



M E M S

PROGRAM IN MEDIEVAL & EARLY MODERN STUDIES  
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL



## NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2011



### GREETINGS FROM THE DIRECTOR

The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation's generous gift has provided the Program in Medieval and Early Modern Studies with its fourth extraordinary year, 2010–2011.

As the items below report, the Crossroads lectures continue to bring us intellectually impressive and engaging guests; our colleagues and graduate students continue to undertake fascinating scholarly work; and many both participate in national and international conferences and arrange workshops with our partners in Berlin and London. Two such international workshops occurred last autumn in Chapel Hill.

The director's tasks remain both fun and manageable, rendered so by the thoughtful, collegial, and generous work of the MEMS "Cabinet": **Professor David Baker** (English and Comparative Literature), who chaired all the grant competitions this year; **Professor Jane Burns** (Women's Studies), who manages the Crossroads lectures and lunchtime colloquia; **Professor Marsha Collins** (English and Comparative Literature), who oversees our collaboration with King's College London; **Professor Kathryn Starkey** (Germanic and Slavic Languages and Literatures), who leads our partnership with the Freie Universität Berlin, and **Professor Brett Whalen** (History), who has helped manage the web site while also directing our new undergraduate minor degree program and initiating planning for a major. In addition to those specific tasks, the Cabinet members persistently provide me with indispensable advice and support.

Throughout the autumn semester, MEMS's many activities were efficiently facilitated by our Program Coordinator, **Frederique Beaufls**. Although Frederique had to leave us in December, we have had the good fortune to hire the always proactive, cheerful, resourceful, and versatile **Nancy Gray Schoonmaker**, a recent Ph.D. in History from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, who became MEMS Program Coordinator in January. We can all look forward to working with Nancy again in the coming year.

The Program in Medieval and Early Modern Studies (MEMS) at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill supports scholarly work that expands the traditional focus of Medieval and Early Modern Studies.

Of particular interest are cultural contacts and exchanges within and beyond Europe:  
to Byzantine and Ottoman lands, to Africa, China, Southeast Asia, and Japan,  
and to the New World of the Caribbean and the Americas.

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## CROSSROADS: A MEMS LECTURE SERIES



**P**rofessor **Stuart B. Schwartz**, George Burton Adams Professor of History at Yale University, gave the fall MEMS Crossroads Lecture on October 11, 2010, “Intolerance and Empire: Religious Unity and the Threat of Tolerance in the Early Modern Iberian Empires.” Spain, Portugal, and their empires have long been cast by historians as “the imperial ‘poster children’ of intolerance.” Officially, there was “no room for religious diversity or heterodoxy” anywhere in Iberia’s early modern empires. In the archives, however, Schwartz sees a very different perspective on Iberian toleration: that of popular belief. Inquisition evidence from Goa to Brazil, Mexico, and Peru suggests the existence of a lively tradition of individual dissent that drew on deep medieval roots. Non-elite individuals might sustain opinions more in line with the Spanish maxim, “cada una se puede salvar en su propia ley” (“each can be saved in his own faith”). While some were religious relativists or believed “that ‘God loves us all,’” others were pragmatists, like the morisco Gaspar Vayazán, “who told the Inquisitors of Murcia in 1567 that he believed in all three religions, that of Our Lord Jesus Christ, that of Mahoma, and that of Señor Moisés, ‘because if one let him down, he could fall back on the others.’”

Schwartz noted that the Caribbean was especially tricky terrain for enforcement of religious unity, given Spain’s increasingly slack grip over its colonies. By the late eighteenth century, even in Iberia, enforcement of orthodoxy was increasingly seen as backward and toleration as part of a desirable new order. Yet as Schwartz concluded, there had already been “many in the Iberian world . . . who had already reached a similar conclusion.”



**A**t her well-attended Crossroads lecture (“The Maternal Bond: Mothers and Daughters in Byzantium,” March 29, 2011), **Judith Herrin**, Professor Emerita, Constantine Leventis Senior Research Fellow, and Fellow of King’s College London, provided striking and abundant visual evidence to illustrate the many spheres in which women could exert political and cultural authority in Byzantium. Focusing on the relationship between royal mothers and daughters, Professor Herrin showed many images of mothers directing their daughters’ education and examined the impact that these educated daughters then had when they married and moved to their own courts. She argued that powerful women were found in both political and religious spheres. A leading example was Empress Theodora, wife of Emperor Constantine I, who was subsequently sainted and depicted in one of the most famous images in Ravenna (in a part of the Basilica San Vitale normally reserved for men).

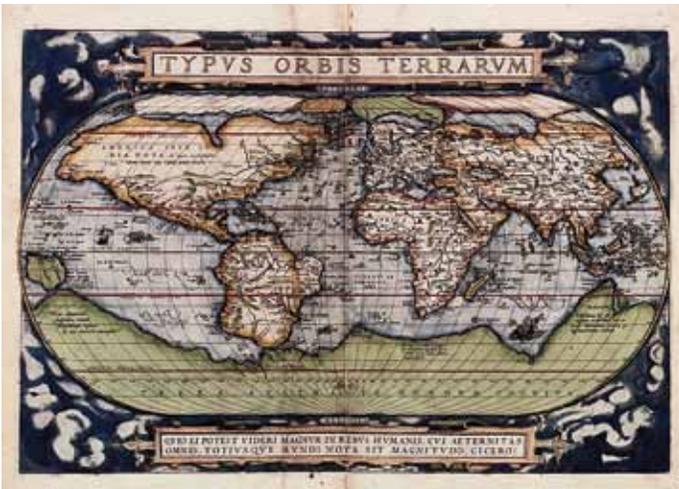
Other empresses enjoyed similar prominence, especially when acting as regents for young sons who had succeeded to the imperial throne. Empress Irene, who as regent restored the practice of venerating images in the Eastern Church and eventually had her son blinded in order to sustain her own rule as “basileus,” illustrated this most emphatically. Highly educated women were also to be found in Byzantine religious institutions, including some who oversaw their convents’ scriptoria. Still others acted as ambassadors. Depictions of rings illustrated the thesis that women could also take initiative in the selection of their own husbands by giving the desired man a ring. Overall, Professor Herrin’s presentation much complicates hitherto received ideas about gender in Byzantium.

During her visit, Professor Herrin, generously met with many MEMS faculty and led an informal lunchtime session discussion with graduate students.

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## FROM THE RENAISSANCE TO THE MODERN WORLD: A SYMPOSIUM IN HONOR OF JOHN HEADLEY

The Department of History and the Program in Medieval and Early Modern Studies (MEMS) at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill are sponsoring a symposium entitled “From the Renaissance to the Modern World: A Symposium in Honor of John Headley.” **Professor Headley** taught in the Department of History at the University of North Carolina from 1964 until his recent retirement. He is a major scholar in several fields and a friend and mentor to many colleagues, students, and friends. The purpose of the symposium is to honor John Headley by exploring some of the major scholarly themes in three areas of scholarship which he graced with numerous books and articles. These include the intellectual history of the early modern world, the Renaissance, and global history, meaning the interaction between European civilization and the wider world in the early modern period. The symposium will take place on November 11 and 12, 2011, on the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill campus.



Professor Headley’s oeuvre impressively illustrates the wide-ranging international studies MEMS itself fosters. His earlier creation and leadership of the University’s long-standing multi-departmental program in Renaissance Studies anticipated by many years the motives that inspired younger scholars to devise MEMS.

The symposium will begin Friday, November 11, 2011, with a late afternoon lecture open to the public and the University community. The lecture, delivered by **Rev. John W. O’Malley**, University Professor, Georgetown

University, will contribute to MEMS’s distinguished Crossroads lecture series. It will serve as the plenary lecture of the symposium.

The symposium will continue on Saturday, November 12, with four sessions. The first three will be devoted to the intellectual history of the early modern world, the Renaissance, and global history, respectively. The speakers will be scholars from universities in the immediate vicinity, plus distinguished scholars from more distant universities. The final session will consist of a roundtable discussion in which four speakers will discuss John Headley’s scholarly contributions over a long and distinguished career. Professor Headley will conclude the symposium with his reflections.

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## THE ERASMUS/MORE CONFERENCE

It became clear during the spring semester this year that the long-pending plan to focus a conference on Erasmus and More needed to be rethought. Changes in faculty availability and interests, together with a variety of new developments (the conference honoring **John Headley** being one), led the MEMS advisory committee and director **Darryl Gless** to agree that we should broaden our earlier plan. **Professor Kathryn Starkey** (Germanic and Slavic Languages and Literatures) has generously agreed to convene a committee this fall to undertake that revision.

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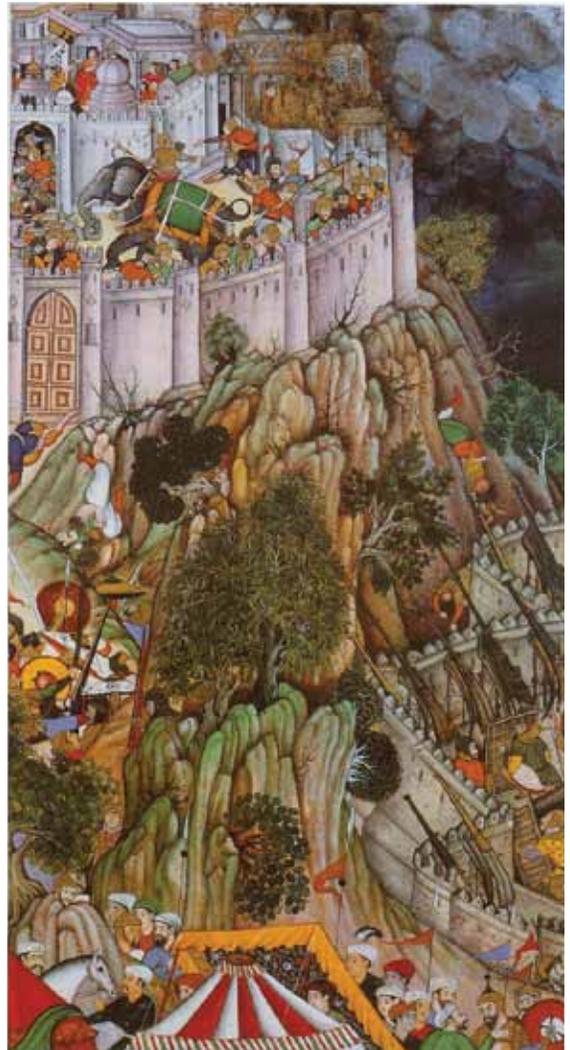
# INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIONS

## FREIE UNIVERSITÄT BERLIN

### THE OCTOBER 2010 WORKSHOP ON SOVEREIGNTY

The international collaboration between MEMS and the Interdisziplinäres Zentrum Mittelalter-Renaissance-Frühe Neuzeit of the Freie Universität Berlin, initiated in 2009, held an engaging and productive workshop at the Institute for the Arts and Humanities in Chapel Hill on October 1 and 2, 2010. This event, titled “War, Expansion, and the Problem of Sovereignty: The European, Islamic, and New Worlds, 1000–1765,” was chaired by **Professor Wayne Lee** (History, Chair of the Curriculum of Peace, War, and Defense). Working with **Professor Kathryn Starkey** (Germanic and Slavic Languages and Literatures), Professor Lee originated and organized this event. The logistics were ably managed by **Frederique Beau-fils**, MEMS Program Coordinator.

Three professors from the Freie Universität Berlin—**Thomas Frank**, **Wilhelm Schmidt-Biggemann**, and **Jannis Neihoff-Panagiotidis**—and one, **Jörn Münkner**, from Humboldt University, Berlin, presented papers. So too did four of our colleagues at UNC–Chapel Hill: **Marsha Collins** (English and Comparative Literature), **Dorothea Heitsch** (Romance Languages), **Hassan Melehy** (Romance Languages), and **Brett Whalen** (History). The papers explored in varied and fascinating ways, and from widely differing disciplinary perspectives, a central problem in the medieval and early modern world: The violent interaction of peoples and polities as some expanded their power, territorial and otherwise, at the expense of others.



Numerous graduate students from UNC–Chapel Hill, four from the Freie Universität, and a number of members of the public attended the sessions and enjoyed animated conversation during multiple occasions for refreshments and meals. Two sessions were provided specifically for graduate students. These focused on the use of primary sources for research on sovereignty during the medieval and early modern periods.

The workshop concluded with summary and evaluative remarks by **Professor Andrew James Johnston** of the Freie Universität and **James Muldoon**, Professor Emeritus of Rutgers–Camden.

### SEXUALITY WORKSHOP

**Professor Sahar Amer** (Asian Studies) is in discussion with **Professor Andrew James Johnston** about a workshop on medieval and early modern sexuality tentatively scheduled to occur in Berlin in spring 2012.

## THE TRANSLATION PROPOSAL

We learned in March 2011 that the preliminary proposal to establish an Internationale Graduiertenkolleg on “The Cultural Dynamics of Translation” was unsuccessful. The reviewers for the granting agency, the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, judged that there is already a good deal of similar work underway. **Kathryn Starkey** and **Andrew Johnston** have begun discussing alternative possibilities.

## KING’S COLLEGE LONDON

### THE DECEMBER 2010 WORKSHOP ON DIGITIZATION



As a part of their ongoing collaboration, MEMS and King’s College London hosted an international Register Medicorum Medii Aevi (RMMA) Workshop in Chapel Hill on December 10 and 11, 2010. The purpose of this series of workshops is to explore the possibilities for using digital publication to understand medical prosopography in a variety of medieval cultures. The Chapel Hill event was chaired by **Charlotte Roueché** (King’s College London) and **Michael McVaugh** (UNC–Chapel Hill, Emeritus), and featured presentations on digitization projects in process. A variety of specific issues roused spirited discussion. What kinds of data should ideally be included in such databases? Names, dates, medical role are all easy enough to agree on, but how much other information can be included, and in what form? The database should welcome contributions from scholars at all levels as it grows in scope over time, yet in some form the information submitted will need to be vetted; how should this be done? The workshop dealt exclusively with medical practitioners in medieval Europe, and participants acknowledged ruefully that a medical prosopography for medieval Islam (which is part of the wider project) would no doubt raise other, different questions!

### “SHAKESPEARE AND THE NATURAL WORLD,” MARCH 30–31, 2012 IN CHAPEL HILL



A graduate student conference will be jointly sponsored by the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Kings College London to explore the recent “natural turn” in Shakespeare studies. With the advent of ecocriticism and posthumanist thinking, a “green Shakespeare” has begun to emerge. The purpose of this conference is to consider the construction, politics, and history of the trope of “nature,” both in Shakespeare’s works and in current Shakespeare scholarship. Papers for this conference may consider animal studies, early modern zoology, bio-politics, climate theory, geohumoralism, food, medicine, botany, demonology, and more. Faculty speakers will include **Wendy Wall**, **Mary Floyd-Wilson**, **David J. Baker**, and **Gordon McMullan**.

Please submit abstracts (500 words maximum) to Jennifer Park ([jmpark@email.unc.edu](mailto:jmpark@email.unc.edu)) and Katie Walker ([walkerkn@email.unc.edu](mailto:walkerkn@email.unc.edu)) by October 1, 2011. Check [MEMS.unc.edu](http://MEMS.unc.edu) for details.

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## GLAIRE ANDERSON: “EXPLORING OUTSIDE THE WALLS”

**P**rofessor **Glaire Anderson** taught a MEMS interdisciplinary graduate seminar in Fall 2010, “Exploring Outside the Walls: Medieval Societies and the Suburban Landscape.” The aim of the course, which brought together UNC and Duke art history students (and one intrepid undergraduate who brought a knowledge of Turkish and Arabic language to the course), was to explore sites and landscapes that lay beyond medieval and early modern Islamic city walls, such as estates, monasteries, and funerary monuments. While investigating these spaces and their social meanings, participants reflected on the methodological issues of crossing disciplinary and geographic boundaries and incorporating cultural perspectives beyond those of Europe. The seminar focused on creating a common intellectual framework for individual research, rooted in the analysis of primary materials (material and textual), and in critical reading, reflection, and writing.

MEMS funding made it possible to bring in two outside guests whose research illuminates issues central to the seminar. **Professor Lara Tohme** (Wellesley College) spoke on the challenges and possibilities that her research on the so-called “desert castles” of early Islamic Syria, and on Norman architecture in Sicily, offers for understanding medieval cross-cultural interactions. **Professor Melanie Michailidis** (UC Davis, Humanities Institute) spoke on the political dynamics of early Islamic funerary monuments of Iran and Central Asia, and the challenges of carrying out fieldwork in those regions at present. The seminar participants not only had the chance to read and discuss some of the newest research in the field of medieval architectural history with the authors, they also made great use of the opportunity to discuss the nuts and bolts of field research and writing. The engagement that the students brought to these guest sessions, which prompted the scholars to speak at some length about how and why they do their work, made methodology immediate and relevant to the students. Professor Anderson believes that



the guest sessions, which would have been impossible without the generous MEMS funding, were one of the most successful components of the seminar.

The research that participants conducted within the seminar framework ranged widely, encompassing the urban and economic roles of an early Islamic “desert castle”; Byzantine and Islamic aristocratic palaces and political legitimization; Seljuk queenly patronage along trade and pilgrimage routes in twelfth-century Iran; monasteries as social signifiers in Carolingian Germany and in later medieval Morocco, Italy, Spain, and Mexico; and the social symbolism of fortifications and sugar plantations in early modern Algiers and colonial Brazil. Across this wide chronological and geographic range, common themes emerged that were fruitful to individual research as well as the aims of the seminar overall, such as material and symbolic links between town and country; the fate of the villa in the post-Roman Mediterranean; and the utility of a comparative cultural framework for the study of medieval and early modern societies. Overall the seminar successfully proved that exploring outside medieval and early modern city walls, across geographic, cultural, and chronological boundaries, offers a fruitful framework for studying architecture, urbanism, and social processes, and Professor Anderson hopes to offer it again in the future.

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## MEMS WELCOMES NEW FACULTY



**Jessica Boon** will join the faculty as Assistant Professor in the Department of Religious Studies in fall 2011. She leaves an appointment as Assistant Professor of Church History at Southern Methodist University's Perkins School of Theology. Her first book, *The Mystical Science of the Soul: Medieval Cognition in Bernardino de Laredo's Recollection Method* is forthcoming in May 2012 from the University of Toronto Press. This study recovers Castilian understanding of the embodied soul and contextualizes Golden Age mysticism in the predominant scientific models of the Age. A second book project, *Spanish Passion: Holy*

*Week in the Castilian Religious Imagination, 1480–1540*, is under contract for the Palgrave MacMillan "New Middle Ages" series, due out in 2014. She is also co-editing, with Ronald E. Surtz, *Mother Juana de la Cruz: Selected Sermons*. Boon received a B.A. from Yale University in 1998 and a Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania in 2004. No stranger to the Research Triangle, Boon was a 2004–2006 postdoctoral fellow at Duke University.



**Flora Cassen** will join the faculty this fall as Assistant Professor in the Department of History. Formerly an assistant professor at the University of Vermont, she received her B.A. from the Free University of Brussels in 1999, her M.A. from Brandeis University in 2000, and her Ph.D. from New York University in 2008. Her dissertation, a study of discriminatory marks that the Jews were compelled to wear in fifteenth- and sixteenth-century Italy, probes the roots and consequences of anti-Judaism and is being prepared for publication as *Identity or Control: The Jewish Badge in Renaissance Italy*. A second project studies Italian

Jews who were spies for the king of Spain, records of which she discovered in Italian archives and further documented in Spanish archives. Philip II professed a deep suspicion of the Jews and ordered them to wear a humiliating yellow hat, yet welcomed their intelligence information; some Jews were eager to provide it. Intriguingly, Italian Jews spied on the Turks, thereby playing a role in the Spanish-Ottoman wars, and providing information on the Ottoman empire, which was commonly seen as the Jews' ultimate protector and refuge from Catholic intolerance.



**Morgan Pitelka** came to UNC in 2010, and is now Associate Professor of Asian Studies and Adjunct Associate Professor of History. Previously he was Chair of the Asian Studies Department and Associate Professor of History at Occidental College in Los Angeles. A historian of Japan's long sixteenth century and a specialist in material culture, his publications include *Japanese Tea Culture: Art, History, and Practice* (Routledge, 2005), *Handmade Culture: Raku Potters, Patrons, and Tea Practitioners in Japan* (Hawaii, 2007), and *What's the Use of Art? Asian Visual and Material Culture in Context* (Hawaii, 2008;

with Jan Mrazek). He is now completing a book, *Tokugawa*, a study of Tokugawa Ieyasu (1543–1616), founder of the Tokugawa Shogunate. In 2011–2012, he will be a Fellow at the National Humanities Center, beginning a study of daily life in the castle town of Ichijodani, and its comprehensive destruction in 1573 in Japan's wars of "unification." He also will be the first Director of the new Triangle Center for Japanese Studies, a collaborative institute established with funding from the Japan Foundation. He looks forward to continuing to be an active member of the MEMS community.

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# FACULTY AND GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH AWARDS

## FACULTY LEAVES



**M**elissa Bullard (Professor of History) will devote her leave to a book project examining the influence of Italian Renaissance patronage practices upon the late eighteenth and early nineteenth-century Atlantic world. Private patronage pioneered by Italian merchant princes inspired the founding of new cultural institutes in commercial centers in Britain and the United States. Early mercantile associational habits developed into the networks behind civic philanthropy in America, which, in turn, shaped modern attitudes towards private support for cultural and educational institutions. One of the agents transmitting Renaissance cultural ideals to America was William Roscoe (1753–1831). He wrote popularizing biographies of the Medici of Florence and sought to inculcate Renaissance-style patronage in his native Liverpool. The Boston Athenaeum and the Philadelphia Botanical Gardens were specifically modeled on Roscoe’s earlier institutions in Liverpool. Thomas Jefferson took inspiration from Roscoe’s Royal Liverpool Institute for his new University of Virginia. Soon leading Brooklynites, many engaged in Atlantic commerce, turned to cultural foundations as the means to establish a civic identity for their burgeoning metropolis, distinguishing it from nearby Manhattan. Brooklyn’s pride took shape in its Athenaeum, Lyceum, Brooklyn Institute, Academy of Music, Mercantile Library, Collegiate and Polytechnic Institute, Art Association, and Botanical Garden, all part of the larger “associational world” that Roscoe had pioneered in Liverpool on an Italian Renaissance model.



**S**hayne Aaron Legassie (Assistant Professor of English and Comparative Literature) plans to use his semester leave to complete his book, *Fleshly Encounters: The Medieval Invention of ‘Travel’*. Legassie’s project is arguably the first book that cuts across national literary traditions in order to offer a careful archaeology of a literary genre that has long been recognized as an ancestor to the modern novel. A central claim of his book is that the invention of the literary genre of travel narrative precedes the invention of the concept of travel itself. Between 1250 and 1500 illiterate wayfarers—slaves, captives, women, and servants—were the source of up-to-date knowledge about distant lands for monarchs, ecclesiastical institutions, and mercantile city-states with strategic interests abroad. Medieval travel narratives were written in virtually every literary language used in medieval Europe, including Arabic and Hebrew. Collectively, they defined an idealized form of international experience marked by its heroic ethos; its non-utilitarian and non-commercial ends; its emphasis on sentimental development; and its close association with literacy and the production of written accounts of the foreign. Professor Legassie completed the archival work for *Fleshly Encounters* last summer in Spain, France, and Italy, with the aid of a MEMS summer research grant.

## FACULTY RESEARCH SUPPORT AWARDS



**R**eid Barbour (Professor of English) will be doing research at Oxford, Cambridge, the British Library, and other collections as he prepares the first volume in the *Complete Works of Sir Thomas Browne*. This set, commissioned by Oxford University Press, is a groundbreaking edition of the seventeenth-century savant, physician, and prose artist. Barbour's volume, co-edited with Brooke Conti, comprises the edition of Browne's most famous and influential work, *Religio Medici*, in three phases of its evolving composition. Half a century of scholars have hoped for just such a volume, which will allow readers to see more clearly than ever why the effects of *Religio Medici* on literary, religious, and intellectual culture were as richly various as they were potent.



**P**ika Ghosh (Associate Professor of Art History) is preparing a book manuscript, *The Fabric of Our Lives: Kantha Embroideries and Bengali Women*, exploring the relationships and social worlds created by kantha, textiles typically constructed from layers of heavily used, worn, and often frayed white fabric in eastern India and Bangladesh. Her fieldwork in India, Bangladesh, Britain, and the United States completed, research at the Museu Nacional de Arte Antiga in Lisbon will allow her to investigate the mercantile flows of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries whereby the earliest documented 'kantha' were commissioned by Portuguese merchants for elite consumption. These large white cotton fabrics are embroidered in silk thread with motifs associated with Greek mythology, often playing with analogous figures in the Hindu pantheon.



**R**uth von Bernuth (Assistant Professor of Germanic and Slavic Languages and Literatures) is doing research for her second book, *Shared Worlds, Shared Texts: Early Modern Contacts between Old Yiddish and German Literature*, probing the cultural interactions between majority and minority cultures and their shared languages; the tension between cultural borrowing and autonomy; the complexity of religious and cultural identities; and the role played by literature in shaping and claiming those identities in early modern Europe. This summer, Professor von Bernuth will analyze how popular songs were adapted and appropriated into the Jewish culture of early modern Europe—seeking insight into a culture in which various religious and secular spheres overlap—at Oxford's Bodleian Library, which houses the largest (and still unexplored) collection of Old Yiddish literature.

## MEMS FACULTY CONFERENCE TRAVEL AWARDS

Funding from the Program in MEMS provided the means for eight colleagues to travel, most of them to international locations, to present papers this year. The recipients of Conference Travel Awards were **Glaire Anderson** (Art), **Melissa Bullard** (History), **Dino Cervigni** (Romance Languages), **Mary Floyd-Wilson** (English and Comparative Literature), **Wei-Cheng Lin** (Art History), **Hassan Melehy** (Romance Languages), **Rosa Perelmuter** (Romance Languages), and **Ruth von Bernuth** (Germanic and Slavic Languages and Literatures).

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## MEMS GRADUATE STUDENT DISSERTATION AWARDS



**Allison Bigelow** (English, early modern) is comparing seventeenth-century English books of agriculture with Iberian books of mining and metallurgy—the foundational material practices and scientific fields enlisted in the service of empire in the Americas. By studying metallurgists like Alvaro Alonso Barba and Luis Berrio de Montalvo in dialogue with agricultural practitioners like the lettered men and women of the Hartlib circle, she hopes to show how English and Spanish scientific developments were produced by and circulated within a broader world of hemispheric and transatlantic cultural contact as both groups draw from the same conceptual paradigms. This multilingual, comparative framework throws into relief the ways in which mineralogical scientists in Spanish America transformed the idea of similarity within the analogical traditions of Empedoclean root theory and Aristotelian natural philosophy.

The new understanding of sameness in Iberian American science—one that contains a generative spark absent in the English agricultural archive—allows for the development of the amalgamation method, the process of refining mineralogically similar silver and mercury.



**Krysta Black** (Art History, medieval) will investigate the program of illumination within the León Bible of 960 [León, Archivo Capitular, Real Colegiata de San Isidoro, MS 2], the most densely illustrated Bible of the first millennium to survive. Ms. Black's research focuses on using the Bible's program of illustration both to locate Iberia's role in the framework of early medieval Bible illustration in Western Europe and to argue that the manuscript is a deluxe production, intertwined with the dramatic tenth-century artistic, political, religious, and social changes associated with the unprecedented surge in the creation of Christian illuminated manuscripts along the frontier of northern Spain and al-Andalus. Her semester's work will center on writing,

particularly regarding manuscript illumination in tenth-century Burgos and the valence of exchange and acculturation between diverse cultural groups that affected artistic practice, which follows her work in various manuscript collections in Spain.



**Jonathan Hancock** (History, early modern) used his research support to work on the introductory chapter of his dissertation, which examines reactions to the New Madrid earthquakes to construct a cross-cultural intellectual history of the American Indians, Euroamericans, and slaves who felt the tremors. His dissertation uses varying interpretations of the causes of the earthquakes to understand the ideas about nature and disorder shaping societies across the eastern half of North America. He also examines how earthquake interpretations reflected cultural, political, and territorial debates both within Indian and settler polities and between Native Americans, Euroamericans, and African Americans. His first chapter introduces the intellectual lineages that framed interpretations of the earthquakes by reaching back into the late medieval period for Europeans and even earlier for Native American oral histories and petroglyphs related

to ancient earthquakes. Hancock also traveled to the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., to continue his archival research.

## RYAN-HEADLEY DISSERTATION FELLOWSHIP IN RENAISSANCE STUDIES

**Cathay Liu** (Philosophy, early modern) studies Descartes' development of analytic geometry, the unification of algebra and geometry, a revolutionary departure from the medieval tradition. Liu argues in her dissertation that Descartes saw mathematics as directly applicable to the natural world. He described his new philosophical method of investigation (the *mathesis universalis*) in an unpublished early work, *Regulae and Directio-nem Ingenii*, as his new universal method of reasoning. Liu will use a close reading of the *Regulae* to show that Descartes' commitment to the inseparability of number from the things numbered necessarily entails that the subject matter of algebra be metaphysically identical to the subject matter of geometry, and this single subject matter of both disciplines is the nature of bodies: geometrical extension.

## THE DONALD GILMAN RESEARCH SUPPORT FUND



The Program in MEMS takes pleasure in awarding the 2011 Donald Gilman Research Support Fund to **Janice Hansen**, who specializes in early modern German Language and Literature. Ms. Hansen will consider the various configurations of Faust that abound in the early modern period. The early modern Faust is quite often overshadowed by Goethe's Faust, with the result that the early modern Faust is frequently interpreted and analyzed as if he is merely an older version of Goethe's creation, filled with the same desires and motivations. Ms. Hansen's research seeks to demonstrate that the early modern Faust is in reality quite different from the Faust brought to us at the beginning of the nineteenth century. Her work will explore the ways early versions and re-workings of Faust materials are informed by the time and society in which they were created. Ms. Hansen will focus specifically on Faust's motivations and on the status of knowledge, learning, curiosity, and their perceived worth during the early modern period.

## MEMS GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH AWARDS

**Allison Bigelow** (English, early modern) will use her research grant to return to the Archivo Nacional in Sucre, Chuquisaca, Bolivia, and to visit for the first time the Biblioteca Nacional in Lima, Peru. Both sites hold rich collections of seventeenth-century mining and metallurgical manuscripts and printed works that document the region's formative contributions to the development of mineralogical science. These largely understudied sources include the legal case of a female indigenous mine discoverer who in 1644 sued a male Spaniard for discovery rights (and won), and female Iberian metallurgists who sued male Spaniards and entire indigenous communities over unpaid compensation and land rights (and won). Ms. Bigelow's dissertation project is a comparison of seventeenth-century scientific literatures in British and Iberian America, underscoring the centrality of the colonial Americas to the technical, intellectual, cultural and economic developments contained within and produced by seventeenth-century science.

**Patrick Connolly** (Philosophy, early modern) will use his research award to travel to the Bodleian Library in Oxford. His dissertation focuses on John Locke's accounts of causation and scientific explanation. Although it is widely agreed that Locke's scientific thinking played an important role in the development of his theoretical

## MEMS GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH AWARDS (CONTINUED)

philosophy, the precise connection between these two areas of his thought is the subject of much debate.

Nearly all of Locke's remaining scientific notebooks and manuscripts are stored in the Lovelace Collection in the Bodleian. Connolly will be using material from these archives to develop his account of Locke's relation to Boyle's mechanist hypothesis, Sydenham's 'natural history' methodology, and the Newtonian achievement. He will travel to the UK this summer to conduct his research.



**Jennifer Kosmin** (History, early modern) will use her MEMS funding to support research in Venice, Italy where she will have access to extensive primary source material relating to early modern medicine and anatomy. Jennifer's dissertation explores the practice of early modern midwifery and traces the changing scientific and cultural conceptions of childbirth and the female body from roughly 1600–1800. In Venice and at the nearby University of Padua, Jennifer will examine important early modern Italian medical treatises and midwifery manuals. These sources offer fascinating visual and textual evidence of contemporary medical, scientific, and philosophical views of childbirth, sexuality, and human anatomy. Understanding these texts intermedially, as functioning through a combination of textual and visual signs, Kosmin is interested in deconstructing the various semiotic 'cues' which encoded pregnancy and childbirth with particular meanings in a specific historical context. She will consider the ways in which masculine science began to invest itself in women's health and reproduction through the emergent fields of gynecology and obstetrics in the early modern period.



**Erica Longenbach** (Art History, medieval) will use her grant to travel to the Italian cities of Rome and Ravenna in order to conduct archival and archaeological research for her dissertation. Her work explores how the ecclesiastical elite of Ravenna in the ninth century aimed to extend their temporal control of the city through a manipulation of topography and a campaign that exploited the growing belief in a new Christian locus of sacrality centered on saints' relics. Furthermore, through an interdisciplinary analysis of the connections between space, place, time, and sacrality, Ms. Longenbach aims to demonstrate that the medieval city of Ravenna must be understood not only as a hegemonic expression of this ecclesiastical authority, but also as an active site of symbols and exchange where culture and architecture produce and inform social structures and their meanings.

## MEMS GRADUATE STUDENT CONFERENCE TRAVEL GRANTS

The Program in MEMS awarded conference travel grants to sixteen graduate students this year: **Patrick Connolly** (Philosophy), **Kathleen Curtin** (English), **Brandon Essary** (Romance Languages), **Lauren Garrett** (History), **Grant Gearhart** (Romance Languages), **Jonathan O'Conner** (Romance Languages), **Brian Johnson** (Romance Languages), **Pablo Maurette** (Comparative Literature), **Nicolay Ostrau** (History), **Jennifer Park** (English), **Sarah Parker** (Comparative Literature), **Benjamin Reed** (History), **Katy Smith** (History), **Nathaniel Stogdill** (English), **Joseph Wallace** (English), and **Caitlin Watt** (Comparative Literature).

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## MEMS AWARD COMPETITIONS FOR 2012–2013

In order to accommodate departmental planning, MEMS award competitions this year will occur, as they did in 2010, in September. The submission deadline for all categories of grants will be September 30, 2011. There will be a second round of conference travel grants for faculty and graduate students in January, 2012.

Announcements will appear on the web site and on the MEMS listservs.

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## MEMS GRADUATE SEMINAR CALL FOR PROPOSALS



The Program in Medieval and Early Modern Studies (MEMS) aims to sponsor two graduate seminars annually. Topics will vary depending on the instructor. Because we did not hold a competition for seminar development grants in 2010–2011, we should be able to award up to four grants this fall. As noted above, the deadline for proposals will be September 30, 2011. This announcement is intended to give potential applicants extra time to consider their proposals.

MEMS seminars so far offered, by **Jessica Wolfe**, **Dorothy Verkerk**, **Ellen Welch**, and **Glaire Anderson**, were all fascinating and successful. Descriptions of the seminars taught by Professors Welch and Anderson appeared in the 2009 MEMS Newsletter. A report on Professor Welch's seminar appears in the 2010 MEMS Newsletter (page 2). MEMS newsletters are on line at [mems.unc.edu](http://mems.unc.edu), in the About Us section. Professor Anderson's report appears in this issue (page 6).

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## MEMS GRADUATE RECRUITMENT AWARDS

These annual awards help MEMS departments to recruit some of the most promising graduate students who apply to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. In August 2011, we will welcome six students.

## MEMS MELLON GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP

**Josh Hevert** (History, medieval) is the recipient of the MEMS Mellon Graduate Fellowship. After completing a B.A. in Religion at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, he continued there to earn an M.A. in History. His interest in medieval Europe and the history of Christianity resulted in a thesis on "Cathar Identity and Communities: Emotional, Imagined, and Textual," using inquisition documents from the thirteenth century. He plans to build on this work in a Ph.D. project that will deepen understanding of the formation of religious and cultural identities in the medieval Mediterranean. This work will be advised by **Brett Whalen** and **Marcus Bull**, whose scholarship has already been a significant influence for him. Hevert works in French and Latin, and plans to master German while at Chapel Hill. MEMS welcomes him, and looks forward to his enthusiasm for the Middle Ages as "a vastly important field in historical scholarship."

CONTINUES ON PAGE FOURTEEN

# MEMS GRADUATE RECRUITMENT AWARDS (CONTINUED)

## MEMS RECRUITMENT TOP UP AWARDS

**B**en Donahue (Military History) graduated from Brown University and recently completed his M.Phil. in Medieval History at Cambridge University (Selwyn College). At Selwyn, he wrote a study of the nature and meaning of chivalry in late medieval France and England that moves beyond the standard sources to examine the ways in which “outlaw tales” provide another way to understand how Europeans at that time understood war and violence. Donahue can work in Spanish, French, and medieval Latin, with more limited proficiency in Mandarin, Arabic, German, and Italian. He comes to UNC to study military history with **Wayne Lee**, who shares his interests in colonial, Native American, and Atlantic world military history. Himself a Native American, Donahue’s unique perspective will bring a depth of focus in medieval and early modern history to the History Department’s already strong program. His work will enhance our understanding of early modern European military adventurism and empire building around the world.

**A**dam Harris (English, medieval) earned a B.A. in classics from Loyola University, has an impressive command of Old and Middle English, and has studied Greek, Latin, Russian, and French. Focusing on “the agency of things in Beowulf,” Harris looks at an essential motif that fascinates even young children when contemplating the medieval hero: his weapon and armor. His innovative perspective both attends to and moves beyond questions of language and translation. Harris admires **Patrick O’Neill’s** work on Anglo Saxon and Old Norse literature, and he hopes to study with a new generation of scholars such as **Shayne Legassie** (Comparative Literature) and **Kathryn Starkey** (German). One professor described Harris as “the rare confluence of dedication to the hard-to-master conventions of medieval studies and the critical sophistication that allows him to articulate his work’s relevance to other fields.”

**D**aniele Lauro (Japanese History, early modern) pursued Japanese language and Japanese studies at the University of Naples and continued that work at the University of Paris. He took his M.A. in Japanese Studies at the University of Rome. In addition to using primary and secondary sources in Japanese and Western languages to understand the important but relatively neglected topic of the role of firearms during the Tokugawa era (1600–1867), Lauro worked with historic examples of Japanese firearms in museums such as the Museum of Oriental Art in Venice, the Edo-Tokyo Museum in Japan, and the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. Since receiving his M.A., Lauro has continued to develop his skills in working with artifacts of material culture as an editorial and research assistant for the Asian Cultural History Program of the Anthropology Department of the Smithsonian. He will be advised by **Morgan Pitelka** (Asian Studies) and **Miles Fletcher** (History), and will strengthen the global focus of the MEMS community.

**A**nnegret Oehme (German Literature, medieval and early modern) comes to UNC Chapel Hill from the Freie Universität Berlin, where she distinguished herself with what her referees convincingly describe as an “ambitious” and “innovative” M.A. thesis on authorship and reception of Albrecht von Eyb, *Ehebüchlein*, a late medieval treatise on marriage. She is proficient in medieval French, Latin, and Old Yiddish. Oehme’s interests in pre-modern Jewish literature and culture will find strong support in the scholarly community at Carolina. She will work with **Ruth von Bernuth**, **Jonathan Hess**, and **Kathryn Starkey**, but she will be engaged with the broader MEMS community, particularly with colleagues in Jewish Studies and Religious Studies.

**Katherine Walker** (English, early modern) received a B.A. from the University of North Texas and an M.A. from Texas Christian University. While at TCU, she took extra classes at nearby institutions to enrich her background, gaining a reading knowledge of Latin, Old English, and Spanish. Already engaging the field's current questions on somatic conceptions of affect and race, Walker's master's thesis explores English representations of racialized others as monstrously fluid, noting the strange correspondences made between Native Americans and Jews. She looks forward to working with **David Baker**, whose work on national identity meshes with her own, and **Mary Floyd-Wilson**, whose first book focused on race.

## MEMS UNDERGRADUATE MINOR

The interdisciplinary MEMS minor, supervised by **Brett Whalen** (History), continued to attract new students during its second year. Over a dozen undergraduates have declared the minor and many more are pursuing it presently. A proposed MEMS major is still in the works. For more information about the minor and prospective major, please contact Brett Whalen ([bwhalen@email.unc.edu](mailto:bwhalen@email.unc.edu)) or visit <http://mems.unc.edu/mems-minor/>.

**Caitlin Donovan**, as a senior English major/Medieval and Early Modern Studies minor, was awarded the Fulbright Scholarship to teach in South Korea during the 2011–2012 academic year before attending graduate school at Stanford University. Her experience will focus on cultural exchange and teaching English to high school students. Caitlin was a UNC Teaching Fellow and Public Service Scholar. She wrote and successfully defended her Honors thesis, titled “Britomart’s Mind: Reading and Thinking as Disambiguating Arts in Edmund Spenser’s 1590 *Faerie Queene*,” with **Professor Jessica Wolfe**. Caitlin was graduated Phi Beta Kappa and with highest distinction in May 2011.



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With the interdisciplinary MEMS minor, students can explore over 1000 years of history and span the diverse cultures of the globe. Learn more about the new minor in Medieval and Early Modern Studies at:  
<http://mems.unc.edu/mems-minor/>

Or contact  
Professor Brett Whalen at:  
[bwhalen@email.unc.edu](mailto:bwhalen@email.unc.edu)

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Program in Medieval and Early Modern Studies

## MEMS LUNCHTIME COLLOQUIA

The MEMS fall lunchtime colloquium featured **Evyatar Marienberg**'s stimulating work on “How to Do It Right: Medieval and Early Modern Jewish Guidebooks on Marital Sexuality.” In March, **Shayne Legassie** shared his insights into “What We Talk About When We Talk About Medieval ‘Travel’,” drawn from work on his current book project.

# SUPPORT MEMS!

We are deeply indebted to the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and the College of Arts and Sciences for providing a very generous grant to establish the Program in Medieval and Early Modern Studies. The continued success of the program, however, will depend on the support of the University's alumni and friends. For that reason, MEMS director **Darryl Gless** is increasingly in contact with alumni who have found MEMS-related disciplines engaging in the past. He enjoyed a lively conversation about ethnic and religious difference as dramatized in *The Merchant of Venice* with an extraordinary group of about 20 former students and other alumni and friends in San Francisco on April 7. Gless plans more such visits this summer and fall.

We and our successors in medieval and early modern studies at Carolina will be grateful for gifts of any amount. Please consider supporting the Program's continued successes. For information on ways to do that, please contact **Margaret Costley** at the UNC Arts and Sciences Foundation. Margaret will be happy to talk with you about the many opportunities to share in the success of this program.

## Margaret V. Costley

University of North Carolina Arts and Sciences Foundation  
134 East Franklin Street  
Chapel Hill, NC 27514  
Telephone 919.843.0345      Email: [margaret.costley@unc.edu](mailto:margaret.costley@unc.edu)

## NEW MEMS WEB SITE: MEMS.UNC.EDU

**Brett Whalen** spearheaded the move to give the MEMS web site an updated look, and **Nancy Gray Schoonmaker** helped fill in the information and images.

The new web site has the same URL you have always used—MEMS.unc.edu—and will continue to be your go-to site for MEMS award information and news of local MEMS-related events.

The home page of the new site has a “carousel banner,” highlighting and linking to each of the MEMS disciplines. This page also features news about MEMS faculty's new books, fellowships, and accolades. Please share your good news with the MEMS community! Send it to [nancys@email.unc.edu](mailto:nancys@email.unc.edu).



This newsletter is a collaborative effort of MEMS faculty, graduate students, and staff. Thanks to all who took time during their end-of-semester duties to contribute.