

Center for Material Culture Studies

Meeting Agenda

November 9, 2016
211 Old College 5-6 pm

In attendance: S. Isenstadt, M. Brückner, W. Bellion, C. Grier, M. S. Lasner, M. Stetz, L. Nees, C. Ott, Sarah Wasserman, J. Erickson

1. Introduction of new faculty:

-- Cindy, Sarah, and Jesse briefly introduced their research projects

2. Reports & Updates:

-- Review of recently launched grant opportunities for Graduate students, including the: CMCS Graduate Research Travel Fund, CMCS Graduate Research Presentation Fund, CMCS Graduate Research Publication Subvention Fund, CMCS Faculty Research Publication Subvention Fund, Finkel Fund, Friends of Rockwood Fund

-- NEW: CMCS Field Trip Support up to \$500 for a total of four awards

-- Joint CMCS – Universität Mainz Symposium, “The Refuge of Objects” (December 14-18, 2016). Program is now posted at our website

-- Biennial conference series, “Imagined Forms: Modeling and Material Culture,” November 17-18, 2017. We already received several early submissions. Keynote speaker Peter Galison will also be invited to speak in the Provost’s Thought Leader series.

-- 2018 Emerging Scholars. We will convene the conference organization team in Spring 2017 with the goal that students will have more time to plan

-- Call for topic ideas for our 2nd Biennial CMCS Symposium. We are open to ideas ...

-- Faculty profiles on CMCS website: we encourage MCS faculty to share information about their recent publications. We are eager to post a pic and a blurb.

The following items are proposals for NEW initiatives:

3. Proposal: CMCS Undergraduate Research Fellow Program:

-- the Office of Undergraduate Research and Experiential Learning has offered the Center the opportunity to support 1-2 fellows who wish to work on MC related projects;
-- we ask faculty to spread the word and help identify interested students

4. Proposal: Working Group in African American Material Culture Studies

- after consultation with Julie McGee and BAMS, we are seeking to launch a new Working Group focusing on Afr Am MCS
- after a short discussion, Jesse Erickson volunteered to serve as convener

6. Proposal: ThingStor data collection across curriculum in Spring 2017

- Martin reported that all elements necessary for collecting and archiving data for a pilot database called “American Literary Things” are now complete. With the aid of a manual developed by Martin and the CMCS-GA Eileen Moscoso, filling out the data form takes about 60 minutes. Data-intake forms are provisionally hosted by Google Forms and stored in Google Excel until we can hire a programmer who will help us build ThingStor as a searchable and interdisciplinary database.
- Seeking to raise data entries quickly, we are now looking for faculty volunteers who would be interested in using the database project as part of a class assignment. Please contact Martin for more information

7. Proposal: develop a CMCS publication branch

- in order to raise our profile, CMCS is seeking to launch a publication branch; this proposal prompted lively discussion and many suggestions: eg.
 - (Margaret) with UD Press in transition, the Center could become involved in digital and/or printed projects, perhaps be in charge of a book series?
 - (Kasey) in lieu of starting its own journal, could the Center be involved with Winterthur Portfolio?
 - (Sarah) Stanford’s ARCADE Colloquies project might provide a model for individual members of CMCS to curate critical work by theme or discipline using brief introductions and taking advantage of material already published by faculty in other venues
 - (Wendy) what about MCS podcasts or mini interviews in which CMCS faculty explain an object, a concept, etc?

8. Proposal: commission MCS online blurbs: one thing, one discipline, one concept, to create content on the CMCS website

9. Other & Miscellany

- CMCS is now building a DELPHI alumni database in order to record their projects and track their professional development
- CMCS is also building a database recording the recipients and outcomes of our current graduate awards