

February 2019 Newsletter

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Scholar to Examine Slavery and International Law in the Early Modern Mediterranean



Guillaume Calafat, who is currently a Fung Global Fellow at Princeton University, will deliver a lecture at SLU on the dynamics of international law in the Mediterranean and Ottoman North Africa. The title of the lecture is "From Shipwrecks to Human Rights: Slavery, Maritime Sovereignty, and Natural Law in the Eighteenth Century." The Lecture will take place on **Monday, February 4** at **4:00 pm** in Adorjan Hall 142. A reception will follow.

Dr. Calafat is Associate Professor of Early Modern History at the University of Paris 1 (Panthéon-Sorbonne). He is the author of *Une mer jalousie. Contribution à l'histoire de la souveraineté* (2019), which focuses on a fierce seventeenth-century legal, political, and erudite controversy surrounding the status of the Mediterranean Sea.



NEH Fellow Explores the Intersection of Early Modern Missionaries and the Science of Nature



Fr. Randall Meissen, who is NEH Research Fellow at the CMRS, will deliver a lecture entitled, "Natural History and the Pursuit of Knowledge in the Spanish New World." The lecture will take place on **Friday, February 8 at 3:00 p.m.** in **Adorjan Hall 142**. A reception will follow.

Fr. Meissen is a PhD candidate in history at the University of Southern California. His dissertation explores the interaction of theological and empirical approaches to New World nature among missionaries in the early modern Spanish world..

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News from the Seventh Annual Symposium on Medieval and Renaissance Studies

With the deadline now passed, we can report a healthy number of proposals for this year's Seventh Annual Symposium on Medieval and Renaissance Studies, which will take place on campus **June 17-19, 2019**. Proposals from learned societies suggest that an



increasing number of them are moving operations to St. Louis, which is great news. The phenomenal growth of the Symposium is in no small part due to the efforts of numerous faculty and graduate students at SLU in medieval and early modern studies, as well as our colleagues worldwide. Thank you! SLU's SMRS is now one of the largest such conferences in the world!



The SMRS Advisory Board has begun evaluating the submitted proposals. Nevertheless, it is still possible to propose a paper or session through the website at smrs-slu.org. We will do our best to accommodate late arrivals. As always, registration for the conference for SLU students and faculty is **free**. Links for waived fees registration will be available as we approach the conference date. And, as always, we ask that graduate students who receive waived fees offer a bit of volunteer time to help the conference run smoothly.

The plenary speakers for this year's conference are **John J. Contreni** of Purdue University and **Maureen Miller** of the University of California, Berkeley. Additional information on the Symposium, including events, activities, and exhibitions, can be found at smrs-slu.org.

Other Events in February!

- **February 15:** The Crusades Studies Forum will meet to discuss the article by Christopher MacEvitt, "What was Crusader about the Crusader States?" *Al-Masaq* 30 (2018): 317-30. The discussion will take place at 3:00 pm in the CMRS Seminar Room, Third Floor, Adorjan Hall.
- **February 22: Meg Smith**, doctoral candidate in History, will deliver a lecture entitled "Doubtful Chieftains: Contested Authority in Fifteenth-Century Cork." The lecture will take place at 3:00 pm in Adorjan Hall 142.
- **February 28: William Wallace**, Distinguished Professor of Art History at Washington University, will deliver a lecture entitled "The Sistine Chapel: 507 Years." The lecture will take place at 4:00 pm in

Anheuser Busch Auditorium of the Chaifetz School of Business.

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