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Interactive comment on “Documentary-derived chronologies of rainfall variability in Antigua, Lesser Antilles, 1770–1890” by A. J. Berland et al.

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We are grateful to Dr. Ortlieb for his detailed review of our manuscript and for emphasising its strengths in particular. We find it reassuring to note that he approves of our methodological approach, interpretations and presentation of findings.

In previous responses to reviewers' feedback we have addressed minor technical corrections, as well as the matter of adopting an alternative system for referring to rain-years (i.e. 1770-71 and 1771-72, rather than 1770-1771 and 1771-1772). As such, we will not discuss these here.

As regards Dr. Ortlieb's comments about our description of the climatic context of the study (Section 2), we agree that the content of lines 17-19 on page 1538 could be

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more precise in order to reconcile any apparent contradiction with conclusions drawn in Section 6 (final paragraph). Our discussion of the impacts of the NAO and ENSO on meteorological conditions in the region is based on the work of Gianni and colleagues (2000, 2001a, 2001b), which we cite a few lines after the passage under scrutiny (page 1538, lines 17–19). We will be sure to refer back to these sources carefully before rephrasing this section and will, if necessary, add another citation to the paragraph to make the basis of our assertions therein as clear as possible for readers.

Finally, we thank Dr. Ortlieb for sharing his insights into unpublished evidence from South America which supports our observation that “no El Niño occurrence is documented in South American ENSO chronologies” in the period 1796–71 (Section 6, Page 1552, lines 19–22).

References

Gianni, A., Kushnir, Y., and Cane, M. A.: Interannual variability of Caribbean rainfall, ENSO, and the Atlantic Ocean. *J. Climate*, 13, 297–311, 2000.

Gianni, A., Cane, M. A., and Kushnir, Y.: Interdecadal changes in the ENSO teleconnection to the Caribbean region and the North Atlantic Oscillation. *J. Climate*, 14, 2867–2879, 2001a.

Gianni, A., Kushnir, Y., and Cane, M. A.: Seasonality in the impact of ENSO and the North Atlantic High on Caribbean rainfall, *Phys. Chem. Earth*, 26, 143–147, 2001b.

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