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# MEDIEVAL CHRONICLE

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## Program of Medieval Studies University of Wisconsin – Madison Winter 2021

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As you all know, Fall 2020 was not like any other, but the Program of Medieval Studies was as active as ever.

Prof. Thomas Dale organized a panel discussion on “Pre-modern and Contemporary Race and Racism in Five Objects,” including presentations by Faisal Abdu'allah, Thomas Dale, Max Gray, Tirumular (Drew) Narayanan, and Nandini Pandey. He also collaborated with graduate students Andie Cade Barrow, Özlem Eren, Holly McArthur, and Tirumular (Drew) Narayanan to organize a session at the UW-Madison Diversity Forum “Medieval Studies Perspectives on Contemporary Racism and Cultural Encounter” (the latter was attended by more than 500 people!).

The Program also launched a new series of Borghesi-Mellon workshops on “Jerusalem in the Medieval and Early Modern Imagination” with the talk by Dr. Pnina Arad entitled “Twelfth-century Maps of the Holy Land: Image, Context, Function.” No fewer than three more Borghesi-Mellon workshops are coming up in the Spring, so stay tuned. Supported by University Lectures Award, Prof. Asa Mittman gave a talk on “Far from Jerusalem: the Exclusion of Jews on Christian Maps.”

We ran two workshops addressing our graduate students’ concerns (“Publishing the First Article, Chapter or Book Review” and “After the Defense: Post-Docs, Visiting, Tenure-Track and Other Positions”). Wisconsin Medievalists came together for an ice-cream social led by Prof. Samuel England.

Last but not least, three undergraduate students have graduated with a Certificate in Medieval Studies in December 2020. Congratulations on this achievement and good luck!

With the very best wishes for 2021,  
Dr. Elizabeth Lapina  
Associate Professor and Director of the Program of Medieval Studies

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## Upcoming Events

The following public lecture and the workshop by Prof. Annabel Wharton are part of the Borghesi-Mellon Interdisciplinary Workshops in the Humanities sponsored by the Center for the Humanities.

**Public Lecture.** Prof. Annabel Wharton (Duke University), “Contemporary Uses of the Past: The Model of Herodian Jerusalem in the Israel Museum”

Thursday, February 25, at 5:00 pm

**Workshop.** Prof. Annabel Wharton (Duke University), “Holy Sepulchers: From the pre-Modern to the Anthropocene”

Friday, February 26, at noon

**The 20th Vagantes Virtual Conference on Medieval Studies**

For the program see <http://vagantesconference.org/conference-program/>

March 18–21

**Public Lecture sponsored by the Anonymous Fund**

Prof. Cord Whitaker (Wellesley College), “The shade of trees their ancestors left: Medieval Blackness, African American Medievalism, and the Resistance of the Far Right”

Thursday, March 18, at 5:00 p.m.

**Workshop sponsored by the Anonymous Fund**

Prof. Cord Whitaker (Wellesley College), “Trippin’ into the Medieval Future: History, Controversy, and a Way Forward”

Friday, March 19, at noon

The following public lecture and workshop by Prof. Paul Cobb are part of the Borghesi-Mellon Interdisciplinary Workshops in the Humanities sponsored by the Center for the Humanities.

**Public lecture.** Prof. Paul Cobb (University of Pennsylvania), “Saladin’s Jerusalem”

Thursday, April 8, 5:00 pm

**Workshop.** Prof. Paul Cobb (University of Pennsylvania)

Friday, April 9, noon

The following public lecture and workshop by Prof. Avinoam Shalem are part of the Borghesi-Mellon Interdisciplinary Workshops in the Humanities sponsored by the Center for the Humanities.

**Public lecture.** Prof. Avinoam Shalem (Columbia University), “The Return of the Gaze: On Modern Pilgrimage to Jerusalem and the Melancholies of a Blessed View”

Thursday, April 15, at 3 pm

**Workshop.** Prof. Avinoam Shalem (Columbia University)

Friday, April 16, at noon

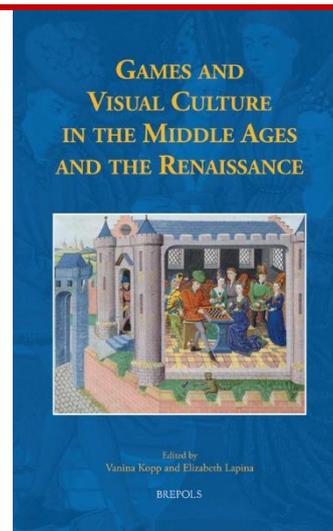
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## Faculty News

**Prof. Elizabeth Lapina** gave a (virtual) talk at the conference “Image and Cult: Sacred Images in Christian Traditions” organized by the Russian State University for the Humanities in Moscow.

The volume of articles, which she co-edited together with Vanina Kopp, *Games and Visual Culture in the Middle Ages and the Renaissance* came out with Brepols in the series *Studies in the History of Daily Life (800-1600)*.

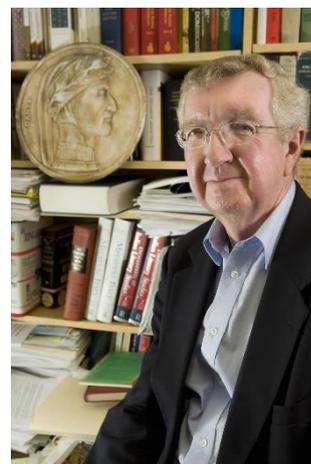
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**Prof. Chris Kleinhenz** (Emeritus, French and Italian):

In recent months, Prof. Chris Kleinhenz has done three podcasts. Two of these podcasts were for the project “Canto per Canto: Conversations with Dante in Our Time,” organized by the Dante Society of America and New York University. The first one, on Purgatory 4 (with his former student, Fabian Alfie), is available for viewing at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xtB3MYZ1dUk>. The second one, on Purgatorio 7 (with his former student, Alan Perry), will be available soon. Prof. Kleinhenz also did, with his colleague from George Mason University, Prof. Kristina Olson, a podcast for the “Conversations on Dante” series, sponsored by the Leeds Centre for Dante Studies (University of Leeds, UK), on the subject of our new collection of essays, *Approaches to Teaching Dante's Divine Comedy* (New York: MLA, 2020). The podcast is available for listening at [https://anchor.fm/matthew-treherne/episodes/Conversations-on-Dante-7-Chris-Kleinhenz-and-Kristina-Olson-on-Approaches-to-Teaching-Dantes-Divine-Comedy-eioerr/a-a329m1a?fbclid=IwAR0txGdnVOP-NxB4hu2KR-gHQs\\_obc-nlCw5MSS95SOLQAMRNr3hqWzK1\\_A](https://anchor.fm/matthew-treherne/episodes/Conversations-on-Dante-7-Chris-Kleinhenz-and-Kristina-Olson-on-Approaches-to-Teaching-Dantes-Divine-Comedy-eioerr/a-a329m1a?fbclid=IwAR0txGdnVOP-NxB4hu2KR-gHQs_obc-nlCw5MSS95SOLQAMRNr3hqWzK1_A)



**Prof. Lisa Cooper** (English) has published a review of a recent edition of a late-medieval French alchemical treatise; the review can be found here:

<https://scholarworks.iu.edu/journals/index.php/tmr/article/view/31667>

She has also presented a short paper titled “Vulnerability and Repair” on Friday, December 11th, at a symposium at the University of Chicago devoted to a recent publication in medieval studies, Julie Orlemanski’s *Symptomatic Subjects* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2019).

Prof. Cooper co-organized and has presided over a session at the 2021 Modern Language Association meeting entitled “Poetry and Pandemic: Medieval English Perspectives.”



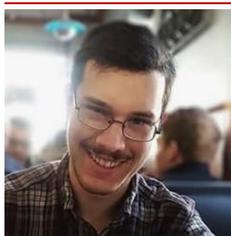
**Prof. Thomas Dale** (Art History) has recently submitted an article for publication. “Monstrosity and Conversion: The Program of the Urnes Capitals within a European Context,” will come out in *Urnes Stave Church and its Global Romanesque Connections* eds. Kirk Ambrose, Griffin Murray, and Margrete Syrstad Andås (Turnhout: Brepols, to be published in 2021). Prof. Dale has also published two essays: “Monastic art, sacred space and the mediation of Religious Experience” in Bernice Kaczynski, ed., *Oxford Handbook of Christian Monasticism* (Oxford University Press, 2020), 349-71; and “Art,” *The Medieval Cultural History of Colour*, ed. Carole Biggam and Kristin Wolf, (London: Bloomsbury, 2020), 149-166.



Prof. Dale has also been awarded a one-semester residential fellowship at the Institute for Research in the Humanities next academic year to support research on his new book project “Visualizing Race and Cultural Encounter in Medieval Venice.”

## Graduate and Undergraduate News

**Özlem Eren** (Ph.D. candidate, Art History) published a monument case study for the St. Demetrios Cathedral in Vladimir in the Mapping Eastern Europe Project by North of Byzantium (NoB). <https://mappingeasterneurope.princeton.edu/> The project is focused on the history, art, and culture of the Eastern Europe between the 13th and 17th centuries. The case studies focus on the visual and material culture of the regions set against the backdrop of the historical context, and also introduce methodological and theoretical questions that could be pursued further.



**Patrick Eickman** (Ph.D. candidate, History) published a review of Stephen Spencer's *Emotions in a Crusading Context, 1095-1291* on the website of *De Re Militari: the Society for Medieval Military History*. <https://deremilitari.org/.../stephen-spencer-emotions-in.../>

**Claire Kilgore** (Ph.D. candidate, Art History) and **Tania Kolarik** (Ph.D. candidate, Art History) both published book reviews in the 51st volume of *Comitatus: A Journal of Medieval and Renaissance Studies*, published through UCLA's Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, in October.

Claire Kilgore reviewed Katie Ann-Marie Bugyis' *The Care of Nuns: The Ministries of Benedictine Women in England during the Central Middle Ages*.

Tania Kolarik reviewed Mary Harvey Doyno's *The Lay Saint: Charity and Charismatic Authority in Medieval Italy, 1150–1350*.



## Certificate, MA and Ph.D. Alumni News

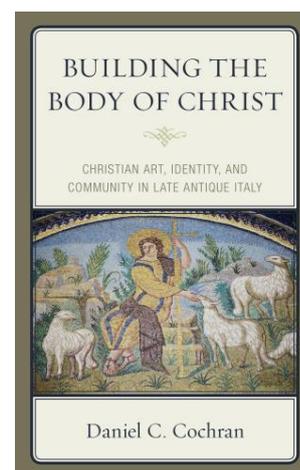
**Peter Bovenmyer** (Ph.D, Art History, 2019) published an article, “Dissecting for the King: Guido da Vigevano and the Anatomy of Death,” in *Picturing Death: 1200–1600*, edited by Stephen Perkinson and Noa Turel (Brill, 2020). This chapter came out of his larger dissertation project at UW–Madison.



**Daniel Cochran** (Ph.D., Art History, 2018) published his monograph *Building the Body of Christ: Christian Art, Identity, and Community in Late Antique Italy* (Fortress Academic Press, 2020).

<https://rowman.com/ISBN/9781978707689/Building-the-Body-of-Christ-Christian-Art-Identity-and-Community-in-Late-Antique-Italy>

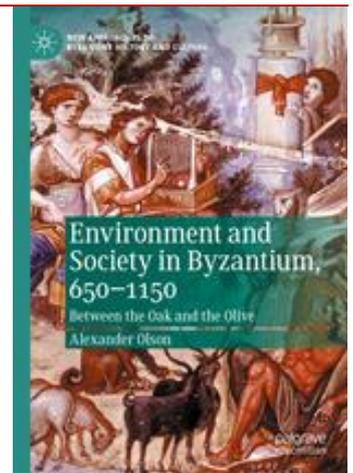
“In *Building the Body of Christ*, Dr. Cochran argues that monumental Christian art and architecture played a crucial role in the formation of individual and communal identities in late antique Italy. The ecclesiastical buildings and artistic programs that emerged during the fourth and fifth centuries not only reflected Christianity’s changing status within the Roman Empire but also actively shaped those who used them. Emphasizing the importance of materiality and the body in early Christian thought and practice, Dr. Cochran shows how bishops and their supporters employed the visual arts to present a Christian identity rooted in the sacred past but expressed in the present through church unity and episcopal authority. He weaves together archaeological and textual evidence to contextualize case studies from Rome, Aquileia, and Ravenna, showing how these sites responded to the diversity of early Christianity as expressed through private rituals and the imperial appropriation of the saints. Dr. Cochran shows how these early ecclesiastical buildings and artistic programs worked in conjunction with the liturgy to persuade individuals to adopt alternative beliefs, practices, and values that contributed to the formation of institutional Christianity and the “Christianization” of late antique Italy.”



**Alexander Olson** (Ph.D., History, 2017) published *Environment and Society in Byzantium, 650-1150: Between the Oak and the Olive* (Palgrave, 2020).

<https://www.palgrave.com/gp/book/9783030599355>

“This book illuminates Byzantines' relationship with woodland between the seventh and twelfth centuries. Using the oak and the olive as objects of study, this work explores shifting economic strategies, environmental change, and the transformation of material culture throughout the middle Byzantine period. Drawing from texts, environmental data, and archaeological surveys, this book demonstrates that woodland's makeup was altered after Byzantium's seventh-century metamorphosis, and that people interacted in new ways with this re-worked ecology. Oak obtained prominence after late antiquity, illustrating the shift from that earlier era's intensive agriculture to a more sylvan middle Byzantine economy. Meanwhile, the olive faded into the background, re-emerging in the eleventh and twelfth centuries thanks to the initiative of people adapting yet again to newly changed political and economic circumstances. This book therefore shows that Byzantines' relationship with their ecology was far from static, and that Byzantines' decisions had environmental impacts.”



**Sutter Borchert** (B.A., 2020) has graduated this Fall with a Certificate in Medieval Studies and a BA in Communication Arts (with a concentration in Radio-TV-Film). He is currently envisioning a career in marketing. Sutter writes: “One thing that I learned while completing my Medieval Studies certificate is how much that era is overlooked in terms of literature and scientific development. It is considered the ‘Dark Ages,’ but I feel that term undermines the significant progress made in that era.”

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For alumni profiles, as well as information on forthcoming events, visit our website: [medievalstudies.wisc.edu](http://medievalstudies.wisc.edu)

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