
MEDIEVAL CHRONICLE

Program of Medieval Studies University of Wisconsin – Madison Winter 2022

The Medieval Studies Program had a very productive Fall 2021. Arguably the most important development was the creation of the Doctoral Minor in Medieval Studies. Graduate students interested in pursuing the Minor must complete a minimum of 9 credits of courses outside their home department.

With a combination of both in-person and online events, we were able to continue our “Jerusalem in the Medieval and Modern Imagination” into its second year. Prof. Jodi Magness (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill) gave a lecture on “Ossuaries and the Burials of Jesus and James” and Prof. Marcus Milwright (University of Victoria) gave a talk on “Words, Landscape, and the Viewer: Perspectives on the Inscriptions of Early Islamic Jerusalem.” These two talks have been co-sponsored by the Anonymous Fund, Medieval Studies Program, History Department, Art History Department, Institute for Research in Humanities, Middle East Studies Program, and Center for Religion and Global Citizenry. MSP has also organized a lecture “The contribution of the Cairo Geniza to the study of medieval Arabic medicine,” a lecture by Prof. Efraim Lev (University of Haifa), which was co-sponsored by the University Lectures General Fund and the Department of Medical History and Bioethics. Each of these public lectures was followed by a workshop for faculty and graduate students. In addition, MSP co-sponsored a lecture by Prof. Thomas Prendergast (College of Wooster), “Laughter, Stupor, and the Limits of Medievalism,” organized by the English Department.

Currently, eleven undergraduate students have declared their intent to graduate with a Certificate in Medieval Studies. One undergraduate student has graduated with the Certificate in December 2021. Congratulations on this achievement, good luck and keep in touch!

Last but not least, Prof. Lisa Cooper has been elected the new Director of the Medieval Studies Program for the upcoming academic year 2022-23. Huge congratulations!

Dr. Elizabeth Lapina
Associate Professor and Director of the Medieval Studies Program

Upcoming Talks and Events

Diversity and Medieval Studies. A workshop for graduate students and faculty.

Friday, February 11th, 12:00 pm.

Public Lecture and Workshop. Prof. Hannah Barker (Arizona State University), “Health Fraud in the Medieval Slave Market.”

Lecture: Thursday, February 17th, 5:00 pm (via Zoom).

Health fraud was a major concern in the slave markets of the late medieval Mediterranean. Prospective slave buyers worried that, in their ignorance of medical matters, they might be tricked into buying slaves with serious illnesses like leprosy or falling sickness. In the Islamic world, physicians such as Ibn Buṭlān in eleventh-century Baghdad wrote handbooks to educate prospective slave buyers about the most common stratagems used to make sick slaves seem healthy. No such genre existed in medieval Genoa, however. In my talk, therefore, I will discuss how Genoese slave buyers handled the risk of medical fraud, focusing on the role of learned and unlearned testimony about slaves’ health in fourteenth- and fifteenth-century lawsuits.

Workshop for faculty and graduate students: Friday, February 18th, 12:00 pm (via Zoom). Title TBA.

Public Lecture. Prof. Brendan Goldman, Title TBA

Lecture: Thursday, February 24th, 5:00 pm. (via Zoom).

Public Lecture sponsored by the Anonymous Fund, Medieval Studies Program, History Department, Art History Department, Institute for Research in Humanities, Middle East Studies Program, and Center for Religion and Global Citizenry.

Public Lecture. Prof. Suzanne Yeager (Fordham University), “Pilgrim Toil: Emotional and Physical Labor and Claims to Sanctity.”

Lecture: Thursday, March 24th, 1:00 pm. (via Zoom).

Past studies of pilgrim journeys take note of the extensive effort needed to journey to a shrine. Some scholars measure it by expense (a year’s salary), others calculate the time invested, or distance traveled. All scholars tend to agree that medieval pilgrimage must have been arduous without the modern amenities we enjoy in the present day. But I would suggest that the position of pilgrim as laborer is much more complex than this, particularly as many travelers allude, in often surprising ways, to their roles in expending physical and emotional toil. This talk will explore pilgrim work in the accounts of Egeria, Mandeville, Saewulf, Judah Halevi, and others. These physical and emotional investments, it can be argued, increase the value of pilgrimage, especially when attached to premodern Christian travel to Jerusalem.

Workshop for faculty and graduate students. Prof. Suzanne Yeager (Fordham University), “Medieval Pasts and Successor Narratives: Imagining Jewish Identity in Premodern England.”

Friday, March 25th, 12:00 pm. (via Zoom).

Modern scholarly thinking around adaptation shows that successor versions of a text must carry a “core value” of the original or ancestor source. This workshop explores the core values that

premodern Christian authors identified as essential to their portrayals of Jewish identity. Fourteenth-century Middle English texts such as *The Siege of Jerusalem* and *The Travels of Sir John Mandeville* show a range of approaches to Judaism, ranging from reviling the religion to cherishing it. We'll explore the contested space of these views and also consider how theories of succession are expressed in other contexts, such as medieval claims to land, sanctity, and resources.

Public Lecture and Workshop sponsored by the Anonymous Fund, Medieval Studies Program, History Department, Art History Department, Institute for Research in Humanities, Middle East Studies Program, and Center for Religion and Global Citizenry.

Public Lecture. Prof. Dilshat Harman (Center for Visual Studies of the Medieval and Early Modern Culture, Russian State University for the Humanities in Moscow), "Imagining Jerusalem in Late Medieval Nuremberg: Adam Kraft and Albrecht Durer."

Lecture: Friday, April 1st, 12:00 pm. (via Zoom).

The lecture will deal with Jerusalem in late medieval imagination, focusing on the reconstruction of Jerusalem in Nuremberg. Recent research shows that imagining Jerusalem played a crucial part in many late medieval devotional practices - virtual pilgrimages to Jerusalem, reconstructions of its topography and sacred places in European cities, visualizations of one's own city as Jerusalem. In her lecture Dr. Harman would explore how the overlapping of Nuremberg and Jerusalem cityscapes was activated by the imagination of the citizens participating in the walking the Nuremberg Way of Cross and what artistical devices Nuremberg artists Adam Craft (c.1460-1509) and Albrecht Dürer (1471-1528) used to make these spaces overlap even more for the viewers of their reliefs and prints.

Public Lecture sponsored by the Anonymous Fund, Medieval Studies Program, History Department, Art History Department, Institute for Research in Humanities, Middle East Studies Program, and Center for Religion and Global Citizenry.

Public Lecture and Workshop. Prof. Michael Lower (University of Minnesota), "The Age of Diplomacy: Franks and Ayyubids in Western Asia, 1229-1244."

Lecture: Thursday, April 7th, 5:00 pm. (in-person, Elvehjem Building Room L140).

Workshop: Friday, April 8th, 12:00 pm. (in-person, Elvehjem Hagen Room #150).

Public Lecture and Workshop sponsored by the Anonymous Fund, Medieval Studies Program, History Department, Art History Department, Institute for Research in Humanities, Middle East Studies Program, and Center for Religion and Global Citizenry.

Public Lecture and Workshop. Prof. Lisa Mahoney (DePaul University), "The Lost Royal Tombs of the Latin Kings of Jerusalem."

Lecture: Thursday, April 21st, 5:00 pm. (in-person, Elvehjem Building Room L140).

Workshop: Friday, April 22nd, 12:00 pm. (in-person, Elvehjem Hagen Room #150).

Public Lecture and Workshop sponsored by the Anonymous Fund, Medieval Studies Program, History Department, Art History Department, Institute for Research in Humanities, Middle East Studies Program, and Center for Religion and Global Citizenry.

False Dichotomy: Sacred and Secular in the Middle Ages

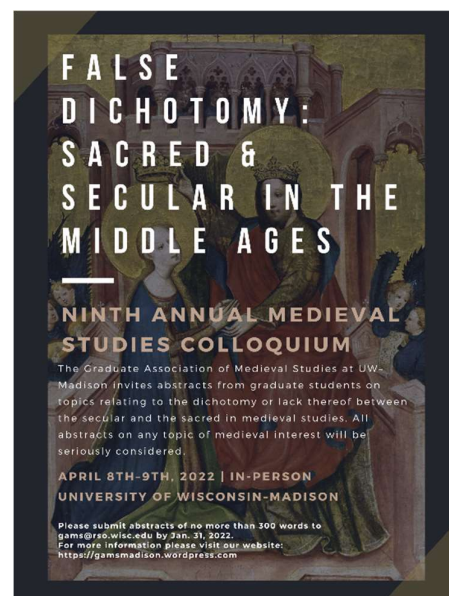
Ninth Annual Medieval Studies Colloquium

The Graduate Association of Medieval Studies at UW-Madison invites abstracts from graduate students on topics relating to the dichotomy or lack thereof between the secular and the sacred in medieval studies. All abstracts on any topic of medieval interest will be seriously considered.

April 8th-9th, 2022 | In Person | University of Wisconsin-Madison

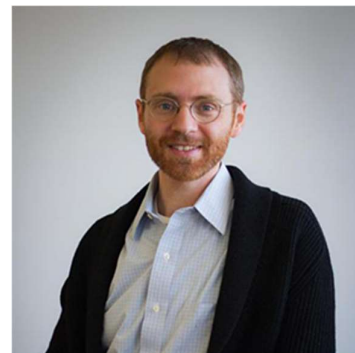
Please submit abstracts of no more than 300 words to gams@rso.wisc.edu by Jan 31, 2022. For more information, please visit the website:

<https://gamsmadison.wordpress.com>



Faculty News

Prof. Samuel England participated in two panels dealing with medieval subjects at the Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting in November. The first panel, entitled "Rhapsody and Revulsion in Arabic," showcased studies of praise poetry and lyric genres over a millennium of cultural production. Prof. England organized the panel and presented his study of maritime poetic events in the Red Sea region, "In Praise of Yachts." The other panel, "Mobilizing the Memory of al-Andalus," brought together scholars of Arabic and Romance-language sources, for which Prof. England served as a discussant.



Prof. Elizabeth Lapina took part in a roundtable discussion "Encounters during the Period of Crusades: History through Objects," over the summer, which she has co-organized, at the ICMS, Kalamazo. She also moderated a session on "Material Culture and the Crusades" at a conference organized by the Society for the Study of Crusades and the Latin East (SSCLE) for PhD / Early Career researchers. In the Fall, Lapina gave a presentation at the book launch, organized by the Art History Department of Leiden University, for the volume she co-edited with Dr. Vanina Kopp, *Games and Visual Culture in the Middle Ages and the Renaissance*, published by Brepols in 2020. Finally, she coordinated with the Chief Curator at the Chazen Museum of Art to take the students in her undergraduate 115 and graduate History 805 seminar to examine medieval coins from Chazen's numismatic collection.



History 115 Students from left to right: Steven Doyiakos, Mitchell Nussbaum (senior auditor), Thomas Yan, and Henry Manna. Photo by Claire Halberg

Prof. Max Harris' article, "Conspicuous Discontinuity: Theatrical Variations on the Life of Anthony in Medieval Italy and France," has been accepted for publication in *European Medieval Drama* 26 (forthcoming 2022).



Prof. Kirsten Wolf has been busy putting the finishing touches to *Pious Fictions and Pseudo-Saints in the Late Middle Ages*, a book written in collaboration with Professor Marianne Kalinke, Professor Emerita at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

The book is a collection of editions and translations of eight apocryphal legends in *Reykjahólabók*, a sixteenth-century Icelandic legendary that contains translations of Middle Low German legends that are unique. The legends in question are the fictitious accounts of Sts.

Oswald, Henry and Cunegund, John Chrysostom, Jerome, Christopher, George, Seven Sleepers, and Gregorius, the Great Sinner. The German source of these legends is unknown. The Introduction to the book introduces the legendary and its compiler and contextualizes the historical background of the eight legends. The legends derive ultimately from the *Legenda aurea* and its German versions, but the Icelandic legends are much longer and differ significantly in both content and narrative style. Included in the Introduction is a discussion of the language of the translations, such as the occurrence of Low German loan words, the translator's references to their meaning in Icelandic, and the problem of Icelandic and German cognates.



Prof. Thomas Dale has in press the article, "Monstrosity, Transformation and Conversion: The Program of the Urnes Capitals in Its European Context" in Kirk Ambrose, Griffin Murray and Margrete Syrstad Andås, eds., *Urnes Stave Church and Its Global Connections*. (Turnhout: Brepols, 2022), 419-447. As Resident Fellow this semester at the IRH he presented "Visualizing Genealogies and Topographies of Race in Medieval Venice."



As President of the Medieval Academy of America he has convened a committee to plan for the organization's centennial in 2025 and welcomes input from medievalists on campus to think about how we can reach broader audiences with public programming, performances, exhibitions, and digital resources.

Prof. Leonora Neville has spoken in the following papers and podcasts:

"Byzantine Gender," Invited lecture, University of Belgrade, Faculty of Law, Forum Romanum, November 19, 2021.

"Ancient Virtue and Eastern Roman Gender, or, How Agesilaus became a model of Celibacy," Late Antique, Islamic, and Byzantine Society of the University of Edinburgh, International Graduate Student Conference: Sites of Encounter and Cultural Exchange, November 4, 2021.



“Is it time to decolonize the terms byzantine and Byzantium?” Panel discussion with George Demacopoulos, Elizabeth Bolman, Anthony Kaldellis, Leonora Neville and Alexander Tudorie, Fordham University Center for Orthodox studies, online October 4, 2021. <https://www.medievalists.net/2021/10/decolonize-terms-byzantine-byzantium/>

“Is it time to abandon the rubric “Byzantium?,” Episode 43 of *Byzantium and Friends* podcast series by Anthony Kaldellis, Department of Classics, Ohio State University, February 11, 2021. <https://byzantiumandfriends.podbean.com/e/43-is-it-time-to-abandon-the-rubric-byzantium-with-leonora-neville/>

Prof. Neville has published the following works:

“Enemies of Empire in the *Muses*, Nikephoros Bryennios’ *Material for History*, and Anna Komnene’s *Alexiad*.” In *Auteurs byzantins et leur époque. Expression, idéologie, société*, edited by Alicia Simpson and Vasiliki Vlyssidou. Athens: l’Institut de Recherches Historiques, 2021, 253-265.

“Singing with David and Contemplating Agesilaus”: Ethical Training in Byzantium.” In *The Reception of Greek Ethics in Late Antiquity and Byzantium*, edited by Sophia Xenophontos and Anna Marmodoro, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2021, 140-160.

Prof. Neville also has an article in press:

“Reading Greco-Roman Gender Ideals in Byzantium: Classical Literary Gender Motifs & Middle Byzantine Readers,” to appear in the *Routledge Handbook on Identity in Byzantium*, edited by David Parnell, Michael Stewart, and Conor Whately.

Prof. Keith Busy held a Visiting Research Fellowship at Trinity College, Dublin, October 1-December 1 to work on a new edition and translation of the *Statute of Kilkenny* (1366). The edition will be published by the Irish Manuscript Commission. During his stay he gave talks and seminars at Trinity, Maynooth University, and St Saviour's Dominican Priory, Dublin.



This past summer, under the direction of **Prof. Martin Foy**s in the English Dept., seven UW-Madison graduate students from three different programs (English, German, Nordic Slavic+ and the iSchool) worked as contributing editors on the *Old English Poetry in Facsimile* project (oe poetryfacsimile.org), an open-access digital resource linking together manuscript facsimiles, transcriptions, editorial annotations and modern translations of Old English poetry. The students (Robin Cummins, Carsten Haas, Genevieve Lundberg, Aaryn Smith, Helen Smith, Kyle Smith, and Alex Ukropen) either took one-credit practica on digitally editing Old English or worked as funded project assistants.



Using *Digital Mappa* (digitalmappa.org), an open-source platform developed by Foy at UW-Madison, during the summer the *OEPPF* team re-edited 40 works, or over 2000 lines of verse (about 7% of the surviving Old English poetic corpus), to now-available digital facsimiles from the British Library, the Bodleian Library, the Parker Library and other digital repositories.

Works completed included:

13 Exeter Book riddles

3 other Exeter Book poems (*Widsith*, *Homiletic Fragment II (Consolation)* & *Fortunes of Mortals*)

8 Paris Psalter psalms

5 Boethian Meters

4 *Old English Chronicle* poems

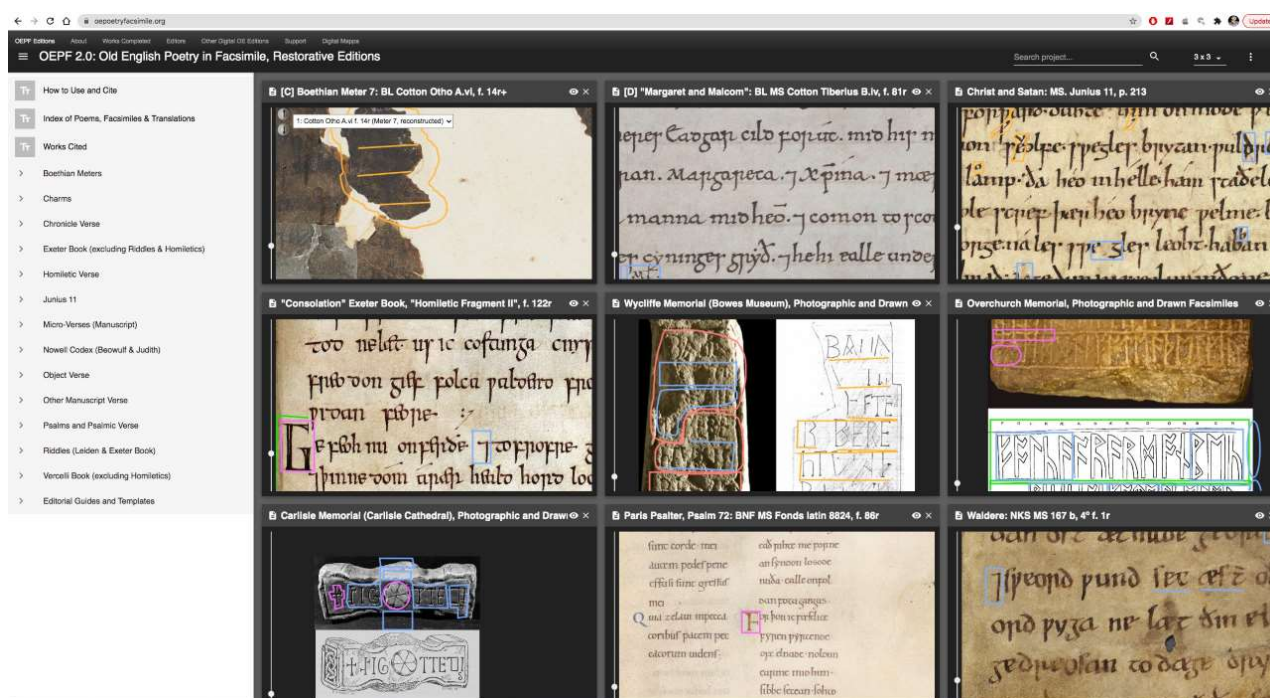
4 runic memorial inscriptions in stone

The Junius 11 poem *Christ and Satan*

The Kentish Hymn

The *Waldere* fragments A & B

You can check out all these new editions for yourself here: oe poetryfacsimile.org and follow the progress of the *OEPPF* project on Twitter: @digitalmappa.



Prof. Jelena Todorovic has produced the following publications:

EDITED VOLUMES:

[*Petrarch and His Legacies*](#). Co-edited with Ernesto Livorni. Tempe, AZ: Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies (2021).
[*Interpretation and Visual Poetics in Medieval and Early Modern Texts. Essays in Honor of H. Wayne Storey*](#). Co-edited with Beatrice Arduini and Isabella Magni. Leiden, Boston: Brill (2021).

ARTICLES:

"Avarice is the Most Dangerous Sin: 'La maladetta lupa' in Dante's *Commedia*." In *Annali d'italianistica* 39, 2021, pp. 131-148.

"Biscioni's Dante." Co-authored with Beatrice Arduini. In *Textual Cultures* 14.2, 2021, pp. 85-97.

"Ed elli a me: "Questo misero modo / tegnon l'anime triste di coloro / che visser senza 'nfamia e senza lodo. (*Inferno*, III, v. 36)." In *Citar Dante. Espressioni dantesche nell'italiano di oggi*, ed. by Irene Chirico and Marco Galdi. ETPBooks, Saggi e Critici 11, Athens, 2021, pp. 46-47.
 "Textual Authority in the *Vita Nova*'s Nineteenth-Century Editions." In *Romanic Review* 112:2, 2021, pp. 24-38.

"The Trespiano Fragment of the *Vita Nova* (Ca)." in *Interpretation and Visual Poetics in Early Modern Texts. Essays in Honor of H. Wayne Storey*, ed. by Beatrice Arduini, Isabella Magni, Jelena Todorović. Leiden, Boston: Brill, 2021, pp. 73-83.



Professor Emeritus John D. Niles writes in retirement from Colorado:

“Since completing my 2019 book *God’s Exiles and English Verse: On the Exeter Anthology of Old English Poetry*, I have been working on two new books, each of which is now in press and is due to appear in 2022. One of these is the first volume of a comprehensive edition of early English medical texts, co-edited by Maria Amalia D’Aronco of Udine, Italy, to be published by the Dumbarton Oaks Medieval Library. Readers are welcome to think of this collaborative edition as “the new Cockayne,” with reference to Thomas Oswald Cockayne’s 3-volume edition *Leechdoms, Wortcunning, and Starcraft of Early England* dating from 1864–66. The other book, which is based on fieldwork that I undertook in Scotland back in the 1980s, is



titled *Webspinner: Songs, Stories, and Reflections of Duncan Williamson, Scottish Traveller*. This portrait of a truly exceptional storyteller will be brought out by the University of Mississippi Press. Meanwhile my review of Ciaran Arthur’s book ‘*Charms, Liturgies and Secret Rites in Early Medieval England*’ appeared in *Speculum* 95:1 (2020): 192–94, while a volume of essays has come out to which I contributed a chapter on early North American medieval scholarship: “Who Wrote the Non-Racist Essay ‘The Anglo-Saxon Race’? Longfellow and Nineteenth-Century American Anglo-Saxonism,” in *Old English Tradition: Essays in Honor of J.R. Hall*, ed. Lindy Brady (Tempe AZ, 2021), 293–301. This study makes the case that not *all* of our medievalist forebears were as narrow-minded or bigoted as some people may think. Finally, I have written chapters for two forthcoming anthologies of critical essays that will probably see the light in 2022. Both studies have involved me in research that extends geographically well to the east of Europe. One chapter is on the Eurasian antecedents of what is traditionally thought of as Anglo-Saxon culture, while the other is on eastern elements in the early origin legends of the Franks. Details about my forthcoming publications will follow in due course.”

Graduate and Undergraduate News

Özlem Eren (Ph.D. Candidate, Art History) is participating in the "East of Byzantium VIII: Material Culture" doctoral [student workshop](#), facilitated by Christina Maranci and Brandie Ratliff. (Nov 19, 2021 - June 6-7, 2022). East of Byzantium is a partnership between the Arthur H. Dadian and Ara Oztemel Chair of Armenian Art at Tufts University and the Mary Jaharis Center for Byzantine Art and Culture at Hellenic College Holy Cross in Brookline, MA.

The workshop brings together doctoral students in the late antique and medieval fields studying the Christian East to share methodologies and to discuss their research with senior specialists in the field. In her project, Özlem is exploring the Armenian khachkar as a conceptual and iconographic model for the stone relief decorations in the Vladimir-Suzdal area churches through the exploration of trade, dynastic marriages, and royal patronage of the Bagratid rulers. While studying the material culture, Özlem draws parallels with the political relationships of Armenian kings and Rus princes with Byzantium.



Sarah Friedman (Ph.D. student, Department of English) will be presenting at the Gender and Medieval Studies Conference in January, whose theme this year is "Resilience, Persistence, and Agency." Her paper is entitled "Racial Fantasy, Eroticism and Vulnerability in *The King of Tars*."



Tirumular (Drew) Narayanan (Ph.D. student, Art History) will be teaching AH 303: Race in the Middle Ages and its Contemporary Afterlives. He has also won the Byzantinists of Color Conference Grant and has presented the following papers and lectures:

Guest Lecture:

“Dangerous Words:” Islamophobia and the Legacy of Pseudo-Arabic in American Comic Books. Texas Tech University (virtual)

Conference Papers:

“Sword of the Sultan”: Latin Christian Imaginations of a Weaponized Nile in 14th & 15th Century Manuscripts. Southeastern Medieval Association (Wofford College, Spartanburg SC).

“Veiling the Wizard:” Orientalizing the Whiteness of Xaltotun in Robert E. Howard’s *Hour of the Dragon*. Mid-Atlantic Popular & American Culture Association Conference (virtual).



Certificate, MA and Ph.D. Alumni News



Dr. Katie Robiadek (Medieval Studies Project Assistant from 2017-2018) is on the tenure track as the political theorist in the Department of Political Science at Hood College in Frederick, Maryland (just outside Washington, D.C), where she directs the campus Center for Civic and Community Engagement. An early modernist by training at UW-Madison, her work on Machiavelli's dialogue, *The Art of War* (which relies on Vegetius' *De rei militari* (c. 430 CE), was awarded this October the 2021 Carl S. Meyer Prize for best paper by a junior scholar. Check out her personal website at

<https://about.me/robiadek>.