

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

## Petites Nouvelles – Issue #10

February 22, 2021



Iqbal Khan in rehearsal for Macbeth. Photo: Marc Brenner via thestage.co.uk

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*Suggestions and submissions of content for future issues are always welcome! Please contact either [cmrs@osu.edu](mailto:cmrs@osu.edu) or [spitulski.1@osu.edu](mailto:spitulski.1@osu.edu) with your ideas. The deadline for submitting items for inclusion in the next issue will be **Sunday, March 7**.*

*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

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Dear Affiliates and Friends:

I add just a brief intro today to highlight our embarrassment of event-based riches over the next several weeks! As our director Chris Highley noted in the last issue, this Friday we offer both a special lecture by theatre director and frequent Royal Shakespeare Company collaborator Iqbal Khan as well as a co-sponsored colloquium (with the Department of Spanish and Portuguese) by Professor Eneko López Martínez de Marigorta of the University of the Basque Country (*Euskal Herriko Unibertsitatea*). Before our next issue, however, we'll also host Professor Pamela Smith of Columbia University and her talk on how and why nature was investigated, collected and appreciated in late sixteenth-century Europe, and soon thereafter, our Public Lecture series resumes at long last after last spring's postponement with a lecturer by independent scholar, author, and woodsman Max Adams on the importance of wood as archaeological artifact alongside other, more durable and prevalent such materials. Previously we did not have a firm time established for the Public Lecture, but we've now confirmed that it will take place at 4 p.m. EDT on March 19, and the Zoom registration link is also below!

Indeed that's not all for the Spring event slate, but more on those other events in subsequent issues, and of course you can find the fuller schedule, plus additional information on the upcoming talks noted above, on our website at <https://cmrs.osu.edu/events>.

I unfortunately also add the late-breaking news that even the 2022 iteration of the International Congress on Medieval Studies has moved to a completely-virtual format; no recent word that I'm aware of about similar adjustments by the Medieval Academy of America, Renaissance Society of America or others, but staff will keep an eye out and pass updates along in this space or through our website and social media platforms. In the meantime, here's hoping that our own programming can begin to move back, even if slowly, to a more face-to-face orientation starting next fall, though we will also aim to stay connected to all our new friends around the country and the globe in whatever structure the "new normal" of our offerings takes shape!

Nick Spitulski  
Administrative Coordinator, Humanities Institute

## Upcoming CMRS and other MedRen Events

### **A Special CMRS Lecture:**

#### **"The Problematic Privilege of Interpreting the Bard"**

**Friday, February 26**  
**1:00 – 2:30 p.m. EST**  
**Zoom (pre-registration requested)**

**Iqbal Khan**  
**Theatre Director**



#### ***\*\*Free and Open to the Public\*\****

Iqbal Khan's lecture on "The Problematic Privilege of Interpreting the Bard" will discuss the constellation of ideas around Shakespeare and the construction of systems of power—and the construction of identity. "I don't see any 'agenda' here on the part of the 'Bard'," Khan says, "but a series of provocations and interrogations." In his lecture, Khan will draw on his decades of experience in directing Shakespeare—and theatrical afterlives of Shakespeare's work—in venues as diverse as the Royal Shakespeare Company, Shakespeare's Globe, Box Clever, and the Birmingham Opera Company. He will discuss his decisions around interpretation, storytelling, working with actors, and working with and for audiences.

Live captioning will be provided at this event; however, if you require other accommodation to participate, please contact [cmrs@osu.edu](mailto:cmrs@osu.edu) at your earliest convenience and the university will make every effort to meet those requests.

Co-sponsored by the Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, the Department of Theatre, Film and Media Arts, the Humanities Institute (Asian Futures Project), and the South Asian Studies Initiative.

### Additional Information

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Graduate students may also wish to consider participating in one of the **Graduate Workshops** offered by the Department of English this semester, *including a workshop to be held with Mr. Khan this Thursday at 11:00 a.m.* **Register here** to confirm your spot in this or another workshop of your choice and (for students in English) to make sure you get credit in order to fulfill your graduate-workshop program requirement.

Participants in Thursday's workshop will be asked to view two versions of Shakespeare's *Othello*: Khan's 2015 production for the Royal Shakespeare Theater and the 1965 film starring Laurence Olivier. Through a discussion of the two *Othellos*, one with two white men in the two main characters, and the other with two black men in the two main characters, this workshop will address questions of **premodern race, race in performance, racial representation in theatre, and a critical evaluation of past 'landmark' performances**. Participants are also strongly encouraged to bring their own questions, whether intellectual or practical, for a wide-ranging conversation about **art and responsibility**.

Registrants will be sent the Zoom link and instructions for accessing the *Othellos*.

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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**  
(immediately following the Iqbal Khan lecture!)  
**2:20 - 3:40 p.m. EST**

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

Zoom - email for meeting room link to [burgoyne.10@osu.edu](mailto: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**

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## **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.

*Live captioning will be provided at this event; however, if you require other accommodation to participate, please contact [cmrs@osu.edu](mailto: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**

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**\*\*SAVE THE DATE\*\***

**2020/2021 CMRS Barbara A. Hanawalt  
Public Lecture**

**“The Wood Age: A Thought Experiment  
in Past, Present and Future Human  
Ecologies”**

**Friday, March 19  
4:00 – 5:30 p.m.**

**Zoom (pre-registration requested)**

**Max Adams**  
Independent Scholar and Author



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

Wood has been the primary technological material for almost all of human history. But compared to ceramics, stone and metals it is barely visible to archaeologists. A limited range of surviving artefacts, backed by careful use of ethnographic study, allow us to posit key developments in human/wood ecologies. But to construct a coherent narrative of what one might call the Long Wood Age, to render visible that which is invisible, requires creativity in physical and intellectual experimentation. In this paper Max Adams, who is both an archaeologist and a woodsman, explores some lines of enquiry.

*If you require an accommodation such as live captioning or interpretation to participate in this event, please contact [cmrs@osu.edu](mailto: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**

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## **Old French Reading Group: February 23, March 2**

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](mailto:heller.64@osu.edu)) for more information.

Register via Zoom: <https://osu.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJwvc--vqz8sHdf9m4m1BwPg0NPnKnCR97k>

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## **Medieval Latin Reading Group: February 25, March 4**

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](mailto:lockett.20@osu.edu).

## **News & Notes**

### **Medieval and Renaissance Graduate Student Association – Happy Hour This Wednesday!**

Grad students, come join the first MRGSA Happy Hour of the Spring Semester this Wednesday at 5 p.m.! The group will chat about what attendees would like to see for the reading group and professional development series, as well as general life updates.

**Contact**  
[mrgsaosu@gmail.com](mailto:mrgsaosu@gmail.com)  
**for the Zoom Link**

### **Johnson Contributes *Les Enluminures* Blog on MEDREN 5610 Manuscript Acquisition Project**

Last week CMRS affiliate and Rare Books and Manuscripts Library co-curator Eric Johnson contributed a blog to well-known manuscript dealer *Les Enluminures*'s website entitled "Students as Curators: Manuscripts in the Classroom at Ohio State University," based upon the MEDREN 5610 library acquisition class project recently highlighted in this space.

Their reaction? "Amazing, dating, and ultimately very successful indeed!"

**Blog Post Link**



### **Atkinson Presents University of Oxford All Souls Seminar in Medieval and Renaissance Music February 18**

CMRS faculty affiliate **Charles Atkinson**, Professor Emeritus of Musicology, held a seminar in the series of All Souls Seminars in Medieval and Renaissance Music, University of Oxford, UK, on February 18. His topic was "On Modulation in Eastern and Western Chant: Techniques, Texts, and Rhetoric." Because the seminar was held via Zoom, scholars from all over the world could watch, listen, and ask questions. Altogether 156 people participated in the event.

**More about the Oxford All Souls Seminar Series**



**CMRS Kahrl /  
Hanawalt Essay  
Deadline – April 2**

The CMRS is now accepting nominations for the 2020-2021 Barbara A. Hanawalt Award for Outstanding Graduate Essay and the Stanley J. Kahrl Award for Outstanding Undergraduate Essay.

Nominations for each will be due by **5:00 p.m. Friday, April 2, 2021**. The nomination form is available via the website linked below.

**Submission  
Guidelines**

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**ZEMORS – Promoting Digital Resources for Early Modern English Studies – March 29**

The Zurich Early Modern Online Resources Seminar aims to promote the use of digital resources in early modern studies, as early as at BA level. Students are therefore very welcome, as well as academics who would like to learn more about these digital resources and how to promote them amongst their students. Each speaker will offer an overview of how to use a particular digital resource and will then give a practical example of how this could be used both for academic research and also by students for a research paper or thesis. There will be time to ask questions at the end.

**Additional Info**

**Next Issue: March 8    Submission Deadline: March 7**



**THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY**

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