sugar, tobacco, coffee plantations)

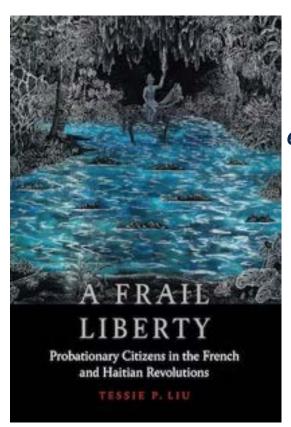
Female reproductive & marital labor

#### Historiography

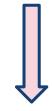




# Theoretical Approach



"meritorious equality and inclusion" (Liu)



gendered and sexualized aspects of meritorious equality and inclusion

#### **Outline**

- Opponents of Gens de Couleur
  - Introduction
  - Morality-based stereotypes of free women of color
  - Mobilizing their reproductive labor to enrich White superiority
- Advocates for Gens de Couleur
  - Introduction
  - Morality-based stereotypes of White men and women
  - Mobilizing independent reproductive labor to bear and rear citizens of color

#### **Opponents: their motivations**



- Moreau de Saint-Méry
- Biological/racial determinism
- Racial hierarchy/White superiority
- End "white slavery"
- Local knowledge & colonial autonomy

| 127                | 1  | 10 1  |
|--------------------|--|---|
|                    | Combinaifons du Blanc.                               |   |
| D'ea Blanc & d'une | Nógreffe , vient — Malitreffe ,                      | un Mulitre.  Quarteron.                           |
|                    | — Quarterone, — Métire , — Mamelouque , —            | Métif. Mamelouque. Quarteronné.                   |
|                    | — Quarterounée , ——————————————————————————————————— |   |
|                    | - Marabou,   | Continuellement du Blanc.  Quarteron.  Quarteron. |
|                    | — Secutra ,  | Quarterón.  |

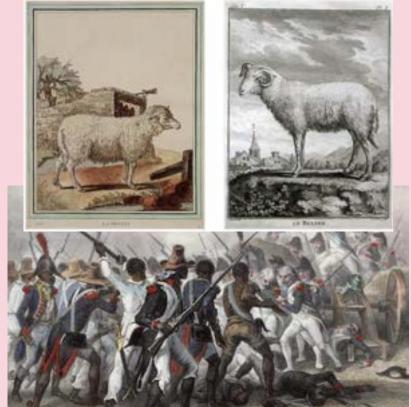
## Morality: Stereotypes of the *Mulâtresse*

- Origins
- Fertility
- Sexuality
- Luxury consumption
- Implications for White superiority: suppress these women and their male counterparts to reestablish
   White marriage and strength



Mobility: Reproductive Labor of the *Mulâtresse* 

- Daubenton
- Gabriel De Bory
- Michel-René Hilliard d'Auberteuil
- Maréchaussée and army work
- Using *libertinage* to the advantage of the colony



#### **Advocates: motivations & context**

- Julien Raimond & Abbé Grégoire (Unrepresentative, planters, European connections)
  - Legislative Precedent (Code Noir and Déclaration)
- Goals (representation in National and Colonial Assemblies, freedom from discrimination and segregation, equality with White citizens)



Morality: Flipping the Stereotypical Script on White Men

- Stereotyping White men and women to demoralize the White community's image as a means to uplift themselves in comparison
- White people's origins
- Hypersexuality of White men
- Neglectful fathers
- Bad Christians
- Greed/jealousy of (White men )and women



## Mobility: Reproducing & Rearing French Citizens of Color

- Using reproductive labor to independently promote and enfranchise their community through the bearing and rearing French citizens
- Their own origins story
- Fertility & reproductivity of gens de couleur
- Children of French values, familial connections, and intergenerational wealth





### DESCRIPTIC Supporters

### Opponents

| TOPC<br>CIV   | HI<br>IT                          | Julien<br>Raimond  | Observations sur l'origine et les<br>Observations sur l'origine et les<br>Ouprogrés du préjugé des colons<br>blancs contre les hommes de<br>couleur (1791) | Moreau de<br>Saint-Méry   | Description topographique,<br>physique, civile, politique et<br>historique de la partie francaise<br>de l'isle Saint-Domingue (1797) |
|---|-----------------------------------|--------------------|--|---------------------------|--|
| L'IS!  AVEC des Macurs de fon Admis Accompagnics  Par  Courregnant    | , I-]<br>ofeste<br>sans,<br>Sec.  | Abbé<br>Grégoire   | Lettre aux citoyens de couleur et<br>U.E. nègres libres de<br>Saint-Domingue, et autres isles<br>Infrançoises de l'Amérique (1791)                         | Gabriel de<br>Bory        | Mémoires sur l'administration de<br>la marine et des colonies (1789)   |
|   | olas p<br>ogus<br>ouvell<br>O R I | Claude<br>Milscent | Sur les troubles de<br>Saint-Domingue (1791)   | Hilliard<br>D'Auberteuil  | Considérations sur l'état présent<br>de la colonie française de<br>Saint-Domingue (1776)   |
|   | d E<br>nimen<br>Nord              | Vincent Ogé        | Motion faite par M. Vincent<br>Ogé, jeune à l'assemblée des<br>colons, habitans de S<br>Domingue (1789)  | Pierre-Ulric<br>Dubuisson | Nouvelles considérations sur<br>Saint-Domingue: en réponse a<br>celles de M. H.D. (1780)   |
| Cher PAUTEUR, as con<br>A Pasta, chem DUPONY<br>Bak Hannacan, chem le | . Libraire .                      | JP Brissot         | Réponse d'un ami des Noirs à la<br>Lettre de M***, habitant de<br>Saint-Domingue (1791)  | Baron de<br>Wimpffen      | Voyage a Saint-Domingue,<br>pendant les années 1788, 1789<br>et 1790 (1797)  |

### Summary

- A lot happening all at once! A lot already written about all these happenings!
- The exploitation of women of color reproductive labor and stereotypical discourse – to amplify men's political and economic labor through the granting or prohibiting of citizenship
- Morality & Mobility
- Two sides with similar discursive modes (origins, sexualization, victimization)
- Where to go next: women's actual experiences and a transnational comparison