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

-- 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