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# MEDIEVAL CHRONICLE

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## Spring 2020 Events for Medieval Studies

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**Medieval Academy Webinars (Free and open to the public. No registration required)**

**Wednesday, May 13th, 2020 12:00-1:00 p.m. EDT**

[In and Beyond the Digital: Career Pathways for Humanists](#)

In this moment of global crisis, medievalists and all those who work in the humanities face a period of increased uncertainty about the environments in which they work and operate. The National Endowment for the Humanities is a federal agency dedicated to supporting humanistic endeavors across the nation. In this talk, Hannah Alpert-Abrams from the Office of Digital Humanities will speak about career pathways for humanists in and beyond the digital, and about the role of the humanities in uncertain times. Dr. Alpert-Abrams' presentation will be followed by a discussion period, moderated by the MAA's Digital Humanities and Multimedia Committee.

**Friday, May 15th, 2020, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. EDT**

[The Mother of All Pandemics: The State of Black Death Research in the Era of Covid-19](#)

Prior to 2020, when most people heard the word "pandemic," they thought of the Black Death. Now that the COVID-19 pandemic has made us all newly aware of the severe consequences of pandemic events, it is necessary to lay a foundation for transhistorical dialogue about disease emergence, the role of the state in epidemic emergencies, and climate factors, among many other questions.

### MAY 13 ISSUE

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**Spring 2020 M.A. Graduates in Art History:**

**Anna Betz** "Aural Imagination: The Role of Visible Sound in Buffalmacco's Triumph of Death at the Camposanto of Pisa"

Building upon trends in medieval scholarship that explores the function of sensory engagement in art, this paper addresses the way in which word and image combine with ritual performance in the phenomenon of "visible speech" to trigger an aural memory in the beholder of the "Triumph of Death" fresco in Pisa.

**Mya Frieze** "Coptic Allusions: Evocation and Appropriation in Early Irish Monastic Art"

While the appearance of Coptic images and features has been acknowledged in early medieval Irish monastic art, its presence is often explained vaguely as the result of "influences." My thesis reexamines these features and argues that their appearance is a deliberate appropriation, utilized by the Irish Church to evoke the power of the monastic Desert Fathers, to whom the Irish monastic system is indebted.

## Spring 2020 Events - cont'd

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UW-Madison will host 2021 [Vagantes Conference!](#)

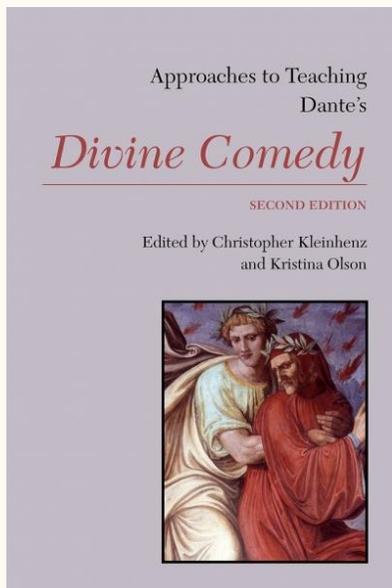
Co-Host Institution Representatives, for the 2021 Vagantes Medieval Graduate Student Conference at UW-Madison, **Tania Kolarik** (Art History, PhD Candidate) and **Claire Kilgore** (Art History, PhD Student) have successfully applied for the 2020 MAA-GSC Grant in Innovation in Community Building and Professionalization.

The award of \$2,000 will go toward to costs of hosting the Vagantes Conference in March 2021.

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## Faculty News

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**Professor Emeritus Chris Kleinhenz** (French and Italian) is co-editor with Kristina Olson (George Mason U.) of a new book in the Modern Language Association of America's "Approaches to Teaching World Literature."

"The authors in this volume expertly address both traditional and new trends in Dante scholarship, covering the field and breaking new ground. The editors do a superb job of bringing these themes together and providing a context for them." – Arielle Saiber, Bowdoin College

This volume will help instructors lead their students through the many dimensions – historical, literary, religious, and ethical – of Dante's difficult and rewarding *Divine Comedy*. An overview of the important scholarship is provided, along with ways of teaching the work through its contemporary culture and ours. Various teaching situations are considered, and the many available translations are discussed.

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**Max Harris** (Emeritus Fellow, Institute for Research in the Humanities) has published: "Politics: Comic Power, Foolish Men, and Holy Women," in *A Cultural History of Comedy: The Middle Ages*, ed. Martha Bayless and Jessica Milner-Davis, vol. 2 of *A Cultural History of Comedy*, ed. Andrew McConnell Stott and Eric Weitz (London: Bloomsbury Academic, 2020)

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## Other News

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**Tirumular (Drew) Narayanan** (Ph.D. Student, Department of Art History) has been awarded the "Outstanding Thesis Award" for the 2019-2020 academic year for his Master's thesis "*White Saracens, Black Muslims, and Brown Hafsids: Imaginations of the 'Saracen Prince' in Les Grandes Chroniques De France (Royal Ms 16 G Vi)*" from his previous institution, California State University, Chico.

The award goes to a single student in the entire university (across all fields) who wrote a thesis in the previous academic year.

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### **Graduate Association of Medieval Studies (GAMS) Officers for the 2020-2021 Academic Year**

President: **Tania Kolarik** (Art History)

Vice-President: **Alex Fairbanks-Ukropen** (English)

Treasurer: **Claire Kilgore** (Art History)

Scribe: **Sarah Friedman** (English)

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UW-Madison Library's institutional access to **Brill's "Bibliography of the History and Archaeology of Eastern Europe in the Middle Ages"** database subscription has been activated:

<https://search.library.wisc.edu/catalog/9912964569402121>

It's a great reference resource for anyone who is studying Eastern, Central Europe, Scandinavia and Byzantium.

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## Other News

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### Medieval Studies Workshops and Seminars at the Newberry Library Center for Renaissance Studies Events 2020-21

The Center for Renaissance Studies at the Newberry Library has announced its programs for the upcoming academic year. Of particular interest to medievalists are the Research Methods seminar, "Using Medieval Books," led by Ian Cornelius of Loyola and Ralph Hanna of Oxford University **March 19, 2021**; the symposium "The Art of Medieval and Early Modern Handwriting", **March 5, 2021**; and the Dante Lecture by Paola Nasti of Northwestern University on **November 5, 2020**. Of particular note for graduate students is the Ten-Week seminar on Digital Humanities and Premodern studies offered by Christopher Fletcher; the Dissertation Seminar: "Gender, Power, Culture," directed by Linda Austern (Northwestern) and Carole Levin (Nebraska); and the Research Methods Workshop, "How to Go Public with Premodern Studies" led by Rebecca Fall and Christopher Fletcher of the Newberry on **September 25, 2020**

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### Call for Proposals: 2020-21 Premodern Studies Seminar

The Center for Renaissance Studies at the Newberry Library is pleased to welcome proposals for the 2020-2021 Premodern Studies Seminar. This seminar provides a forum for new approaches to classical, medieval, and early modern studies, allowing scholars from a range of disciplines to share works-in-progress with the broader community at the Center for Renaissance Studies. Our sessions feature discussion of precirculated material and a presentation of items from the Newberry collections. Every meeting is free and open to the public, and participants are encouraged to attend as many seminars as they are able. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, these seminars may be moved to a remote format.

The Premodern Studies Seminar call for proposals is now OPEN. Proposals will be accepted until **June 15, 2020**. The theme of the 2020-2021 seminars is "Premodern Crises." To submit a proposal, complete the online submission form here: <https://www.newberry.org/seminar-proposal-form>

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Have a wonderful **SUMMER** and visit our website [medievalstudies.wisc.edu](http://medievalstudies.wisc.edu) for upcoming events!

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