Spring and Fall 2021, were lively semesters, despite the ongoing difficulties of the COVID pandemic. The MEST calendar was full of exciting lectures, roundtables, workshops, and more.

In January, former MEST Director Dr. Shannon Gayk spoke at a Speculum webinar, “Disease, Death, and Therapy,” organized by the Medieval Academy of America. She previewed her article, “Apocalyptic Ecologies: Eschatology, the Ethics of Care, and the Fifteen Signs of the Doom in Early England.”

MEST hosted a Digital Medieval Studies Workshop in February, presenting a program led by Dr. Elizabeth Hebbard, who is leading a team of Midwestern scholars in a major digital project: The Peripheral Manuscripts Project. The Project Team introduced the Peripheral Manuscripts Project and described its goals and structures, offering an overview of work completed so far. PIs also shared their experience and decision-making processes regarding data management, and pointed attendees to resources at their disposal for undertaking their own projects involving large amounts of digital data.

In March GSAC coordinated with medievalist and Graduate Career Coach with the Walter Center for Career Achievement, Trevor Verrot, to host a workshop exploring diverse job markets and careers for Medieval Studies graduate students. The workshop focused on career discovery; methods and tools for networking as an IU student or alumnus; professionalizing in graduate school with an eye toward career diversity, non-academic careers for researchers, and careers that utilize the skills we develop and hone as medievalists; as well as professionalization opportunities that you can explore at any stage of graduate school.

That same month, MEST hosted a Workshop in Medieval Studies--part of a series of presentations and discussions of work in progress by Indiana faculty and students. At this Workshop, “Gregory of Tours, the Temple of Solomon, and the Wonders of the World,” Prof. Deborah Deliyannis (History) circulated passages from Gregory of Tours' De cursu stellarum ratio concerning the seven wonders of the world.

We were also thrilled to see GSAC’s annual Transcribathon grow this year into a three-day team-based competition. Participants collaboratively transcribed Guillaume le Clerc de Normandie’s bestiary as it appears on folios 53r-78v in BnF fr. 24428.

And, of course, MEST hosted the MAA’s 96th annual meeting in April. Although we had hoped for an in-person event, pivoting to an online format allowed for even wider participation in the conference; with over 700 registrants, it was the best attended MAA meeting on record.
MEST 2021

This fall, in addition to welcoming our new staff members (you can read more about them on pages 8 and 9), MEST was pleased to help present talks by Jordan Pickett and Jeffrey Jerome Cohen.

In his Distinguished Alumni Lecture, Jordan Pickett discussed the work he and Matthew Jacobson have done in a talk entitled “Climate Change and Cities in the Eastern Mediterranean: The Curious Case of Lycia and Pamphylia from Antiquity to Byzantium.” With an interdisciplinary focus, this talk emphasized the importance and necessity of archaeology in climate science through an analysis of the historical impacts of climate change in one of the ancient Mediterranean’s densest regions. Pickett is a professor of Classics at the University of Georgia and Jacobson is in the Department of Archaeology at the University of Reading.

In his talk entitled “Ark Thinking,” Jeffrey Jerome Cohen explored how the Book of Genesis narrates a powerful story of how a family conserved a living archive of the world during a climate catastrophe. This discussion focused on tale of Noah and his ark is a familiar one, but it is stranger than the diminished version we too often tell to children when we want to entertain them, or to ourselves when we want to imagine how refuge from a world in upheaval might operate. Ranging over the permutations of the ark from ancient Babylon to modern science fiction, Cohen examined the invitation to the imagination and to creating a more capacious sense of refuge the story has long offered. Cohen is the Dean of Humanities at Arizona State University.
On April 15-18, 2021, MEST hosted the 96th annual meeting of the Medieval Academy of America. Thanks to the diligent work of the program committee, especially co-chairs Professors Deborah Deliyannis and Diane Reilly, and Communications Chair Professor Kalani Craig, the conference was a great success!

Special thanks are also due to former MEST Director Shannon Gayk, under whose leadership the conference was secured for IU, as well as Natalie Levin, Assistant to the Director, and Communications Assistant Kayla Lunt.

Although we had hoped for an in-person event, pivoting to an online format allowed for even wider participation in the conference; with over 700 registrants, it was the best attended MAA meeting on record.

Conference-goers had a seamless and user-friendly experience thanks in no small part to the team of graduate student and faculty volunteers who hosted sessions and performed behind-the-scenes technical support.

The conference showcased the geographic, linguistic, and disciplinary breadth of an increasingly global discipline. Papers and sessions examined a wide array of themes, including identity, race, and ethnicity, the medieval North Atlantic, ecology and the environment, book history and manuscript studies, play, and material culture.

Conference attendees were also treated to a live-streamed concert from the Jacobs School’s Historical Performance Institute, featuring works by women troubadours and trouvères.

The conference’s emphasis on interdisciplinarity and the global scope of the field also highlighted the fact that Indiana’s faculty and students stand at the leading edge of innovation in medieval studies scholarship.
Hwæt! MEST GSAC (the Medieval Studies Institute’s Graduate Student Advisory Committee) welcomes you back to campus—in body, spirit, mind, or virtual avatar!
The Medieval Studies Institute Graduate Student Advisory Committee continued to hold virtual events through Fall 2021 to better protect our community from the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. Though we faced Zoom fatigue, pandemic fatigue, and plain-old end-of-semester fatigue, a small and vibrant community of medievalists continued to gather for a series of social and academic events.

Fall 2021 began with a small membership call-out picnic at Bryan Park that brought together some of our senior members and led to some intensive brainstorming about attracting new membership and recruiting new officers. This was our only face-to-face event in the fall, but we look forward to hosting more in-person events when public safety allows.

We also hosted our now-annual Halloween Pseudo-Conference and a Green Knight Viewing Party. The pseudo-conference attracted submissions of graduate school ghost stories and a paper that reports the discovery of a long-lost recipe for toasted hazelnuts written by Julian of Norwhich. The Green Knight Viewing Party was our best-attended and liveliest event of the semester. Hosted on Zoom, the event allowed attendees to live chat throughout the film. The chat covered costuming, form and genre, cinematography, source adaptation, the downplayed queer potentiality of the film, and the use of Middle English in the script. The experience culminated in a lively discussion after the film—and some of us continue to debate the film’s interpretation of trouthe!

GSAC looks forward to a series of professionalization, academic, and social events hosted virtually, in-person, and in hybrid modalities in Spring 2022. We continue to plan for our interdisciplinary Spring Symposium, “Medieval Care,” which will be held on Zoom March 25-26, 2022. In addition to the symposium, we look forward to hosting our annual Transcribe-a-thon and a short series of in-person and virtual professionalization events organized by a small committee of graduate students.

MEST GSAC offers social, professional, and academic events for graduate students each semester. In addition to the events listed above, we regularly host (Bad) Medieval Movie Night, a Premodern Readers’ Circle, and workshops on teaching and professionalization. We serve the graduate community as a liaison between the community and the Medieval Studies Institute. GSAC encourages all graduate students interested in Medieval Studies to add your voice to this collective endeavor! MEST GSAC is a great way for medieval studies graduate students to stay connected, meet fellow medievalists from other departments, and participate in academic, professionalization, and social events. We welcome medievalists from all departments to become active representatives to GSAC and pitch ideas for future programming. Those interested in learning more or participating in events should contact our current President, Gregory Tolliver, at gretolli@iu.edu.
Akash Kumar (Department of French & Italian) appeared on BBC Radio 4’s Beyond Belief program on Thursday March 18 to discuss Dante’s *Commedia* and its place in the modern world.

Meagan Allen (History and Philosophy of Science and Medicine) received her PhD in June 2021, with her dissertation “Roger Bacon’s Medical Alchemy: Medieval Pharmacology and the Prolongatio Vitae”. She has accepted a two-year Postdoctoral fellowship at the Beckman Center for the History of Chemistry at the Science History Institute in Philadelphia, beginning September 2021.

In August 2021, Emerson Richards-Hoppe began her role as the Rare Books Cataloguer of Pembroke College, Cambridge. She graduated from the Department of Comparative Literature, with a Graduate Area Certificate in Medieval Studies in December, 2020. She will continue her work, transcribing, coding, and administration, for the University of Kentucky’s Carolingian Canon Law Project.


Liz Hebbard published “Thibaut and the Troubadours” in *Tenso* 36 (2021), and “Troubadours and Trouvères,” co-authored with Ardis Butterfield, in Oxford Bibliographies in Music. She also continued work on her grant-funded project Peripheral Manuscripts: Digitizing Medieval Manuscripts in the Midwest, with co-PI Michelle Dalmau (IU Libraries) and colleagues throughout the region, to digitize and catalog hundreds of medieval manuscripts.


FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

All fellowship and award applications/nominations are due Friday March 11, 2022. Please send materials as PDF files to MEST@iu.edu

Shirley Jean Cox Medieval Studies Fellowship: to support undergraduate students in the Medieval Studies Institute within the College of Art and Sciences. The Institute will make three awards in the amount of $1000 each. Procedure: undergraduates working in any area of Medieval Studies will be nominated by a faculty member. The faculty member should submit a letter of nomination detailing the student’s work in Medieval Studies and how the award will further the student’s work in the field.

Shirley Jean Cox Medieval Studies Conference Travel Award: to support graduate student participation in conferences related to Medieval Studies. The Institute will make up to three awards in the amount of $1000. Procedure: to apply, applicants should submit a short letter detailing the conference in which they plan to participate and a budget of conference expenses. Awards may be used to support participation in virtual or in-person conferences.

Clifford Flanigan Memorial Fellowships: to support students in Medieval Studies. The Institute will make two awards to graduate students in the amount of $1000 each. Procedure: submit a letter of application detailing how the funds will be used to support an aspect of your graduate training in Medieval Studies. Funds may be used to support (for example): research at archives, purchase of research resources, participation in workshops, financial support during the writing of the dissertation, etc.

Andrea S. McRobbie Graduate Fellowship in Medieval History: to support graduate scholarship in medieval history, specifically some aspect of its social history or some theme in medieval social history related to its art, philosophy, or literature. The Institute will award one fellowship in the amount of $2000. Procedure: submit a letter of application detailing how the funds will be used to support an aspect of your graduate training in Medieval Studies. Applicants should also have a letter of recommendation submitted by a faculty member in support of the application.
SAVE THE DATES!

2022 promises to be an exciting year, with programs on Byzantine musical Performance, the return of our annual Medievalia at the Lilly event, and 1st Thursday pilgrimages!

Hymns of Kassia..................................................................................................................January 25
A mini-symposium on performing the works of 9th century hymnographer Kassia, featuring Professor Alexander Lingas, City University, London. This event is currently planned to be held in-person with virtual contingency plans if need be. Details about time and location are forthcoming.

Medievalia at the Lilly........................................................................................................March 1-2
A lecture will given by Eric Johnson (The Ohio State University) on March 1 (time is TBA) and a workshop will be held on March 2 (time TBA). All events will take place the Lilly Library.

MEST Spring Symposium....................................................................................................March 25-26
This event will be held virtually. Times and registration link are forthcoming.

First Thursday Global Middle Ages Pilgrimage..............................................April 7
Details regarding time and locations are TBA.

Institute Blog: Call for Contributions
The Institute's Blog (blogs.iu.edu/medieval) celebrates the work of MEST’s faculty and students as they bring the Middle Ages to life both on and off campus. If you have pedagogical, research, or community activities pertinent to your interest in the Middle Ages, please share them by contributing to one of our monthly posts. Send your inquiries or proposals to the MEST Communications Assistant, Emily Clark, at ec15@iu.edu.
**Welcome To Our NEW Institute Staff**

**Nicolò Sassi** is a PhD candidate in Religious Studies at Indiana University. After specializing in Late Ancient and Byzantine Studies at the University of Rome III, he completed his paleographical training on the manuscripts of the monastery of St. John the Theologian in Patmos, Greece. His research focuses on Eastern Christian mystical literature produced on the cusp between Late Antiquity and the Middle Ages. To date, his publications have appeared, among others, in Greek, Roman, and Byzantine Studies, the Journal of Early Christian Studies, and Orientalia Christiana Analecta. He is currently working on a monograph on and a new critical edition and translation of the Syriac Book of Secrets (6th c.). He’s looking forward to serve as assistant to the director of the Medieval Studies Institute and learn and think with the MEST community at IU.

**Emily Clark** is a second-year student in the Art History MA program who is interested in maps and Jewish book art from the Middle Ages. With a particular focus on spatial relationships, much of her work tends to ask questions about what it means for an object to exist (or not exist) in a particular place. She holds an undergraduate degree from Elon University where she fell in love with and majored in Art History and minored in Art, Classical Studies, Jewish Studies, and Religious Studies. As an undergraduate she was involved in curating several pop-up exhibitions and one pop-up museum entitled “Outlaw.” She also curated, with Dr. Evan Gatti, an exhibition entitled “More than Reading: Encountering Premodern Manuscripts,” which foregrounds the experiences of seeing, reading, hearing, and knowing medieval and early modern manuscripts.
Dr. Kalani Craig is a Clinical Associate Professor in the Department of History with research interests in episcopal power expressed in hagiography, medieval European conflict, and history pedagogy, all of which draw on digital methods like network analysis, text analysis and mapping.

At the Institute for Digital Arts and Humanities, she and her co-director Michelle Dalmau work with their staff to help IU affiliates integrate these digital methods into their research and teaching projects. In addition to cheering for Michelle's work on the Peripheral Manuscripts grant with Liz Hebbard and other medievalists all over Indiana, Kalani has directly supported several medieval-studies projects at IU (including 4 network-analysis projects alone!). Since 2009, she has been on the board of EPISCOPUS (the Society for the Study of Bishops and Secular Clergy in the Middle Ages), which organizes lightning-round talks and paper sessions at both Kalamazoo and Leeds. Over the last 3 years, she has led an NSF-funded team in the development of Net.Create, a network-analysis tool specifically designed to support humanities research with “artisanal” hand-gathered network data.
Dear Medieval Studies Faculty, Students, and Friends,

Welcome Back!

After a challenging year that nonetheless saw a highly successful online Medieval Academy of America meeting, a number of virtual lectures and workshops, and a long-awaited in-person Alumni Lecture, I’m very heartened to be back on campus and hopeful for a return to more in-person programming in 2022.

In January, MEST will be holding a mini-symposium on the Hymns of Kassia (the “Byzantine Hildegard”). In early March we can look forward to the return of our annual Mediaevalia at the Lilly event, featuring Eric Johnson of Ohio State, and in late March we have our annual Medieval Studies Symposium, organized by GSAC.

Our reading groups and study groups are also up and running—be sure to consult the MEST website for contact information and details.

This year there are also some staffing changes in MEST. Jennifer Lopatin will be continuing as Editorial Assistant for The Medieval Review, while Prof. Joey McMullen will be taking over the editorship from our long-serving editor, Prof. Deborah Deliyannis. We will also have a new Assistant to the Director, Nicolò Sassi and a new Communications Assistant, Emily Clark.

I would like to express MEST’s thanks, and my own deep gratitude, to Natalie Levin and Kayla Lunt, who provided superlative service as Assistant to the Director and Communications Assistant. It is no exaggeration to say that MEST’s work would have been impossible without their skill and labor.

I am also very pleased to announce that Professor Kalani Craig, Co-Director of the Indiana Digital Arts and Humanities Institute, will be joining MEST as Associate Director this year. Thank you, Kalani, for taking on this service!

I look forward to seeing all of you at our many events this semester (both virtual and in-person),

Jeremy Schott
Director, MEST
The members of the administrative staff of MEST are:
Jeremy Schott, Director
Kalani Craig, Associate Director
Nicolò Sassi, Assistant to the Director
Emily Clark, Communications Assistant

If you have communications you would like to have distributed as a general announcement in Medieval Studies, or for general correspondence with the Institute, please contact Nicolò at mest@indiana.edu.

mestdir@indiana.edu: for direct and confidential communications with the Director; this is an administrative account we have established that will transfer from director to director. Please note that dirmest@indiana.edu is the personal account of another faculty member.

In addition to these two email accounts, we also maintain six distribution lists: one for undergraduate students, one for graduate students, one for alumni, one for faculty, one for core faculty, and one for community members.

If you would like to be added to any of those lists, please contact Nicolò at mest@indiana.edu.

Indiana University
Lindley Hall 201G
150 S. Woodlawn Ave. Bloomington, IN 47405
medieval.indiana.edu

Follow us online!
@Medieval_IU
@MedievalStudiesInstitute
@iumedievalstudies

Help Support the Work of the Medieval Studies Institute

Why? Your tax-deductible financial contribution allows MEST to continue to provide a diverse array of lectures, programs, and fellowships that promote the scholarship and teaching of the Middle Ages.

What? Gifts can be directed to any following funds:
- The Medieval Studies Institute General Fund: Your donation will provide general support to the Institute, helping us host events, invite speakers, and continue with our outreach.
- The Medieval Review Support Fund: Gifts will support the Medieval Review, an open-access journal that publishes reviews of books in medieval studies.
- The C. Clifford Flanigan Awards: Your donation will help support medievalist graduate students.
- The Shirley Jean Cox Undergraduate Fellowships: Your donation will help fund our two undergraduate prizes (for the best thesis and paper in medieval studies) and several grants to support undergraduate summer study, study abroad, or internships.

How?
- By mail: Checks made out to “Indiana University Foundation” may be mailed to The Medieval Studies Institute, Lindley Hall 201G 150 S Woodlawn Ave., Bloomington, IN 47405
- On our website: https://medieval.indiana.edu/about/alumni-giving/index.html
- Recurring bank or payroll deductions: Perhaps the easiest way to offer ongoing support of the work of the Institute, you can make a recurring monthly, quarterly, or annual gift that is deducted from your credit card or bank account. IU Employees can also set up recurring donations through payroll deduction. See https://www.myiu.org/recurring-gift.