

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Petites Nouvelles – Issue #9

February 8, 2021



"January", from the Hennessy Hours, Simon Benning, ca. 1535; BRB ms. II 158, f.1v

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*Suggestions and submissions of content for future issues are always welcome! Please contact either cmrs@osu.edu or spitulski.1@osu.edu with your ideas. The deadline for submitting items for inclusion in the next issue will be **Sunday, February 21**.*

*Also, be sure to "like" us on **Facebook** and check out our **Instagram** and **Twitter** feeds for more news, links, & MedRen miscellany!*

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Visit the Nouvelles
Archive

Greetings

Dear Affiliates and Friends:

In case you are not already aware, I'd like to announce that Jared Gardner of the English department has recently taken over from David Staley as the Director of the Humanities Institute to which CMRS belongs. David has been a brilliant colleague and advocate during my time at the helm of CMRS. We will miss his presence. But we are also excited to be working with Jared who brings a wealth of leadership experience to his new position. Working together, I believe we can achieve great things.

February brings our first two guest speakers of the Spring. In fact, both online lectures are back-to-back on Friday, February 26. Theater director Iqbal Khan speaks at 1:00PM on 'The Problematic Privilege of Interpreting the Bard.' He is followed at 2:20PM by Dr. Eneko López Martínez de Marigorta, whose talk on the complex relations between the tenth-century Caliphate of Cordoba and Iberian Christians is part of Jonathan Burgoyne's Spanish 8894 Literatures and Cultures Colloquium.

Please make sure to register via the CMRS website: <https://cmrs.osu.edu/events>.

We hope you can join us for one or both talks.

Christopher Highley
Professor of English
Director, Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies
The Ohio State University
highley.1@osu.edu

Alumna Profile:

Victoria Muñoz
Assistant Professor of English
City University of New York
Hostos Community College

In 2016, I graduated from OSU with a PhD in English. My specialty was Anglo-Spanish relations during the Renaissance. I worked as a lecturer at the Mansfield campus for about two years. In Fall 2018 I started as an assistant professor at the City University of New York, my parents' alma mater. My campus, Hostos Community College, strongly embraces CUNY's equity and access missions. Named after the Puerto Rican activist and intellectual, Eugenio María de Hostos, the institution caters to first-generation and immigrant students, and it provides a vibrant cultural center for the South Bronx community.

Still, the pandemic has imposed a major strain on the South Bronx, which was hard hit by the virus and corresponding economic downturn. Doing college online has been especially challenging for many students. I have revitalized my digital pedagogy to be more accessible; I now use completely open educational resources (OER). A highlight from last semester was my students' dramatic analyses of "Hamlet 360: Thy Father's Spirit," a free virtual reality experience of *Hamlet* produced by the Commonwealth Shakespeare Company. My students loved reading and experiencing *Hamlet*. The hero's melancholy resonated with the grief and trauma many of us are feeling right now; it was the right play for this moment.

This past year, I was also finishing my book. When CUNY transitioned to remote learning, I took refuge in my in-laws' old, non-functioning RV. It was not a glamorous office, but, working under such constraints, who could begrudge a *room of one's own*?

My book project, *Spanish Romance in the Battle for Global Supremacy: Tudor and Stuart Black Legends*, began as a study of England and Spain's literary and political engagements in Europe. It was conceived nine years ago as a master's thesis, and it later evolved into a doctoral dissertation. I didn't anticipate how quickly the book would be contracted and go to press. In my first semester on the tenure track, my former OSU professor, Hannibal Hamlin, forwarded a call for proposals for a new series on "World Epic and Romance" with Anthem Press. I quickly drafted a proposal, which went through peer review, and shortly after, the book was contracted. To meet my deadline, I relied on ample institutional support. My position includes contractual teaching release for research. I secured additional release time through competitive application, along with a publication mentorship, and a book completion grant, all through CUNY. I also relied on my professors and mentors from OSU, who received many email queries from me during those final days of revision.

Following peer review, the manuscript evolved into a study of England and Spain's conflicts in the transatlantic world, manifesting in the form of sea piracy and land raids, which were then allegorically reflected in literature. It particularly reveals how fictional romance informed both countries' imperialist conquests about the globe in an unfolding battle for global supremacy. Much of this conflict literally took place between the pages of books of chivalry, in the form of a covert culture war that attached rich ideological meanings to fictional characters.

For instance, the virginal cult of Diana associated with England's Queen Elizabeth I was constructed as a virtuous alternative to the self-fashioned Apollo cult of Spain's King Philip II, who boasted a global "empire upon which the sun never sets." Apollo featured regularly in Philip's royal iconography, appearing in the young prince's royal impresa from about the 1550s (struck in commemoration of his marriage to Mary Tudor). Apollo also became a figure for Philip's messianic mission in the Americas, as in his motto "*iam illustrabit omnia*" (He shall illuminate everything). This iconography manifested in Philip's romantic avatar, the Knight of the Sun, the hero of the Spanish *Mirror of Knighthood* cycle. Ironically, the cycle also took on allegorical meaning for English readers, who associated the knight's chief love interest, the Amazonian Princess Claridiana, with Elizabeth I. In fact, Claridiana was a major inspiration for Edmund Spenser's *virgos bellatrix*, Belpheobe and Britomart, heroines of the national epic romance, *The Faerie Queene* (1590; 1596), whose militant chastity is allegorically poised against the tyrannical lusts associated with the Spanish king and with Spain's conduct in the Americas.

My book further tracks how these literary allegories informed England's national iconography. It traces England's romantic nexus of ideas into the nineteenth century, which brought to full fruition the early modern desire to construct from Spain's downfall a "British Colonial empire—the most magnificent empire that the world ever saw," such that the "old Spanish boast that the sun never set in their dominions has been more truly realized amongst ourselves." (1) Indeed, as I show, much of England's imperial iconography grew out of the country's Tudor and Stuart-era obsession with Spanish romance, ironically deriving inspiration from Spain's own conquistadors who helped to promote this pernicious culture of imperial Quixoticism, the credulous reading of romance as an allegory and justification for global conquest.

As illuminating as this project has been, there is much yet left to discover regarding England's *Hispanobivalence*, as I term it. In fact, I cut an entire chapter on Senecan tragedy that was just too much material for one book. This is my next project; I'm exploring how Seneca's Hispano-Roman heritage informed the construction of Iberian characters in English revenge tragedy, especially the eponymous *Spanish Tragedy* (1587) of Thomas Kyd.

Reflecting on my book publication process, which took just two years, I would advise other junior scholars not to dither on the proposal, as it can either delay you, or propel you forward. It matters to have a good project, of course, but also trust the peer review process. Reader 2 made incisive suggestions for enrichment, and the final product speaks for itself.

One more thing: make sure that you have a quiet room in which to write—or an old RV. That works, too.

Victoria Muñoz, CUNY Hostos Community College

(1) Henry Ward, "Waste Lands of the Colonies," in *Hansard's Parliamentary Debates, Third Series, Commencing with the Accession of William IV* (London: House of Commons, 1839) 841–919 (847).

Upcoming CMRS and other MedRen Events

****As previously announced, the Center has decided to postpone its planned 2021 Popular Culture and the Deep Past event. The event has been tentatively re-scheduled for February 11-12, 2022****

Upcoming CMRS Lecture

“Making and Knowing in Sixteenth-Century Europe”

Friday, March 5
4:00 – 5:30 p.m.
Zoom (pre-registration requested)

Pamela Smith
Seth Low Professor of History
Director of the Center for Science and Society
Columbia University



****Free and Open to the Public****

An anonymous late sixteenth-century French technical manuscript, Ms. Fr. 640 (now held by the Bibliothèque nationale de France), has been the subject of research by the Making and Knowing Project since 2014. This intriguing manuscript provides important insights into the material, technical, and intellectual world of late sixteenth-century Europe, and sheds light on how and why nature was investigated, used in art, and collected and appreciated in early modern Europe. The laboratory reconstruction by the Making and Knowing Project of the technical and artistic "recipes" contained in Ms. Fr. 640 provides further knowledge about the manuscript, as well as of materials and processes, but it also raises a host of questions.

If you require an accommodation such as live captioning or interpretation to participate in this event, please contact cmrs@osu.edu. Requests made by about 10 days before the event will generally allow us to provide seamless access, but the university will make every effort to meet requests made after this date.

**Additional
Information**

Old French Reading Group: February 9, 16

The Old French Reading Group will meet each Tuesday afternoon 4:30 – 5:30 throughout the Spring 2021 term. Read aloud in Medieval French and learn about the language and culture – for scholarly inquiry or sheer amusement.

No prior experience needed!

Contact Prof. Sarah-Grace Heller (heller.64@osu.edu) for more information.

Register via Zoom: <https://osu.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJwvc--vqz8sHdf9m4m1BwPg0NPnKnbCR97k>

Medieval Latin Reading Group: February 11, 18

The Medieval Latin reading group will meet on Thursdays, 3:30 - 4:30 p.m., during the Spring 2021 semester.

Participants in the group are not required to prepare the readings ahead of time, and nobody should feel obligated to participate aloud, if you're more comfortable listening. We are happy to accommodate participants with all levels of Latin expertise, including those who have never tried Latin or who have forgotten everything they once knew.

If you would like to receive the Zoom meeting link and be added to the mailing list for future links and readings, please contact CMRS Associate Director Leslie Lockett at lockett.20@osu.edu.

2020-2021 Institute for Chinese Studies Lecture Series

Nianshen Song
February 19

University of Maryland
pm

Friday,

4:00-5:30

Many scholars talk about the Inner Asian nature of the Qing Empire, which was partially evidenced by Qing's patronage of Tibetan Buddhism. But how did this patron-priest relationship start, construct and manage? This talk provides an answer by investigating the very first royal temples built in Mukden, the Qing capital before its conquest of inner China.

How did the Qing government support and supervise these temples? Locating the Mukden monasteries in Qing's overall Buddhist network, this talk examines the interactions between multiple ethnic groups and between the state, lamas, and local society.

Nianshen Song is an Associate Professor in the History Department at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. Graduated from the University of Chicago in 2013, he published *Making Borders in Modern East Asia: The Tumen River Demarcation, 1881-1919* (Cambridge University Press) in 2018. He is also the author of a bestselling Chinese book, *Discovering East Asia*, which was published in Beijing, Hong Kong and Taiwan in 2018 and 2019 and was just translated to Korean.

Please register for this event on the ICS website:

<https://easc.osu.edu/events/ics/nsong>

Free and open to the public

[Learn More about the Institute for Chinese Studies at OSU](#)

Department of English Graduate Workshop with Director Iqbal Khan

Please consider participating in one of the **Graduate Workshops** we have scheduled for this semester. **Register here** to confirm your spot in the workshop of your choice and (for students in English) to make sure you get credit in order to fulfill your graduate-workshop program requirement.

- *"The Problematic Privilege of Interpreting the Bard"* led by director Iqbal Khan, **Thursday, February 25th at 11:00am**. This workshop will be held in conjunction with **Khan's lecture** on Friday the 26th that is being co-sponsored by the Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, the Department of Theatre, Film and Media Arts, the Humanities Institute (Asian Futures Project), the South Asian Studies Initiative, and the Global Arts and Humanities Discovery Theme.

For this workshop, participants will be asked to view a few versions of Shakespeare's *Othello*, including Khan's 2015 production for the Royal Shakespeare Theatre. Students who register for the workshop will get links to the viewings and to the Zoom session.

[Link to Khan Lecture Webpage and Registration Info](#)

****SAVE THE DATE****

The Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies

and the

Department of Spanish and Portuguese

present

Christian Kingdoms Within the Umayyad Caliphate? Cross-Cultural Policy, Diplomacy and War in Tenth-Century Iberia



Dr. Eneko López Martínez de Marigorta

Assistant Professor, University of the Basque Country

**Friday, February 26, 2021
2:20-3:40pm EST**

**(Part of the Spring 2021 Spanish 8894 Literatures and Cultures
Colloquium)**

Zoom - email for meeting room link to burgoyne.10@osu.edu

During the Umayyad caliphate of Cordoba (929-1031), the Umayyad power and the Christian Kingdoms of Leon and Pamplona maintained complex relationships, with moments of strife, but also of peaceful co-existence. The prevailing historiography so far has understood the institutional development and the strengthening of these Christian powers as a result of their belligerency against al-Andalus. However, by bringing together Arabic and Latin sources, one may suggest that, for most of the caliphal period, the Umayyads were able to impose their hegemony throughout the Iberian Peninsula, and that there was an increasing commitment of Christian communities to the Umayyad sovereign. This predominance was possible thanks to the ability of the caliph to temporarily integrate some Christian elites into the hierarchy of the Umayyad power, so that the former began acting as regional representatives for the Caliphate.

Dr. Eneko López Martínez de Marigorta is Assistant Professor at the University of the Basque Country. He took his Ph.D. in History from the University of the Basque Country (UPV/EHU), obtaining the Extraordinary Doctoral Award 2019. He completed his doctoral training at the Spanish National Research Council (CCHS-CSIC). He has served as visiting scholar at the Universität Hamburg, Université de Sorbonne Paris IV, the Center for Advanced Study RomanIslam, and Denison University.

**Additional
Information**

News & Notes

**CMRS @ UCLA
MEMSA Conference:**



School for Minstrels: German, 14th Century, Meister Heinrich Frauenlob, Heidelberg Univ. Library, Manessa MS 848

**COVID Delays: 16th International Congress
of Medieval Canon Law & CMRS
Symposium on Medieval and Renaissance
Studies / St. Louis Conference on
Manuscript Studies @ SLU**

Both these events hosted by our friends at St. Louis University have been postponed until 2022, the Congress to July 17-23 and the Symposium and Manuscript Studies conference to June -
<http://www.icmcl2020.org/> and
<https://www.slu.edu/arts-and-sciences/medieval-renaissance-studies/> for additional updates as they become available.

**"Resilience,
Resistance, and
Renewal in the
Medieval and Early
Modern World"**

The Medieval and Early Modern Student Association (MEMSA) is pleased to announce a call for papers for a virtual graduate student conference co-sponsored by the Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies (CMRS) at UCLA. The conference will be held via Zoom on May 27, 2021.

We hope to bring together presenters who consider responses to change in the medieval and early modern world, particularly those that took the form of resilience, resistance, and renewal. We are particularly interested in work that takes into consideration issues that have been cast into greater relief as a result of our experiences in 2020. Presenters from all disciplines are welcome, especially those that take on interdisciplinary perspectives and methodologies.

Abstract Deadline: March 1

Additional Info

Texas Tech Humanities Center – Upcoming MedRen Lectures of Interest

Several upcoming talks in the Humanities Center at Texas Tech's Spring 2021 Virtual Brown Bag Lecture Series will feature MedRen topics of interest. Hosted on Wednesday afternoons between February and April, this program presents brief talks from recent faculty recipients of research fellowships from the Center. All talks are scheduled for 12pm Central and you may register by visiting the Center's event page linked below. Look for the February 24 talk on Early Modern Disability, the March 24 presentation on Alain Chartier's *Quadrilogue invectif*, and "Lucretius on Animals" April 24.

**Registration and
Additional Info**

Next Issue: February 22 Submission Deadline: February 21



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455 Hagerty Hall, 1775 S. College Rd., Columbus, Ohio 43210
cmrs@osu.edu
osu.edu

Center for Medieval and
Renaissance Studies



The Ohio State University



Nick Spitulski

Administrative Coordinator
Humanities Institute

454 Hagerty Hall, 1775 College Rd., Columbus, OH 43210
Phone: 614-292-6591

