

The Andrew W. Mellon Society of Fellows in Critical Bibliography (SoFCB)

2018–2020 RBS-Mellon SoFCB Junior Fellows Biographical Information

Jennifer Chuong

Jennifer Chuong is a doctoral candidate in the Department of History of Art and Architecture at Harvard University. Her research focuses on the art and built environment of the transatlantic world across the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Jennifer's dissertation, "Surface Experiments in Early America," recovers the artistic, scientific, and philosophical fascination with surfaces as sites of physical transformation in eighteenth-century Anglo-America. Examples of "surfacist" arts include mezzotint engraving, paper marbling, veneer furniture, and casein painting. A second project mines author frontispiece portraits (c. 1650–1850) to analyze how print's representational techniques evolved to construct modern racialized subjects.



Sonia N. Das

Sonia N. Das is an assistant professor of linguistic anthropology in the Department of Anthropology at New York University. She received a Ph.D. in linguistic anthropology and Graduate Certificate in South Asian Studies at the University of Michigan. Her first book, *Linguistic Rivalries: Tamil Migrants and Anglo-Franco Conflicts* (2016), was published by Oxford University Press and received Honorable Mention for the Edward Sapir Book Prize by the Society for Linguistic Anthropology. Her current research on maritime exchanges and sociopolitical relations between South India and Sri Lanka explores historical and contemporary print cultures and cartographic imaginaries via the circulation of Tamil texts.



Brenna Wynn Greer

Brenna Wynn Greer is Knafel Assistant Professor of Social Sciences at Wellesley College. She is a historian of race, gender, and culture in the twentieth century United States whose work considers the relationship between social movements, visual culture, and capitalism. As an assistant professor in the Department of History, she teaches topics in U.S., African American, and civil rights history, with a focus on media, consumerism, and constructions of citizenship.



Georgia Henley

Georgia Henley is a postdoctoral scholar at the Center for Spatial and Textual Analysis, Stanford University. She received her Ph.D. in Celtic Languages and Literatures with a concentration in Medieval Studies from Harvard University. Her research concerns cultural transmission and multilingualism in medieval Britain, synthesizing book-historical and digital humanities methods to uncover the literary networks that connected England and its early colonies. Her first book, *Literatures of Memory and Conflict: Reimagining the Past on the Anglo-Welsh Frontier*, explores networks of power, identity, and historical memory in the borderlands between England and Wales. She has also published on Geoffrey of Monmouth and Gerald of Wales in the *Journal of Medieval Latin*, *Arthurian Literature*, and a co-edited volume, *Gerald of Wales: New Perspectives on A Medieval Writer and Critic* (University of Wales Press).



Amy Holmes-Tagchungdarpa

Amy Holmes-Tagchungdarpa is Associate Professor of Religious Studies at Occidental College in Los Angeles and the author of *The Social Life of Tibetan Biography: Textuality, Community and Authority in the Lineage of Tokden Shakya Shri* (Lexington, 2014), a study of the trans-Himalayan Buddhist communities inspired by the Tibetan yogi Tokden Shakya Shri (1853-1919). Her current research engages with the use of classical Tibetan as the language of religious affairs, science, and administration throughout areas of South, Inner and East Asia, and considers how its distribution through manuscript and print technologies influenced local and regional conceptions of ethics, knowledge and identity.



Kailani Polzak

Kailani Polzak is C3 Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow in Art History at Williams College. She received a B.A. from the University of California, Santa Cruz and a Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkeley. She specializes in European visual culture of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries with a particular focus on questions intercultural contact, race, and colonialism in representations of Oceania. Her ongoing research focuses on voyage illustrations, accounts, and letters as interfaces of contact that are defined as much by material possibilities as by conventions on both sides of the intercultural encounter.



Ayesha Ramachandran

Ayesha Ramachandran is Assistant Professor of Comparative Literature at Yale. A literary and cultural historian of early modern Europe, she studies the long histories of globalization and modernity through interdisciplinary connections between literature, philosophy, cartography, visual culture and the history of science. Her first book, *The Worldmakers*, shows how “the world,” emerged as a cultural keyword in early modernity; current projects include a second book, “Lyric Thinking,” and, with the support of a Mellon New Directions Fellowship, research on comparative textual cultures across Europe and the Indo-Islamic world. She is especially interested in the transcultural circulation of manuscripts, maps and atlases, and the development of hybrid textual genres.



Deborah Schlein

Deborah Schlein is a doctoral candidate in the Department of Near Eastern Studies at Princeton University. She works on history of medicine in the Islamic world, with a focus on the reception of Arabic and Persian medical manuscripts in early modern India. Her dissertation examines the paratext, studying the marginalia, colophon information, and ownership notations to learn more about the usage and contexts of these manuscripts. She is also interested in the medical commentary tradition and the use of Arabic for scientific learning in South Asia.



Joshua Teplitsky

Joshua Teplitsky is Assistant Professor of History at Stony Brook University-SUNY. His work focuses on Jewish life in the German-speaking lands of the Holy Roman Empire and Habsburg monarchy in the early modern period (16th–18th centuries) with an emphasis on the city of Prague. He is interested in the interconnections between Jews of disparate locations, as well as the social, cultural, and intellectual exchanges between Jews and Christians. His current research project explores the movement of Jewish books as both material commodities and media of exchange in order to examine the operations of credit and reputation in shaping the political culture of Jewish life in early modern Central Europe. *Prince of the Press: How One Collector Built History's Most Enduring and Remarkable Jewish Library* will be published by Yale University Press in Fall 2018.



Martin A. Tsang

Martin Tsang is Cuban Heritage Collection Librarian and Curator of Latin American Collections at the University of Miami. He is a cultural anthropologist whose work explores Afro-Asian religiosity in Cuba as well as working on issues concerning HIV in the wider Caribbean. In his role as Librarian and Curator, Martin is interested in print cultures of the circum-Atlantic, especially textual articulations, circulations and communications across languages, cultures and spaces.

