



**FEBRUARY 22, 2019
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MIT
BUILDING E51- ROOM 095**

Black Fertile Earth: A Political Ecology of Suckiaug/Hartford

**Thomas Wickman, Associate Professor of History and American Studies,
Trinity College**

The colonial city of Hartford occupies the traditional territory of Wangunk people at a riverside site called Suckiaug, or "black fertile earth," but residents would be hard pressed to find acknowledgments of indigenous history or presence in public monuments. English settlers invaded the lands along the lower Kwanitekw/Connecticut River in the 1630s, and for decades Hartford magistrates struggled against Sequassen, the sachem of Suckiaug. John Haynes, the first colonial governor of Connecticut, who repeatedly accused Sequassen of conspiracies, is well-represented by 19th and 20th-century monuments. In a new, postindustrial century, Riverfront Recapture and other advocates seek to reconnect Hartford residents to the river. Could activists imagine ways to recover not just a preindustrial but a decolonial relation to the river?

This event is part of the MIT Seminar on Environmental and Agricultural History sponsored by the History Faculty and the Program in Science, Technology and Society. For more information contact kalopes@mit.edu