

Fall/Winter 2021



VOL 29, NO 2

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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Paging Through the Past while Looking to the Future

By Beth Plummer, Susan C. Karant-Nunn Professor and Acting Director



Once again, here in the Division, we have finished yet another unusual and stressful semester. 2021 has not been a kind year to any of us. We all had such high hopes at the end of 2020 that 2021 would be significantly better than the previous year. From January onward, 2021 has repeatedly demonstrated how misplaced our sudden improvement expectations were.

I certainly have faced many challenges over the last six months. On June 3, I tripped on a small stone while taking out my recycling and ended up with a “terrible triad” break to my elbow. I was

in surgery within two hours, spent a week in the hospital, and months in physical therapy; only now am I finally able to do what used to be such simple tasks, like touching my ear, putting up my hair, or typing. I had another surprise as I prepared to return to Tucson in July to serve as acting director during Ute Lotz-Heumann's sabbatical. I learned that someone using the pseudonym A[lonso] Espinosa, the Jesuit who oversaw the building of the first church structure at the mission at San Xavier del Bac located south of Tucson, had submitted a public records request. The requestor accused the Division, especially Heiko Oberman, of fostering anti-Catholicism.

My first response was to laugh because the person obviously knew little about Reformation Studies, Heiko Oberman, all of us in the Division, or, frankly, me. For all we research, analyze and investigate early modern religion, we do not discuss our personal beliefs or faith communities, if we have them, at least not in the Division. Past and present, we have included Catholic, Protestant, non-Christian, non-religious, religious, non-theists among our members. Some, like me, are a product of all those things as my family has consistently married across denominational lines for centuries.

More important, however, is what we all research and teach. Reformation Studies is about understanding how religious plurality emerged from theological disagreements and exploring those differences' intellectual, spiritual, social, and political implications. It is also about studying where those differences led to accommodation, interconfessionality, ecumenicism, irenicism, and reconciliation.

In my opinion, Heiko Oberman's fundamental contribution to the field was to emphasize the continuity with the medieval past as vital to understanding how both of those developments—prejudice and acceptance—occurred. In other words, he argued that a Reformation scholar must know about the medieval church and religious practice, and learn Latin to do so, before one could ever begin to understand the splintering of western Christianity and the simultaneous development of the boundaries and accommodations between diverse faith groups.

Regardless of the monumental misunderstanding of our academic mission and research that prompted it, my job over the last semester has been reading through the thirty-one file drawers of departmental records to provide the requested evidence of anti-Catholicism and Protestant church affiliation. As I expected, there was not anything that even looked vaguely anti-Catholic or overtly Protestant. Our donors, friends, and colleagues are as mixed as we are, and support has come from all directions through the years. I even found two lovely letters from the Bishop of Tucson wishing Oberman well on his efforts.

As I read thousands of pages that effectively chronicled the history of the Division, I discovered something that the pseudo-Espinosa may never understand. The advisory board and fundraising committee meetings recorded the emergence of Heiko Oberman's vision of the Division after he arrived in Tucson. The many memos and exchanges with three decades of deans, provosts, presidents, and other administrators chronicled the constant shortfalls of funds for education in Arizona but the promises of support for a valuable, respected program they admired. The letters and thank-you notes to and from hundreds of donors show the personal engagement and intellectual exchanges between them, including many of you reading this newsletter, and the faculty and students in the Division. The continued efforts of its directors, Oberman, Susan Karant-Nunn, and then Ute Lotz-Heumann together with Assistant Director emerita Luise

Betterton, have built the Division and entrenched it in the community through the Town and Gown Lectures, the Summer Lecture Series, and other community lectures, where they found a receptive audience. Finally, the paperwork, fellowships, and jobs attest to the stages of the careers of many graduate students—27 PhDs, 13 terminal MAs—as they progressed from applicants to alumni. In other words, I found the history of a community that emerged from a dream of what could be built in the desert where no one would imagine such an institution would ever thrive. Father Espinosa and his successors would have recognized and empathized with the challenges in realizing such a vision.

What I initially dreaded, I began to look forward to as I learned more about the Division during what I came to call my “History of the Division Mondays.” I certainly thought I knew about the Division when I took the job in 2017. Even after four years of working here, I only knew a fraction of the accomplishments of the Division, individually and collectively. However, paging through these records made me appreciate and understand the struggle of my predecessors in building the Division, the setbacks they had, the challenges they faced, and the grace with which they met those challenges over the last thirty years as they looked to the future.

As I shut the final drawer two weeks ago, it was with hope for the future. 2022 will not necessarily be better than 2021, but we can make the best of it. We have begun to plan for the future of the Division. I look forward to seeing all of you again soon. Hopefully, we will meet at the Town and Gown Lecture on 2 March 2022 or at the return of the Summer Lecture Series in August as we move optimistically into our fourth decade of building the Division for Late Medieval and Reformation Studies in the desert. Sometimes a foreign institution can blossom in an unexpected location.

My Sabbatical Project

By Ute Lotz-Heumann, Heiko A. Oberman Professor and Director (on sabbatical in 2021-2022)



Here I am on my sabbatical, writing a book on Irish history that does not require me to travel for research. When I proposed this project, I thought I was being overly cautious. At the time, everybody was excited that vaccines were coming. Fall 2021 seemed far away, and the general mood was optimistic – surely, it would all be over by then. Well, the predictions were wrong. Europe is experiencing a fourth wave, worse than ever before—and that was before the Omicron variant has even made its impact felt. I am relieved that I can make use of primary sources that I

collected in the “before times,” and that I do not need to visit a library or archive right now. My overly cautious approach has served me well, it turns out.

In my monograph, tentatively titled *Moments of Reckoning: Print and Propaganda in Early Modern Ireland*, I examine how English-language printed propaganda targeting the colonial elite in Ireland and the British reading public sought to shape the identities and perceptions of these groups. While print was a socially exclusive medium because few people could read, printed propaganda was crucial because it was addressed to the groups whose loyalty the British government needed to secure to rule over Ireland.

Printed propaganda in early modern Ireland was a tool of social, political, religious, and ethnic inclusion and exclusion. It aimed at sustaining long-standing political and racial prejudices toward the native Gaelic Irish and at creating new religious fault lines. I developed the idea for this book in mid-2020 when the political situation in the U.S. and the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic highlighted the role played by media messaging in shaping identities and the perception of truth among different groups in society. You will therefore probably not be surprised to learn that many of the techniques of “othering” that I observe in my Irish sources are not that far removed from what we see on social media today: mocking imagery, derogatory language, and the dehumanization of opponents.

But some of my sources give me hope that, in spite of everything, humans can see and respect each other as humans. Let me therefore end my newsletter column during this holiday season 2021 with a quote from Father Arthur O’Leary, an Irish Capuchin, who in a 1787 pamphlet wrote that he was “no more inclined to quarrel with any person on account of his religion, than to quarrel with him on account of the colour of his clothes.”

I wish you a wonderful holiday season and a happy new year!

Introducing Katy Gross and Erin Tyo

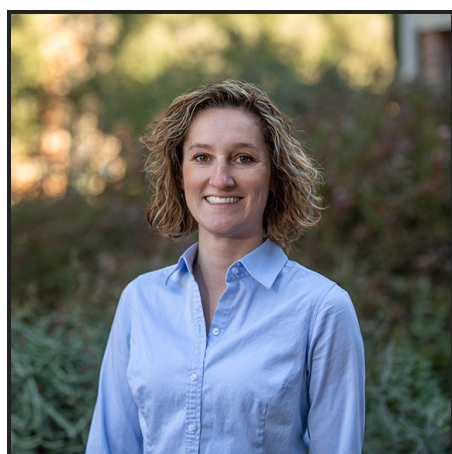
By Abby Gibbons, doctoral student



Many of you may wonder who the new voices and names are when you called the office or got emails or letters from DLMRS over the last six months. Therefore, it is my pleasure to introduce our new Program Coordinator Katy Gross and Business Manager Erin Tyo.

Katy joined the Division over the summer. In addition, she is also serving as Program Coordinator for SBS Centers, Initiatives and Transdisciplinary Programs, Gender and Women's Studies, and Mexican American Studies. Originally from Gainesville, Georgia, Katy and her husband moved to Tucson after he received his doctorate in Aerospace Engineering in 2017. Coming to us from Latin American Studies, our new Business Manager Erin joined the Division, History, and Mexican American Studies in November. Erin hails from northern New York. Twelve years ago, she traded the cold weather and winter coats for sunshine and the desert heat when she moved to Tucson to attend the University of Arizona. She has remained in Tucson ever since.

Katy earned her Master's degree in International Relations from Richmond University in London. She maintains an ongoing interest in international organizations and refugee rights. In her current position, she works with students across multiple departments, helps them to register for classes, and fills out appropriate documents. As part of this, she particularly enjoys interacting with people and departments across campus. Katy appreciates the diversity in Tucson, especially the rich influences of Latinx culture. As a self-proclaimed foodie, Katy admires the wide variety of restaurants, diversity of local food, and farmers' markets available in Tucson, especially when the weather cools down. When she is not working, Katy spends most of her time with her toddler, Maddie. Her daughter loves books, and Katy loves to read to her. Beyond this, Katy enjoys reading non-fiction books and fantasy novels in her rare moments of free time.



After earning a B.A. degree in Public Health, Erin looked for work in statistics, which sparked her interest in the field of finance. She soon also discovered her skill and enjoyment in budgeting and accounting. She has been part of the College of Social and Behavior Sciences for the past several years. Her work in the Division focuses on the management of budgets, including the Foundation and gift accounts. When not crunching numbers, Erin goes rock climbing, hangs out with her three adorable dogs, plays soccer, or reads historical fiction. She wants our readers to know that she is incredibly excited to work with the Division for Late Medieval and Reformation

Studies and provide support wherever she can.

Welcome to the Division for Late Medieval and Reformation Studies!

Experience of Research in Pandemic

By Benjamin Miller, doctoral student



I remember the conversations spurring my pursuit of a Ph.D. in history. At the time, I knew something of the risks and rewards involved on this path, but no amount of preparation helped me to anticipate doing research during a pandemic. Through the support of the University of Arizona and the DLMRS, I had received a German Academic Exchange Program (DAAD) fellowship for 2020-2021. So, my pregnant wife, our daughter, and I traveled to Germany in late September where I began my dissertation research on early modern military chaplains in the territory of Hesse in the regional archive located in Marburg. The “second wave” of the pandemic, however, hit Germany soon after we arrived, and added the difficulties of lockdown, closures, and disease to the usual challenges of doing research and living in a foreign country. Short-term travel ceased, and the Marburg archive closed around Christmas. At that moment as I imagined the rest of my research year, I expected little to result from my thwarted research endeavors and I feared how my family would fare in a lockdown.

Looking back, I cannot pinpoint the moment when things started getting brighter, but slowly they did. The university library was one of the few research institutions that had remained open. With the help of one of my sponsors at the University of Marburg, Professor Schmidt-Voges, I was able to work there while the archive remained closed. When the archive finally reopened, I spent my days photographing every archival source related to my topic I could find in Marburg. By the time we returned to the United States, I had digitized over 10,000 pages of original documents, which have proved to be more than enough for my dissertation. In addition, the Central European History Society (CEHS) kindly allowed me to repurpose a travel grant for comparative research in other archives to funding for purchasing digitized documents from archives from over northern Europe I had been unable to visit. Finally, my son was born healthy and strong at a midwifery and birthing house in Marburg at little cost to us, thanks to the generous coverage of our DAAD family insurance.

How did this story turn around? In the same ways that enabled early modern Europeans to live, achieve, and thrive in a world full of uncertainties. Relationships were key to our integration and survival in Marburg. My sponsoring professors and the church congregation we joined watched out for us on both scholarly and personal levels. It was the same at the Marburg archive: once I got to know the archivists, they helped me navigate both the archive and the pandemic-related

security measures. Flexibility also helped, whether it was working in the university library when the archive closed, or the repurposing of the CEHS travel grant. Finally, technology, whether the ability for online meetings or the camera that enabled me to capitalize on my shortened time in the archive, made my success possible. All in all, I wouldn't trade these experiences, which I know have made me a better historian, for anything. Indeed, looking back, I cannot imagine a better result for my dissertation research trip, pandemic or no pandemic.

Announcement

35th Annual Town and Gown Lecture

(Rescheduled)

“Cruel and Inhuman: The Nineteenth-Century Invention of the Gothic Executioner”

Professor Joel F. Harrington

Centennial Professor of History at Vanderbilt University



All of us are familiar with the sinister figure of the medieval executioner: a sadistic, hooded implementer of spectacularly cruel executions and other punishments before a cheering, bloodthirsty crowd of spectators. This image, however—like many of our contemporary ideas about the Middle Ages—is largely the product of nineteenth-century imaginations. In this lecture, the author of an acclaimed study of an actual sixteenth-century German executioner (based on a private journal covering his forty-five years of work in the profession), describes how later legal reformers and Gothic novelists methodically constructed a stereotype that served their respective purposes but grossly distorted historical reality in the process. In exploring the resulting gap between the European executioner of the distant past and his nineteenth-century incarnation, we learn much about not only the fears and hopes of those eras but also our own contemporary notions of justice and social progress.



When: Wednesday, 2 March 2022, 7 p.m.

Where: S107, ENR2, 1064 E. Lowell St, University of Arizona

Parking available next door at the Sixth Street Garage

Division News

Faculty

David Graizbord, Associate Professor of Judaic Studies, Associate Director of The Arizona Center for Judaic Studies, and associated Division faculty, published “Commercial Practices by New Christian/Jewish Groups and Their Sense of ‘Cultural Identity’, ‘Loyalties’ and ‘Belonging’,” in *Merchant Cultures: A Global Approach to Spaces, Representations and Worlds of Trade, 1500-1800*, eds. Cátia Antunes and Francisco Bethencourt (Leiden: Brill), 42-51. David's book, *The New Zionists: Young American Jews, Jewish National Identity, and Israel* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2020), was issued in paperback in November 2021, and was recommended by [JewishInsider.com](https://www.jewishinsider.com) as a “Top Ten” pick for Books published in December. David and Claude Stuczynski (Bar-Ilan University) were granted a Fellowship to the Israel Institute of Advanced Studies. In 2022-23, Stuczynski and David will head an international Research Group “[New Christian and New Jewish Discourses of Identity Between Polemics and Apologetics: Rhetoric and Representation from the Late Middle Ages to the End of the Early Modern Period.](#)” David also designed and taught a new, online, graduate mini-course, Jews and Jewish Cultures in the Middle Ages, for the Spertus Institute of Jewish Studies in Chicago, IL. On 1 December 2021, David was hosted by the Judaic Studies program and the student group, Students Supporting Israel (SSI), at Loyola-Marymount University in Los Angeles. There he gave a talk, entitled “Zionism and Anti-Zionism amongst Millennials and Generation Z in the U.S.,” based on his second book.

Ute Lotz-Heumann, Director (on sabbatical) and Heiko A. Oberman Professor, saw the publication of her book, *The German Spa in the Long Eighteenth Century: A Cultural History* (Routledge). She also published an article entitled “Kurorte vom 16. bis zum 19. Jahrhundert” (“Spas from the 16th to the 19th Centuries”) in the online encyclopedia *Europäische Geschichte Online (European History Online)*, by the Leibniz Institute of European History in Mainz,

Germany (<http://www.ieg-ego.eu/lotzheumannu-2021-de>).

Chris Lukinbeal, Professor, School of Geography & Development, Director of GIST Programs, and Division affiliated faculty, was awarded the Association of Geographers Distinguished Service Award.

Paul Milliman, Associate Professor, Department of History, and Division affiliated faculty, spent part of the summer as a Title VIII Short-Term Scholar at the Kennan Institute at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. You can read his interview [here](#). Paul published “Decline and Fall of Spectacle” in *The Oxford Handbook of Sport and Spectacle in the Ancient World*, eds. Alison Futrell and Thomas Scanlon (Oxford University Press, 2021). Paul was awarded the inaugural UA Undergraduate Research Partnership Faculty Challenge Grant: Increasing Access to Undergraduate Research. Paul is also the co-creator of the University of Arizona Enhanced Experience for Age of Empires IV, which awards University of Arizona credit for gamer historians. Visit the [website](#) for more information.

Beth Plummer, Acting Director and Susan C. Karant-Nunn Professor, published “*Nyemant zum glauben zu dringen ist: Nonnen und ihre Entscheidungsprozesse in der frühen Reformation in Sachsen, 1521-1560*” (*No One Should be Forced to Believe: Nuns and Their Decision-Making Processes during the Early Reformation in Saxony, 1521-1560*), in *Über Religion entscheiden: Religiöse Optionen und Alternativen in der mittelalterlichen und frühneuzeitlichen Christenheit* (Choosing My Religion: Religious Options and Alternatives in Medieval and Early Modern Christianity), eds. Matthias Pohlig and Sita Steckel (Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2021), 113-133. She presented a paper, “Trouble in Paradise: Monastic Reform in Mixed Confessional Convents in the Seventeenth Century,” at a digital workshop, “Gotteshäuser? Monastische Reform(ation) und ihr Nachleben,” (Houses of God? Monastic Reform(ation) and its Afterlife) at the University of Hamburg, 12-13 November 2021. She also successfully made it back to Tucson despite Covid-19 and a broken elbow.

Graduate Students

Benjamin Miller, doctoral student, completed 10 months of archival research in Marburg, Germany for his dissertation. While there, he, Heidi, and daughter Charity welcomed the arrival of Edmund to their family on 1 July. Ben presented a paper titled, “Congregations on the March: The Disruptions of Military Chaplains and Their Congregations in Mixed Confessional Communities in Hesse-Kassel,” at the annual meeting of the Sixteenth Century Society & Conference (SCSC) held 28-31 October 2021 in San Diego, CA.

Rachel Small, doctoral student, had her paper, “From the Ashes: Exploring the Intersections of Gender and Natural Disasters in 16th-Century Gandersheim,” accepted for a session at the German Studies Association Conference in Indianapolis, IN. It was presented in her absence by Dr. Mary Lindemann on 2 October 2021.

Alumni

Robert Bast, Associate Professor of History at the University of Tennessee Knoxville, participated in a panel, “Plague, Disaster, and Civil War: Pastors, Prophets, and Preaching in Times of Crisis,” organized by Jonathan Reid (see below) and sponsored by the Society for Reformation

Research at the SCSC with several DLMRS alumni, including Sigrun Haude (chair), John Frymire (see below), and Jonathan Reid. Bast presented a paper titled “Pluralism as Crisis: Matthias Kretz and Catholic Response to the Early Reformation in Augsburg.”

Michael Bruening was promoted to Full Professor of History and Political Science at Missouri University of Science and Technology. He presented a paper, “Charles Du Moulin’s ‘Conversions’ and the Fluidity of Early Modern French Religious Identity” at the SCSC. He also published two book chapters, “Ulrich Zwingli and the Pays de Vaud,” in *Die Zürcher Reformation in Europa*, eds. Ariane Albisser and Peter Opitz (Theologischer Verlag, 2021) and “Guillaume Farel et les réformateurs de langue allemande: Les origines de la doctrine réformée dans l'espace romand” (Guillaume Farel and the German-speaking Reformers: The Origins of the Reformed Doctrine in the French-speaking World), in *La Construction internationale de la Réforme et l'espace romand à l'époque de Martin Luther*, eds. Daniela Solfaroldi Camillocci, Nicolas Fornerod, Karin Crousaz, and Christian Grosse (Garnier, 2021).

Robert J. Christman, Professor of History, Luther College, won the Gerald Strauss Book Prize, presented by the Sixteenth Century Society Conference for best book on the German Reformation of 2020, for his [*The Dynamics of the Early Reformation in their Reformed Augustinian Context*](#) (Amsterdam University Press).

John M. Frymire, Associate Professor of History and Director of Graduate Studies at the University of Missouri, presented a paper, “The Confessionalization of Disaster Discourse: How Doctrinal Differences Impacted Crisis Preaching in the German Reformation” at the SCSC.

Sigrun Haude, Associate Professor of History at the University of Cincinnati, published her monograph, [*Coping with Life during the Thirty Years' War \(1618-1648\)*](#), in the Brill series Studies in Central European History in August 2021.

Marjory Lange, Professor of English Studies, Western Oregon University, is finishing the introduction to the last volume of *Aelred of Rievaulx: The Liturgical Sermons: The Reading-Cluny Collection 2 of 2* (Liturgical Press), due out next year. She co-authored the introduction to the first Reading-Cluny volume that came out earlier this year.

David Y. Neufeld, Visiting Assistant Professor at the University of Waterloo, presented his paper, “A German Bee in a Swiss Bonnet: Martin Rothkegel and the Figuring of the Swiss Brethren,” at the SCSC.

Jonathan Reid, Associate Professor at East Carolina University, presented his paper, “The Preaching of a Thousand Evangelical Clerics and ‘The Coming of the Wars of Religion in France’ 1520–1562,” at the SCSC.

Erik Leland Saak, Professor at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis, has published his monograph, [*Augustinian Theology in the Later Middle Ages; Volume 1: Concepts, Perspectives, and the Emergence of Augustinian Identity*](#) (Brill, 2022), in the series Studies in the History of the Christian Tradition.

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
 - Acting Director and Susan C. Karant-Nunn Professor, Beth Plummer
-

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Division for Late Medieval and Reformation Studies
College of Social and Behavioral Sciences
The University of Arizona
Douglass Building 315
PO Box 210028
Tucson, AZ 85721
(520) 621-1284

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