

Andrew W. Mellon Society of Fellows in Critical Bibliography

2024-2026 Junior Fellows Biographical Information



ALEXANDER CHAPARRO-SILVA

Ph.D. Candidate

Department of History, University of Texas at Austin

Alex is an intellectual historian of nineteenth-century Spanish-language print culture in the Americas. His current project analyzes how Latin American writers, men and women, came to the US during the nineteenth century, created a vibrant Spanish-language print culture in the country, and offered a sophisticated comparative reflection on democracy and race relations in both Americas. His research delves into the ways these writers published Spanish-language newspapers, pamphlets, and books in the US; sponsored intellectual circles in cities such as San Francisco, New York, and New Orleans; and established transnational correspondence networks to engage with the political problems common to the American hemisphere.



HELENA CHEN-ABAIR

Ph.D. Candidate

Department of Art History, University of Florida

Helena Chen-Abair is a PhD candidate in Art History at the University of Florida. She specializes in Chinese antiquarianism and Chinese ritual bronzes. Her dissertation explores the forgery of ancient Chinese bronzes from the 19th to the early 20th century with a special focus on the interdependent relationship between the bronze forgery industry and the scholarship of Chinese antiquarianism. Her other research interests include the production and reception of printed catalogues of antiquities and ink rubbings, the history and culture of art collecting, and technical art history. For the academic year 2024-25, Helena is a Smithsonian Predoctoral Fellow at the National Museum of Asian Art.



EMILY COCCIA

Ph.D. Candidate

Department of English and Women's and Gender Studies, University of Michigan

Emily Coccia is a Ph.D. candidate in the joint program in English and Women's and Gender Studies at the University of Michigan. Focusing on nineteenth-century genres of working-class and mass-popular American literature, her research asks how New England workingwomen's creative reception practices allowed them to envision queer futures and cultivate spaces for pleasure and intimacy. Her dissertation offers a textually- and materially-attuned "too close reading" of radical labor periodicals, story papers, and dime novels to help reconstruct the robust print cultures and reading communities that emerged in the wake of the 1830s print revolution.



CHRISTOPHER J. FOSTER
Librarian
China Section, Library of Congress

Christopher J. Foster is a librarian in the Library of Congress, China Section. His research concerns the intersection of manuscript culture, literacy, canonization, archaeology and intellectual history in premodern China. In specific, Chris explores how non-elites acquired literacy and thereby challenged existing structures of authority. His book project, *From Scribes to Literati*, examines how, during China's Han dynasty, an unintentional spread of literacy delegitimated established scribal families and allowed for the rise of classicism. Chris has studied the authenticity of Chinese manuscripts, how writing supports shaped their textual formatting, and use of primers for tomb construction, among other topics.



KADIN HENNINGSSEN
Ph.D. Candidate
Department of English, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Kadin Henningsen is an artist-scholar and PhD Candidate at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign where he works on nineteenth-century American literature, book history, and transgender studies. He is currently finishing a dissertation exploring how bookbinding, typography, and scholarly editing influenced normative and nonnormative gender in the period. He holds an MA in Gender and Women's Studies from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and a BFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Kadin is also an award-winning printer and artist, and the owner of *Meanwhile...Letterpress*. He has shown work in Chicago, Los Angeles, Madison, WI, and Champaign, IL and his work is included in several collections including the Library of Congress, Houghton Library, Bainbridge Museum of Art, and King Library at the University of Kentucky.



DYLAN LEWIS
Ph.D. Candidate
Department of English, University of Maryland

Dylan Lewis is a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Maryland where he studies book history, bibliography, typography, and seventeenth- and eighteenth-century English and German literature. He is also Managing Editor of *PBSA*. His dissertation considers the aesthetic and epistemological role of blackletter typography in seventeenth- and eighteenth-century Anglophone print culture. Dylan has presented his work at conferences held by the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, the German Studies Association, the American Printing History Association, and others. He has also given invited talks at the Library of Congress in Washington, DC and at the Center for Book Arts in New York City.



GRAEME R. REYNOLDS
Instructor
Department of History, University of Chicago

Graeme R. Reynolds is a historian of early modern Korea, focusing on historiography, knowledge production, and the history of the book. His research centers on the compilation, publication, and reception of court histories in early modern Korea, but also includes printing technology, manuscript cultures, and reading.



OISHANI SENGUPTA
Assistant Professor
Department of English, University of Texas at El Paso

Oishani Sengupta is Assistant Professor of English at the University of Texas at El Paso. She studies race-making in colonial print culture, paying particular attention to the circulation of visual texts across transatlantic and Indian Ocean worlds. Her book project, tentatively titled *Dark Empire: Racializing Africa in Indian Ocean Print Cultures*, historicizes the tangled production of the imperial gaze towards Asia and Africa by tracking the movement and consumption of inexpensive print objects like travelogues, pamphlets, adventure fiction, and newspapers. She is also interested in digital textuality and preservation as a result of her sustained connection to the William Blake Archive. Her other interests include translation and South Asian print cultures, with particular emphasis on the book history of colonial Bengal.



HALLIE NELL SWANSON
Ph.D. Candidate
Department of Religious Studies, University of Pennsylvania

Hallie Nell Swanson is a doctoral candidate in the Department of Religious Studies at the University of Pennsylvania, specializing in Islam in South Asia. Her dissertation, "Moving Stories: The Indo-Persian Romance" examines the circulation of Sufi narrative poems in Persian, Dakhni and Urdu from the mid-seventeenth to early nineteenth centuries, attending to oral and musical culture, illustrated manuscript, and movable type. As research assistant on the Hindustani Airs project at the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge, she helped catalog an eighteenth-century Indian illustrated manuscript of song lyrics. In AY 2024-5, she is interning at the National Museum of Asian Art, Washington, D.C.



COLTON VALENTINE
Ph.D. Candidate
Department of English, Yale University

Colton Valentine is a Ph.D. Candidate in the Department of English at Yale University. He works broadly on literary and book history in the long nineteenth century, with a focus on translation and queer studies. His dissertation—“Between Languages: Queer Multilingualism in the British Belle Époque”—studies how late-Victorian queer authors read, wrote, and loved across multiple languages. His writing has recently appeared or is forthcoming in publications ranging from *Representations*, *ELH*, *MLQ*, and *Victorian Studies* to *Bookforum* and *The New Yorker*. Alongside his scholarship and public criticism, he is currently completing a book-length translation of Vernon Lee’s non-English prose.