

Fall/Winter 2020-21



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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



If you missed our Town and Gown Lecture featuring Professor Stuart Schwartz or our Summer Lecture Series, you can find them on the Division for Late Medieval and Reformation Studies' new YouTube channel [here](#).

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

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We Need Historians More Than Ever!

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



On social media, many of my friends have in the past several months expressed their fascination with the fact that we are living through truly historic times -- we may not particularly enjoy it, but a lot of significant historical events have happened in 2020. And several of my colleagues have commented that 2020 was such an eventful year that a Ph.D. thesis in History was born almost every day, sometimes every minute. I have no doubt that this is true. One can even imagine a Ph.D. advisor a few hundred years from now who will be exasperated by yet another graduate student proposing a topic that deals with the pandemic, political turmoil, or social unrest in 2020. Maybe that advisor will throw up his or her hands, saying to the student, "that year has already been studied so much, try to find a different topic to work on."

It is a truism, but also a well-established historical observation, that crises accelerate change. We do not yet know in which areas of our lives this will become true. Will we mostly work from home? Will virtual conferences and virtual business meetings become the norm? What about the future of online shopping and grocery deliveries -- surely they are here to stay? Or will people be eager to shop in person again once we can all safely leave our homes? Will fewer people live in cities? How will we fly? Will we teach remotely or in person? What we *do* know is that there will be historians to examine these processes and educate future generations about the lessons of history.

There can be no doubt that the Division for Late Medieval and Reformation Studies has experienced accelerated change in 2020. As we reported in our spring/summer 2020 newsletter, Luise Betterton retired from the assistant directorship of the Division in February. We are lucky to have two new staff members, [Anna Walsh as business manager and Cathleen Gearin as administrative associate](#). Beth Plummer and I are grateful to Anna and Cathleen, who are already working with multiple units in the College of SBS, for cheerfully taking on the Division and its many different facets -- from endowment administration and graduate student funding to event organization and social media. Our newsletter, the *Desert Harvest*, now comes to you electronically -- for pandemic, budgetary, and environmental reasons. And, last, but certainly not least, all our 2020 events -- the three summer lectures in cooperation with St. Philip's in the Hills Episcopal Church and the Town and Gown Lecture -- were delivered on Zoom and are now available on our brand-new [YouTube channel](#).

The University of Arizona has also seen accelerated change in 2020. Unfortunately, one of these changes is a growing budget crisis that puts our graduate funding at immediate risk. As you know, the Division has always had a small cohort of incoming graduate students

every year, mostly one student on the M.A. and one on the Ph.D. level. These graduate students have gone on to spread the lessons of history -- as university and college professors, as instructors and administrators in high schools, and in other positions in institutions of learning (see our [list of alumni](#)). We were delighted to again welcome two new students in the fall of 2020, Abby Gibbons and Liliana Mondragon-Morales, whose profiles you can read below. However, our funding from the College of SBS will be reduced in 2021, and we will need to rely on our endowments even more heavily. We therefore hope that you will consider making a gift to one of our endowments to enable us to continue educating the next generation of historians. Under pandemic conditions, donations can be safely and reliably made through the [University of Arizona Foundation website](#). Our current priority is the [Ora DeConcini Martin and Morris Martin Endowment](#) for graduate development.

Thank you for your support of the Division for Late Medieval and Reformation Studies!

We wish you and your families a Happy Holiday Season!

400 Square Feet

by Beth Plummer, Susan C. Karant-Nunn Professor



During my 2019 research leave, I woke up one morning and decided that I had had enough of living in uncomfortable short-term rentals when doing research in Germany. By mid-March, I had rented and moved into a lovely 400-square foot apartment in Wolfenbüttel, where I worked happily while at the Herzog August Bibliothek (HAB), the leading research library for early modernists in Germany. When I returned to Tucson in August, I handed the keys to Rachel and Thomas Small so they could use the apartment while Rachel was doing research at the HAB and regional archives during her Fulbright year.

I had no idea how fortuitous that decision to rent an apartment long-term would be until a year later. Covid-19 regulations established by the University of Arizona and Fulbright in mid-March 2020 meant that Annie Morphey and the Smalls suddenly had to return to the U.S. As Germany went into lockdown the following week, similar regulations in Germany prevented me from moving into the University of Hamburg's guest accommodation during my visiting professorship. As we started the semester online, my Hamburg colleagues were relieved that I could stay in my apartment until I could move to

Hamburg, at the latest in June when we all expected to return to the classroom. As I write this, I still have not made it to Hamburg or back to Arizona.

Living in a small apartment in Wolfenbüttel during a pandemic was unexpected, but it has not been a bad experience. I learned how to use Zoom while teaching my seminar on shared spaces in Hamburg, participated in a class session taught by a colleague in Shanghai via a taped interview, gave my first public talk online, ordered documents from archives closed to the public, finished my book manuscript, and prepared to teach my fall semester courses, and now the spring semester, using the books from the HAB, which started lending books again in May.

While I definitely prefer to teach my classes in a traditional classroom, meet with and advise students face to face, visit archives and libraries on site, and interact in person with my colleagues at the university and at conferences, new technologies made all of these things possible in other forms despite our respective physical distance and isolation. Over the last nine months, I have watched students in my classes make enormous strides in online courses and have been amazed by their willingness to discuss the Reformation with such enthusiasm over Zoom.

Nonetheless, this situation has come with challenges for so many. As I am often reminded living in a town that has endured many other pandemics and working on an article on a sixteenth-century plague, the pandemic will end, but recovery takes considerable patience, resources, and time. As I look ahead, I know that our graduate students will need additional assistance as the Division recovers from this difficult time. The current financial situation and travel restrictions at the University of Arizona have forced all Division students to delay plans for language study and master's thesis, pre-dissertation, and dissertation research. We also remain uncertain whether we can admit new students or move forward on our Division research projects.

We in the Division are fortunate in all the support and gifts you have given us. It has meant that we have been able to assist our students in the absence of other funding; and we hope to continue to do so as we plan for the future.

**34th Annual Town and Gown Lecture:
"Mala Sangre: Religion and Race in
Colonial Latin America"**

by Dean Messinger, master's student

After almost a year of difficulties caused by Covid-19, it was a refreshing opportunity for us here in the Division to host our first online Town and Gown Lecture on October 18th, 2020. Gracing our

computer screens for our yearly event was Stuart Schwartz, the George Burton Adams Professor of History at Yale University, who presented an engaging lecture entitled "Mala Sangre: Religion and Race in Colonial Latin America." Engaging with the Division's 2020 theme, the early modern Atlantic world, Professor Schwartz's lecture took us from Europe to the Americas and back again, tracing developments in religious and racial categorization and the experience of minorities and people of mixed descent in the Atlantic world.

Historicizing concepts of race and identity, Professor Schwartz's lecture focused on how the movements of peoples across the Atlantic and the coexistence of African, American, and European peoples in the empires of Spain and Portugal produced a new colonial hierarchy distinct from medieval precedents that was based on cultural, social, and physical characteristics. In his lecture, he described how this order came into being and how it changed over time to explain how the new colonial hierarchy became one based on phenotype, or race, rather than religious affiliation or ethnic origin.

To explore this changing hierarchy, Professor Schwartz focused on three groups in the early modern Atlantic who were marked by their mixed lineage and minority status: Moriscos, or Muslim converts to Christianity; Conversos, or Jewish converts to Christianity; and Mestizos, or people of mixed Indigenous American and European descent. These three groups, who were often marked by flexible identities, he argued, defined the peculiarities of this Atlantic hierarchy in part by challenging it with their very existence.

Essential to the social hierarchy of the Atlantic was the concept of Mala Sangre, or "bad blood." Originating in late medieval Iberia, Mala Sangre explains how Iberians viewed the transference of moral, ethical, physical, and personal qualities through bloodlines or lineages. Using this concept, Iberians excluded newly converted Moriscos and Conversos, and most importantly their descendents, from society since their relation to Islam and Judaism was carried in their blood and not wiped clean by baptism or conversion.

This understanding of "bad blood" was then brought to the Americas, where colonial powers used it as the basic criteria to categorize mixed populations. In the Americas, Mala Sangre gained renewed importance as people of mixed European, American, and African descent became more common and challenged the existing social categories. Finally, Professor Schwartz argued that the combination of ideas of Mala Sangre with the diversity of the Atlantic world, in particular the large-scale importation of African slaves, helped lead to the creation of modern conceptions of race as defined by lineage, color, and phenotype.

We in the Division would also like to specially thank Professor Schwartz for taking time to visit our Division Seminar class, where he shared his fascinating experiences as a researcher in Europe and Brazil and answered our questions about the Atlantic world.

Introducing Abby Gibbons, M.A. University of Alabama



by Rachel Davis Small

The Division is delighted to introduce our newest Ph.D. student, Abby Gibbons! Abby received her M.A. in early modern history from the University of Alabama. Her master's thesis analyzed the writings of Desiderius Erasmus and Martin Luther on the topic of women's roles in society.

As a child, Abby's parents cultivated her love for researching historical topics, eventually leading her to pursue a bachelor's degree in History at Columbus State University in Georgia. She began her collegiate career planning to attend Law School. However, after taking a course in early modern history and studying abroad at Oxford University in England, Abby discovered her passion for the Reformation era.

Like many of us graduate students, Abby felt drawn to the Division because of its unique community of early modernists, supported through the wonderful leadership of Dr. Ute Lotz-Heumann and Dr. Beth Plummer. Despite the fact that this semester has been somewhat out of the ordinary, Abby has enjoyed the riveting discussions in her seminar courses, during which she has been able to pursue topics related to her doctoral research on gendered experiences of violence during times of peace and war in early modern German lands. In her free time, Abby likes to paint, cook for her family, and care for her charming bird, Pickles. I am particularly looking forward to meeting Abby in person, so that we can discuss our shared interest in monastic history and *The Sound of Music* soundtrack. I hope you will all get a chance to meet her as well!

Introducing Liliana Mondragon-Morales, B.A. Luther College



by Annie Morphew

This year the Division has been enriched by the arrival of M.A. student Liliana Mondragon-Morales. Liliana hails from a small town in California's Coachella Valley. After graduating high school, she chose to step out of her comfort zone and attend college out-of-state. Liliana ultimately went all the way to Luther College in Decorah, Iowa. According to Liliana, the midwestern winters were hard, but she persevered. At Luther College, Liliana discovered early modern history and developed a particular passion for sixteenth- and seventeenth-century Spain. She is primarily interested in the history of sexuality and gender in early modern Spain as well as the transfer of Spanish ideas into New Spain.

Liliana further pursued her interest in Spanish history during a semester abroad at the University of Seville in Seville, Spain before returning to the United States to graduate from Luther College with a Bachelor's degree in History and a minor in Spanish. She wrote her thesis, "*La Monja Alférez: The Admirable and Honorable 'Non-conformist, Conformer' of Early Modern Spain,*" under the supervision of Division Alumna, Dr. Victoria Christman.

Liliana intends to continue her historical studies at both the M.A. and Ph.D. level. In the long run, she sees herself either teaching or working in an archive.

When she is not busy tackling her graduate coursework, Liliana enjoys gardening, reading fiction, and caring for her two extremely well-traveled goldfish who accompany her on all of her adventures.

Announcements

**The Division for Late Medieval and Reformation Studies'
2021 annual theme is**

Crime and Punishment in Early Modern Europe



Please stay tuned for our annual events, the Summer Lecture Series in August and the Town and Gown Lecture in the fall. More information will be forthcoming as the COVID-19 situation develops. Please visit <https://dlmrs.arizona.edu> or facebook.com/UAdlmsr for updates.



Division News

Faculty

Pia F. Cuneo, Professor of Art History and DLMRS associated faculty, published a chapter, "High Noon on the Road to Damascus: A Reformation Showdown and the Role of Horses in Lucas Cranach the Younger's Conversion of Paul (1549)," in *Cultural Shifts and Ritual Transformations in Reformation Europe: Essays in Honor of Susan C. Karant-Nunn*, edited by Beth Plummer and Division Alumna Victoria Christman (Leiden: Brill, 2020).

David Graizbord, Associate Director of The Arizona Center for Judaic Studies, Professor of Judaic Studies, and DLMRS associated faculty, saw the publication of his monograph *The New Zionists: Young American Jews, Jewish National Identity, and Israel* (Lanham, Md.: Lexington Books, 2020). He also gave a lecture, "A 'Jewish' Early Modern Atlantic? Key Problems of History and Identity," as part of the Summer Lectures Series organized by the Division for Late Medieval and Reformation Studies in cooperation with St. Philip's in the Hills Episcopal Church.

Ute Lotz-Heumann, Director and Heiko A. Oberman Professor, published a chapter, "How to Make a Holy Well: Local Practices and Official Responses in Early Modern Germany," in *Cultural Shifts and Ritual Transformations in Reformation Europe: Essays in Honor of*

Susan C. Karant-Nunn, edited by Beth Plummer and Division Alumna Victoria Christman (Leiden: Brill, 2020). Her article in *The Conversation*, "Diary of Samuel Pepys shows how life under the bubonic plague mirrored today's pandemic," has been adapted for school children by the award-winning digital curriculum provider Actively Learn. The article, which originally appeared in April of 2020, has been read more than 200,000 times across different outlets online.

Beth Plummer, Susan C. Karant-Nunn Professor, coedited *Cultural Shifts and Ritual Transformations in Reformation Europe: Essays in Honor of Susan C. Karant-Nunn* (Leiden: Brill, 2020) with Division Alumna, Victoria Christman. Her article, "Aging and Retirement after the Reforming of the Convent in Ernestine Saxony," appeared in the volume. She also has an article, "Where are They Now? The Experiences of Protestant and Catholic Nuns after Confronting the Reformation" published in *Embodiment, Identity, and Gender in the Early Modern Age*, edited by Amy E. Leonard and David M. Whitford (London: Routledge Press, 2020). Through the magic of Zoom and despite Covid-19, she taught a seminar, "Contested and Shared Sacred Spaces in Early Modern Europe and World," at the University of Hamburg as a guest professor during the summer semester 2020 and gave a guest lecture, "The Life and Death of Abbess Margarethe von Watzdorf: What a Convent Inventory Reveals about Convent Reform and Devotional Life During the Sixteenth-Century German Reformation," in the lecture series of the Interconfessionality in the Early Modern Period Research Training Group at the University of Hamburg. She also did a presentation, "Archive Stories," for Professor Duane Corpis's historical methodology course at New York University, Shanghai.

Graduate Students

Abby Gibbons, doctoral student, presented a paper, "White Roses: Luther and Erasmus on Virginity," in a panel on "Poetics and Hermeneutics from Luther to Schlegel" at the German Studies Association virtual conference in October 2020.

Christine Liou, doctoral student, gave a lecture, "Urban Colonialism: Design and Control of Public Space in the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries," as part of the Summer Lectures Series organized by the Division for Late Medieval and Reformation Studies in cooperation with St. Philip's in the Hills Episcopal Church.

Dean Messinger, master's student, gave a lecture, "Race, Religion, and Identity: Black Confraternities in the Iberian Atlantic World," as part of the Summer Lectures Series organized by the Division for Late Medieval and Reformation Studies in cooperation with St. Philip's in the Hills Episcopal Church.

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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