

Spring/Summer 2020



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THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

Desert Harvest

THE DIVISION FOR LATE MEDIEVAL AND REFORMATION STUDIES

"... the premier place for Reformation studies" —Lyndal Roper, Regius Professor of Modern History, University of Oxford

[To see the *Desert Harvest* newsletter as a pdf, please click here.](#)

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Celebrating — and then Going into Lockdown

by Ute Lotz-Heumann, Director and Heiko A. Oberman Professor



As I write this, four months have passed since the Division for Late Medieval and Reformation Studies celebrated its thirtieth anniversary on January 22. More than 80 guests gathered at the famed Arizona Inn here in Tucson. Five graduate students currently in residence, Kaitlyn Centini, Christine Liou, Hannah McClain, Dean Messinger, and Benjamin Miller, presented displays of their research projects. Dean JP Jones, Director Emerita Susan Karant-Nunn, Chair of the Advisory Board Jennifer Lee Carrell, and I delivered remarks. We had good food, great conversations, and a wonderful time. We are grateful to Lori Harwood, the Director of External Relations in the College of SBS, for permission to reprint her [article](#) about our thirtieth anniversary event below.

Barely a month later, on February 21, we celebrated again, but with decidedly mixed feelings. Luise Betterton retired from her position as Assistant Director after almost thirty years in the Division. Most of you will not be surprised to learn that Luise did not want us to throw a big party, so Professor Beth Plummer (via Zoom) and I gathered with many of the current graduate students in the Division offices to celebrate her innumerable achievements and wish her the very best.

Together with Director Susan Karant-Nunn, Luise was instrumental in the Division's fundraising efforts, especially for its two endowed chairs, the Heiko A. Oberman Chair in Late Medieval and Reformation History and the Susan C. Karant-Nunn Chair in Reformation and Early Modern History. In recent years, Beth and I had the pleasure of working closely with Luise as we embarked on the next phase of the Division's history. We deeply appreciated her assistance and came to understand Luise's invaluable contributions to all aspects of the Division's activities. We cannot overstate her tireless work and accomplishments in fundraising, community engagement, administration, and even teaching French to our graduate students. Please read Susan Karant-Nunn's *laudatio* for Luise below.

Thirty years — that's a generation! Historians, who obviously study time, have only recently begun to think about how time can be both an objective measure and a perception deeply influenced by how people experience the world around them. You probably have seen jokes and memes in your social media accounts that speak to how our perception of time during this pandemic is somehow different now - warped, if you will. Thus, the answer to the simple question, "what day of the week is it?," has become more tentative and less

automatic lockdown. Generations also are an important time frame historians consider. What does a new generation do and see differently than the previous one? What does it mean for collective memory when the members of the generation that experienced an event first-hand are no longer present? What is the difference between writing history from oral testimonies versus written records?

It feels like the events in January and February happened a lifetime ago — another twist in our perception of time. Since then, the University of Arizona closed its campus and moved all instruction online for the rest of the spring semester. Our two Fulbright fellows, Annie Morphew and Rachel Small, had to leave Germany in mid-March and return home. Beth Plummer remains in Germany, ironically teaching remotely at Hamburg University from her apartment in Wolfenbüttel. Unfortunately, none of our graduate students will be able to go to the archives in Europe this summer. Despite our personal perceptions that time has stood still, sped up, or is out of sync, we know that it continues to move forward and so must we. All the students still need to lay their hands on primary sources to do their research, write their dissertations and theses, and prepare to write grants. In this difficult situation, we are more grateful than ever that we have endowments to support our graduate students. We can help them defray the cost of obtaining digital copies of their archival sources — an often considerable expense — and keep them moving forward in their studies. A big thank-you to all of you who have contributed to these funds!

As we were thinking about the contents of this newsletter, our first electronic one, we felt that bringing you news about our recent celebrations would be preferable to adding to the reflections about the pandemic. If you are interested in a historical perspective on early modern epidemics, consider reading [my recent article on the English diarist Samuel Pepys in *The Conversation*](#) or listening to the [video lecture by alumnus Robert Christman](#), Professor of History at Luther College. For an amusing reaction to the present realities of suddenly teaching courses online, see this [video by alumnus Michael Bruening](#), Professor of History and Political Science at Missouri University of Science and Technology. In the meantime, as we look to the future, do check our [website](#) or our [Facebook page](#) over the summer for news about upcoming events on our 2020 theme, The Early Modern Atlantic World.

We hope to see you all again soon, but in the meantime, please stay connected electronically. And please stay safe and healthy!

Postscript in early June: This column was written in late May, when Covid-19 dominated the news. The death of George Floyd, the resulting nation-wide protests against systemic racism, and the

question of what actions need to be taken, are now at the forefront of our national debate. As historians, we are painfully aware that racism, in its many forms and often with different names, has existed for a very long time. And although we know that historical change, especially change for the better, is often slow, we also know that it *does* happen, and we are hopeful that this is one of those moments of change.

The Division for Late Medieval and Reformation Studies Celebrates 30 Years of Excellence

Click on button below to view Lori Harwood's article.

[DLMRS Celebrates 30 Years of Excellence](#)



Jennifer Lee Carrell, Chair of the Board of Advisors, and Benjamin Miller, doctoral student



Toetie Oberman and JP Jones, Don Bennett Moon Endowed Dean of the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences



From left to right: Susan Karant-Nunn, Director Emerita and Regents Professor Emerita; Beth Plummer, Susan C. Karant-Nunn Professor of Reformation and Early Modern History; Luise Betterton, Assistant Director;

Three Cheers for Luise!

by Susan C. Karant-Nunn, Director Emerita and Regents Professor Emerita

Luise Betterton retired from her career at the University of Arizona on February 21. Her title at that time was Assistant Director of the Division for Late Medieval and Reformation Studies. I am glad that I retired before her, for I could not have borne to see her walk out that door on the third floor of the Douglass Building for the last time. Without Luise's unstinting labors alongside me at other necessary tasks, I could never have found the time to write articles and books. Without her advice and full partnership in fund-raising, we would never have reached the \$2 million mark required for the Heiko A. Oberman Endowed Chair in Late Medieval and Reformation History. Without her watchful guidance of graduate students, they might have wandered in the University wilderness. Without her mastery of the French language, our students would have been without the requisite reading skills in that language during several years when the pertinent language department did not offer French Reading. Without her alertness to trends and personnel within the University, the Division might have missed out on funding opportunities. Without ... without ... without Luise brought far more skills and traits of character to her work than her most advanced job description listed. Her compensation ought to have surpassed my own as Director. I insisted to her that, to my mind, she "volunteered half-time." She won at least two awards for staff excellence, but these were more symbolic than monetary.

As a person of ranging interests, Luise richly deserves many years to pursue literature, theater, art history, Lewis and Clark's trek, and all the other activities that she sacrificed in her devotion to the Division. She values her friends, in Arizona and throughout the world, and she will likely expend more attention on them.

I first met Luise in September 1990, just as she was about to begin collaborating with Heiko Oberman, at an international conference hosted at the UA on the subject of anticlericalism. She worked with Oberman for 11 years, until his death in 2001, and then stayed on to facilitate the Division's transition to a very different leadership. She and I labored hard to fulfill the terms of Oberman's will, according

to which his rare-book collection would come to the UA if a chair were endowed in the subject matter that he had specialized in. We attained our goal in 2010. And still Luise stayed on. She proved to be a core figure in the Division, one to whom, our current students aside, Division alumni and colleagues elsewhere were drawn. She symbolized the ongoing and stable program of the DLMRS.

Some of you will remember from the luncheon in her honor five years ago, or from my “Desert Harvest” column of April 2015, that Maria Luisa Paola Rosa Borra Betterton is a native of Southern Rhodesia, today Zimbabwe. She enjoyed a first-class education, which included an introduction to Italian (the language of her ancestors), Latin, French, German, and Afrikaans. She took a degree in French and Psychology at the University of Natal in Durban, South Africa. When life in Rhodesia and South Africa became ethically insupportable, she and her husband, UA Distinguished University Professor Eric Betterton, took an opportunity for him to hold a post-doctoral fellowship at the California Institute of Technology. In 1988, he proceeded to a faculty position in Atmospheric Sciences at the UA. The couple found a house to their liking. Luise studied Management Information Systems, Marketing, and Business Law at UA. Notwithstanding these professional inclinations, Luise applied for the vacancy in the Division and won it. She has remained for nearly 30 years.

Luise is a member of the Division’s Board of Advisors. One of her functions at our annual meetings has been to render a financial report. Henceforward, this will be someone else’s task. The numbers on the ledger have been quite impressive. I wish once again to bear witness to Luise’s indispensable role in attracting monetary (and floral!) gifts. Some of our donors were drawn by *her* charm. They felt confident of the security of their largesse because she was overseeing its use. And, of course, they liked her British Commonwealth accent! She and I strove in harmony for 16 years. I thank her for her partnership in all the Division’s undertakings and for her friendship. May she live long and prosper!



*From left to right: Beth Plummer, Susan C. Karant-Nunn Professor of Reformation and Early Modern History (on computer screen); Rachel Small, doctoral student (on computer screen); Kaitlyn Centini, master's student; Dean Messinger, master's student; Benjamin Miller, doctoral student; **Luise Betterton, Assistant Director (Ret.) and Member of the Board of Advisors**; Hannah McClain, master's student; Christine Liou, doctoral student; Ute Lotz-Heumann, Director and Heiko A. Oberman Professor of Late Medieval and Reformation History; Emily Greenfeld, student worker spring 2020*

Congratulations To

Dr. Kristen Coan Howard on successfully defending her dissertation! Kristen's doctoral thesis is entitled "A House Dedicated to God": Social Welfare and the General Hospital in Reformation Geneva, 1535-1564. The picture below was taken at the end of Kristen's virtual defense via Zoom on May 7.



Clockwise from top left: Professor Beth Plummer, Professor Ute Lotz-Heumann, Professor Susan Karant-Nunn, Professor Paul Milliman, Dr. Kristen

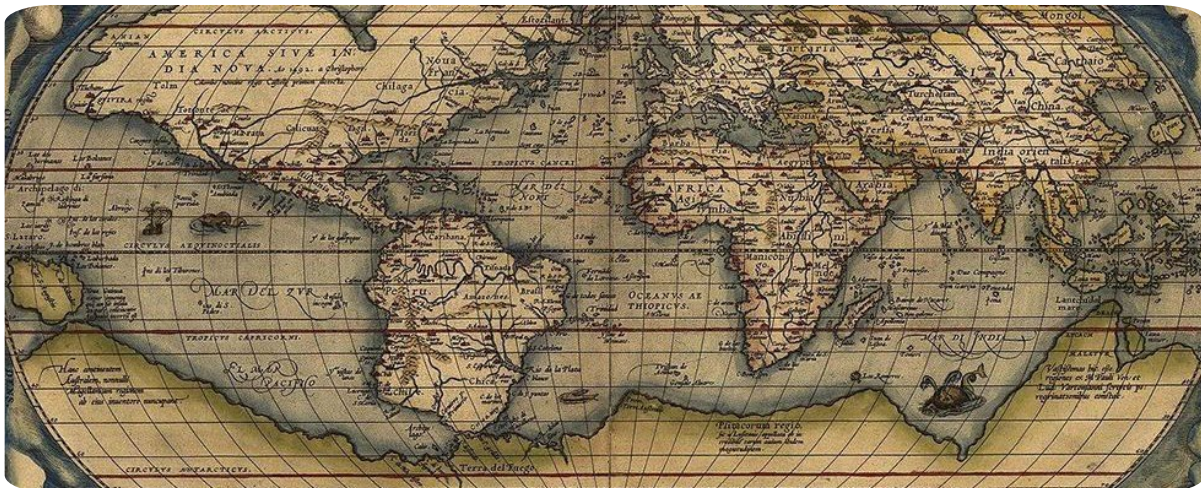
Howard.

Hannah McClain on successfully completing her Master's degree! Hannah's MA thesis is entitled "Within and Without His Religion": The Formation of the Colonial Mexican Jesuits, 1600-1650. The picture below was taken at the end of Hannah's virtual oral exam via Zoom on May 5.



Clockwise from top left: Professor Beth Plummer, Professor Ute Lotz-Heumann, Hannah McClain, Professor Kevin Gosner

Announcements



The Division for Late Medieval and Reformation Studies' 2020 annual theme is The Early Modern Atlantic World.

Please stay tuned for our annual events, the Summer Lecture Series at St. Philip's in the Hills Episcopal Church in August and the Town and Gown Lecture with Professor Stuart Schwarz, scheduled for October 20.

More information will be forthcoming as the COVID-19 situation develops.

Please visit <https://dlmrs.arizona.edu> or facebook.com/UAdlmrs for updates.

Division News

Faculty

Pia F. Cuneo, Professor of Art History and DLMRS associated faculty, took two month-long research trips (June and October 2019) to the Duke August Library in Wolfenbüttel, Germany, to work on an essay on the interconnected influence of obscene humor, confessional conflict, and the culture of horses on three woodcuts (dated 1534) by the German artist Hans Baldung Grien. She also had an article published, "The Reformation of Riding: Protestant Identity and Horsemanship at North German Courts," in *The Court Historian*, 24/3 (2019): 235-249.

David Graizbord, Associate Director of The Arizona Center for Judaic Studies, Professor of Judaic Studies, and DLMRS associated faculty, published three articles: "Men and Women of the Nation: How The Inquisition's Conversos Defined Modern Jewish Identity," in *Tablet Magazine* (19 August 2019); "The Fracturing of Jewish Identity in the Early Modern Jewish Diaspora: The Case of Judeoconversos," in *Paths to Modernity: A Tribute to Yosef Kaplan*, edited by Avriel Bar-Levav, Claude B. Stuczynski, and Michael Heyd (Jerusalem: Shazar, 2019), 85-120; and "A Crisis of Judeoconverso Identity and Its Echoes, 1391-Present," in *Religious Changes and Cultural Transformations in the Early Modern Western Sephardi Communities*, edited by Yosef Kaplan (Leiden: Brill, 2019), 3-21. He was also mentioned in the press: *The New Zionists: Young American Jews, Jewish National Identity, and Israel* (Lanham, Md.: Lexington Books, 2020). Professor Graizbord served as commentator in a panel on "New Explorations in the Sephardi Atlantic: Faith, Identity, Money, and Society" at the annual meeting of the Association for Jewish Studies in San Diego, 17 December 2019, and gave a public talk entitled, "New Christians and the Romance of Convivencia: History versus Memory" for the Middle East and North African Studies Colloquium Series, Center for Middle Eastern Studies, University of Arizona, 4 October 2019. He lead the Division Seminar on "The Early Modern Iberian Atlantic" in the spring

of 2020.

Susan Karant-Nunn, Emerita Director and Regents Professor Emerita of History, recently published an article, "English and German Sister Reformations: Similarities and Differences in Clerical Advice for the Sexes, Marriage, and the Household," in *Sister Reformations III: Schwesterreformationen III*, edited by Dorothea Wendebourg, Euan Cameron, and Martin Ohst (Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2020), 161-179.

Ute Lotz-Heumann, Director and Heiko A. Oberman Professor, published a chapter, "The Politics of the Emperors," in *John Calvin in Context*, edited by R. Ward Holder (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2020), 131-138. On 24 April 2020, she saw the publication of "Diary of Samuel Pepys shows how life under the bubonic plague mirrored today's pandemic," in *The Conversation*. This article was read more than 150,000 times, and was republished by at least 25 news outlets, among others The San Francisco Chronicle, Business Insider, News Republic, and The Times of Israel. She was invited to participate in a research network on "Europe's Short Peace," organized by Noah Millstone and Nicholas Hardy and sponsored by the Arts and Humanities Research Council of the United Kingdom.

Beth Plummer, Susan C. Karant-Nunn Professor, co-authored an article with B. Ann Tlusty (Bucknell University) entitled "Catholic-Protestant Coexistence," in *A Companion to Late Medieval and Early Modern Augsburg*, edited by B. Ann Tlusty and Mark Häberlein (Leiden: Brill, 2020), 247-270. She also gave an invited talk, "Abbess Margarethe von Watzdorf and her Convent: What a Convent Inventory Reveals About Convent Reform and Devotional Life during the Sixteenth-Century German Reformation", as the speaker for the Mary Martin McLaughlin Memorial Lecture, The Medieval and Renaissance Studies Program, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, 29 January 2020. Professor Plummer is acting as Visiting Professor for the Research Training Group "Interconfessionality in the Early Modern Period," at the University of Hamburg, Germany, for the spring/summer semester. She was also elected as president of Frühe Neuzeit Interdisziplinär (FNI), The Conference Group for Interdisciplinary Early Modern German Studies.

She together with Ute Lotz-Heumann will be coordinating and hosting the 2022 FNI conference, on the topic of "Shared Spaces: Cultural and Spatial Interactions within and beyond German-Speaking Europe," to be held in Tucson on the University of Arizona campus.

Graduate Students

Kaitlyn Centini, master's student, was accepted into the French Paleography Workshop at the H. Henry Meeter Center for Calvin Studies at Calvin University in Grand Rapids, MI, to be held in July

2021.

Christine Liou, doctoral student, won a University of Arizona Graduate and Professional Student Council grant and an Elizabeth Lantin Ramenofsky Graduate Fellowship from the University of Arizona Department of History.

Dean Messinger, master's student, won three University of Arizona awards, a Graduate and Professional Student Council grant, an Elizabeth Lantin Ramenofsky Graduate Fellowship, and a John P. Rockfellow Scholarship from the Department of History.

Benjamin Miller, doctoral student, won three prestigious awards to do dissertation research in Germany, a Fulbright, a DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service) fellowship, and a Central European History Society grant. He also won two awards at the University of Arizona, a Graduate and Professional Student Council grant and a Sybil Ellingwood Pierce Fellowship from the Department of History.

Annie Morphew, doctoral student and 2019/20 Fulbright Fellow, won an Edwin S. Turville Fellowship from the University of Arizona Department of History.

Rachel Small, doctoral student and 2019/20 Fulbright Fellow, won a John P. Rockfellow Scholarship from the University of Arizona Department of History.

Alumni

Robert J. Christman (Ph.D. 2004), Professor of History at Luther College in Decorah, Iowa, recently published a book with Amsterdam University Press, *The Dynamics of the Early Reformation in their Reformed Augustinian Context*.

Adam Duker (M.A. 2009; Ph.D. University of Notre Dame, 2016), has accepted a Research Associate position at the University of Waikato in New Zealand.

Lizzy Ellis-Marino (Ph.D. 2015) and her husband, Pat Connolly, welcomed their first child, a daughter, Julia Argentina Marino-Connolly, on 28 April 2020.

Kristen Coan Howard (Ph.D. 2020) was awarded a Graduate Student Travel Award from the Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies. She also gave a presentation, titled "The Great Scandal: Death, Plague, and Conspiracy in Sixteenth-Century Geneva," at the McGill-Queen's Annual Graduate History Conference at McGill University on 13 March 2020.

Marjory Lange (Ph.D. 1993, English major, History minor), Professor of English/Humanities in the Division of Humanities at Western Oregon University, is working on the introduction to the next volume of translations of sermons of Aelred of Rievaulx, to be published by Cistercian Studies and edited by Marsha Dutton.

Tod Meinke (M.A. 2008) has received a work promotion and is now the Database Department Head at Kelmar Associates.

Jonathan A. Reid (Ph.D. 2001), Associate Professor of Renaissance and Reformation History and Director of Medieval and Renaissance Studies Program at East Carolina University in Greenville, North Carolina, has authored two chapters: "The Meaux Group and John Calvin," in *Calvin and the Early Reformation*, edited by Brian Brewer and David Whitford (Leiden: Brill, 2019), 58-95, and "French Religious Politics," in *John Calvin in Context*, edited by R. Ward Holder (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2019), 41-48.

Semi-Annual Newsletter of the Division for Late Medieval and Reformation Studies

- Founded in 1989 by Heiko A. Oberman (1930-2001), Regents' Professor of History
 - Director Emerita and Regents' Professor Emerita of History, Susan C. Karant-Nunn
 - Director and Heiko A. Oberman Professor, Ute-Lotz-Heumann
 - Susan C Karant-Nunn Professor, Beth Plummer
-

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