

Andrew W. Mellon Society of Fellows in Critical Bibliography 2022-2024 Junior Fellows Biographical Information



CAT LAMBERT
Ph.D. Candidate
Department of Classics, Columbia University

Cat Lambert is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Classics at Columbia University. She works on Latin and Greek literature, with special interests in book history, gender, and queer studies. Her dissertation blends book history with feminist, queer, and critical theory to examine how literary representations of “bad readers” function as loci for negotiating embodiment, power, and identity in the imperial Roman Mediterranean. Her other projects include a recent article on the ancient entomological bookworm and forthcoming work on the intersections between enslavement and gender in Roman literary culture. In fall 2022, Lambert will begin a tenure-track position in Classics at Cornell University.



AMANDA LICASTRO
Emerging and Digital Literacy Designer
University of Pennsylvania Libraries, University of Pennsylvania

Amanda Licastro is Emerging and Digital Literacy Designer at the University of Pennsylvania and the pedagogical director of the Book Traces project; she also serves on the editorial collective of the *Journal of Interactive Technology and Pedagogy*. Her research explores the intersection of technology and writing, including book history, dystopian literature, and digital humanities. Her collection, *Composition and Big Data*, coedited with Ben Miller, was published by the University of Pittsburgh Press in September 2021. She holds a Ph.D. in English from the CUNY Graduate Center.



GLORIA J. MORALES OSORIO
Ph.D. Candidate
Department of Spanish and Portuguese, University of Wisconsin–Madison

Gloria J. Morales Osorio is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese at the University of Wisconsin–Madison. She is interested in book history and reading history in Latin America in the twentieth century; canon formation and the relationships between intellectuals, the state, and the archive; and the presence of books and readers in literature. In her dissertation, “Re-editing National Pasts: Canon and Materiality in Two Colombian Book Collections (1942–1958),” she articulates object theory and print culture history to study the state-funded book series *Biblioteca Popular de Cultura Colombiana* (Popular Library of Colombian Culture; 1942–1952) and *Biblioteca de Autores Colombianos* (Library of Colombian Authors; 1952–1958), both sponsored by liberal and conservative governments.



MURAD KHAN MUMTAZ
Assistant Professor of Art History
Art Department, Williams College

Murad Mumtaz’s scholarship focuses on manuscript paintings made for Indo-Muslim patrons, particularly devotional artworks—such as depictions of saints— included in albums. By combining art history with textual analysis, he examines the cultural contexts within which these Islamicate images of devotion were viewed. Devotionally endowed figures in Indo-Muslim painting were a common theme in most illustrated manuscripts from the early modern period. Mumtaz argues that these figures acted foremost as ontological bridges between material and heavenly realms. As an instructor, he creates thematic courses at Williams College that traverse Asia, including “Arts of the Buddhist World” and “Arts of the Book in Asia.” He also teaches a studio course on traditional Indian drawing and painting techniques. In most courses, he introduces students to aspects of materials and techniques as a way for them to engage more deeply with the subject.



CINDY NGUYEN
Postdoctoral Fellow
Departments of History and Literature, University of California, San Diego

Cindy Nguyen is a University of California Chancellor’s Postdoctoral Fellow in the history and literature departments at University of California, San Diego. She specializes in the history of Vietnam, Southeast Asian print culture, digital humanities, and libraries. Her current book manuscript, “Bibliotactics: The Social Life of Libraries and Colonial Control in Vietnam, 1865–1958,” examines the history of libraries, reading culture, and information governance in colonial to postcolonial Vietnam. She reveals how the library reading room became a space of urban sociability, cultural imperialism, and self-directed education. Nguyen is also working on a hybrid digital humanities project on the representations of gender, race, and labor within colonial visual encyclopedia. Nguyen is also a public scholar and community artist exploring themes of memory, translation, archives, and migration.



TRINA PARKS
Conservator for Rare and Distinctive Collections
Cornell University Library, Cornell University

Trina Parks is Conservator for Rare and Distinctive Collections at Cornell University Library. She is responsible for ensuring the longevity of Cornell’s rare book collections through conservation treatment, preventive conservation, and education and outreach. She aims to design treatments that maintain historic, artefactual, and research value while also promoting usability and access. Her current research explores the intersection of traditional East Asian bookbinding practice and modern conservation treatment with an eye to developing preservation strategies for the rare book collections in Cornell’s Kroch Asia Library. She received her M.A. in art history and her M.S. in conservation from the Institute of Fine Arts at New York University. *Parks is the 2022–24 Nancy Norton Tomasko Fellow.*



CHRISTOPHER T. RICHARDS
Ph.D. Candidate
Institute of Fine Arts, New York University

Christopher Richards is a Ph.D. candidate at the Institute of Fine Arts at NYU. He studies Gothic illuminated manuscripts, specifically manuscripts of thirteenth- to fifteenth-century French poems. His dissertation researches the metamorphosis of the vernacular manuscript from textual repository to illuminated artifact in the fourteenth century through the case study of *Ovide moralisé*, a moralized and much expanded translation of Ovid's *Metamorphoses* in Old French verse. Illuminated poems about lovers of images, like the doomed Narcissus, advance an investigation into the intersections of picture theory and the history of sexuality. An interdisciplinary thinker, Richards' work excavates a medieval queer theory of art.



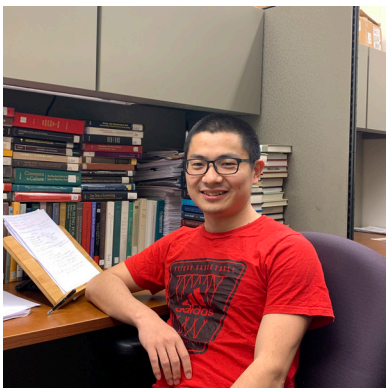
NOAM SIENNA
Adjunct Assistant Professor
Department of History, University of Minnesota

Noam Sienna is a historian of religion with a particular interest in book history; his work focuses on Jewish life in the Islamic world. His forthcoming monograph, "Jewish Book Culture in Early Modern North Africa," explores the meanings that books held among Jews in North Africa in the sixteenth through nineteenth centuries and combines the study of material books and their provenance with the analysis of their social roles. His current research project follows the changing understandings of Torah scrolls as they move between Jewish and Christian ownership. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota in 2020.



YUNXIAO XIAO
Ph.D. Candidate
Department of East Asian Studies, Princeton University

Yunxiao Xiao is a Ph.D. Candidate in the Department of East Asian Studies at Princeton University, where she works on books, scholars, scribes, and epistemological practices in early and medieval China. Trained in paleography and early Chinese manuscript studies at Wuhan University, she wrote her master's thesis on the production and use of Warring States and early imperial manuscripts. At Princeton, Xiao explores topics that have intrigued book historians across time and traditions, such as scribal and scholarly practices, the mechanics of information management, and the intricate interplay among abstract texts, material books, and people. After completing her coursework and general exams, Xiao is now happily writing her dissertation, "Scribes, Scholars, and Their Practices: The Making of Textual Knowledge in Early China."



XIN YU
Ph.D. Candidate
Department of History, Washington University in St. Louis

Xin Yu studies the cultural, social, legal, and book history of early modern China. His first book project examines the history of genealogy books in early modern China. The genealogy book, a large compilation of family-related images and texts, was probably the most popular type of book in early modern China. It was produced in almost every village and is still popular in rural China today. Using methodologies of book history, material culture studies, and digital humanities to examine a large set of genealogy books, Yu shows that books became an essential part of the everyday life of ordinary people in early modern China. Although ordinary people, especially illiterate people, had difficulty understanding the text, they interacted with books by engaging with the visuality, materiality, and production processes of books.