**MEMS Call for Ryan-Headley Dissertation Fellowship Applications**

The Program in Medieval and Early Modern Studies (MEMS) at UNC invites nominations for one-time and recurring Wiley Grants for the 2025-26 cycle. **The deadline for applications is 15 March 2025.** For updates or further information, [please consult the MEMS website here](https://mems.unc.edu/headley-dissertation-fellowship/).

John Headley taught in the Department of History at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill from 1964 until his retirement in 2003. During those years, he established himself as a major scholar in several important areas of early modern history and became a friend and mentor to many colleagues and students. To honor his friend and colleague Frank Ryan, Professor of American Intellectual History, and to support high-quality research by aspiring young scholars, Professor Headley established the Ryan-Headley Dissertation Fellowship in 2008.

The Ryan-Headley Fellowship, which is awarded by MEMS every other year, provides the winner with **one semester free of teaching responsibilities**. All graduate students working in MEMS-related fields are eligible to apply, but strong preference will be given to graduate students who are in the final stages of writing (that is, with at least two and ideally three chapters of the dissertation already complete). While there are no restrictions with respect to the topic or focus of the dissertation, dissertations concerned with intellectual history, the European later Middle Ages or Renaissance, and the global Middle Ages and/or Renaissance are particularly welcome.

To apply for the Headley Dissertation Fellowship, **please combine the following items into a single PDF application** and then submit them to [mems@unc.edu](mailto:mems@unc.edu), cc-ing Dr. Taylor Cowdery ([cowdery@email.unc.edu](mailto:cowdery@email.unc.edu)).

1. A completed **application form**, [which can be found here](https://mems.unc.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/3520/2024/01/MEMS-Headley-Application-Form.docx);
2. An up-to-date and complete **curriculum vitae**;
3. A **dissertation abstract**, which should be a maximum 1,000 words in length and which should describe your dissertation project, explaining its scope, archive, originality, intervention, and significance for medieval and/or early modern studies more generally;
4. A **short bibliography of 1-2 pages**, which should list items in alphabetical order and should prioritize works of scholarship (not primary sources) that represent the closest intellectual interlocutors for your work.

As well, **please arrange to have your dissertation advisor submit a letter of recommendation, under separate cover, to** [**mems@unc.edu**](mailto:mems@unc.edu)**.** Please note that this letter need not be tailored to MEMS or the Headley Fellowship competition; it can be the same as any letter an advisor would submit for a fellowship or entry-level academic job.