

Center for Material Culture Studies
Fall 2023 Faculty & Staff Affiliate Meeting
November 7, 2023

MEETING MINUTES

Welcome and Introductions

- Director and Associate Director: Sarah Wasserman, Carla Guerrón Montero
- GA Juliana Jones-Beaton (PhD English)
- Advisory Committee: Meghann Matwichuk, Catharine Dann Roeber, Jennifer Van Horn, Lance Winn
- Thing Tank Director Mónica Domínguez-Torres
- Thing Tank GA Aradhya Sodhi (MA Fashion and Apparel Studies)
- Academic Program Coordinator: Kathy Beardsley

Attending In Person

Lance Winn
Nina Owczarek
Kathy Beardsley
Kedron Thomas

Attending On Zoom

Kelly Cobb
Jessica Horton
Lu Ann DeCunzo
Kaitlyn Tanis
Ben Stanley
Mary Bowden
Joelle Wickens
Meghann Matwichuk
Catharine Dann Roeber
Rebecca Johnson Melvin
Laura Helton

Announcements:

- You can always cross-list classes with a material culture component with the MCST label; process follows Curriculog cycle but please email with interest.
- Reminder to send updates to our email address – for promoting your work and connecting people with similar interests
- CMCS Office in the Humanities Hub! (Room 202 in 34 W. Delaware Ave) - fully operational, seminar room can be booked by emailing Kathy Beardsley

- **Thing Tank updates by Topic Director Mónica Domínguez Torres**
 - Theme is Subaltern Matters: Knowledge and Technologies from Below
 - Hybrid lecture by Professor Norton was a success (~50 people in attendance)
 - Group of 9 Thing Tankers (grad and faculty fellows) that meets every other week
 - Spring lecture (virtual)- announcement coming soon
 - Spring workshop- announcement coming soon
- **Grad Initiatives:**
 - Graduate working group - Lyric Lott and Riley Thomas
 - Field trip to Jim Henson exhibition at the Maryland Center for History and Culture
 - Please let your grad students know about this working group!
- **DELPHI Update by co-leader Laura Helton**
 - DELPHI 2023 ran from May 30-June 9, co-led by Laura Helton and Sarah Wasserman
 - 12 fellows from 5 departments (MA, MFA, PhD)
 - 16th DELPHI cohort
 - Over 20 guest speakers and site visit guides (1/2 from UD, 1/2 from outside)
 - Students are now working on public engagement research, and in the spring, each will present a longform version of their talk as part of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute
 - DELPHI 2024 will run from May 28-June 7th, 12 fellows will be accepted
 - Will be co-led by Laura Helton and Sarah Wasserman, shadowed by Carla Guerrón Montero
 - Information session for students on 12/5 at 6pm on Zoom; announcement forthcoming
 - Application deadline is Feb 15, 2024.
- **Fall Grants**
 - 17 applications
 - Another cycle in the spring - reminder about faculty subvention publication grant
 - Also: field trip funds available on ad hoc basis
- **Upcoming Events:**
 - Lunchtime Talk with Rob Goldberg 11/13 at 12:30 pm in OCL 212
 - Book celebration / holiday party “time to hang out and enjoy good vibes”; December 6, 5-7pm; Chaiken Center (Did your book come out in 2023? If so, tell us so we can celebrate it!)
- **Spring Symposium: A Conversation about Material Culture Studies Today**
 - April 26-27, 2024, STAR campus Audion
 - 7 faculty and 7 graduate students from 7 universities (US and international)
 - Creative, conversational format encouraging collaboration and community
 - Open to public

- Hands-on printmaking and book design workshop led by Katie Garth
- **CMCS Library of Things (LoT)**
 - Curated collection of interesting, representational objects that faculty affiliates and grad students can use for teaching
 - Intake form now live: <https://forms.gle/aDhQejn5acqFS6TX6>
 - UDRAW research assistant, Ethni Abiy will monitor
 - Discussion surrounding LoT (including Nina, Rebecca, Laura, Lu Ann) raised about other collections on campus (conversation, museum studies, teaching/study collection). Sarah suggested a synopsis of collections to live on the landing site of LoT page; Carla noted that, in the future, the collection could be cross-referenced with other collections on campus
- **Undergraduate Initiatives:**
 - Partnership with Undergraduate Research Program (<https://www.urp.udel.edu/>)
 - 2024 Material Culture Interdisciplinary Research Cohort
Faculty affiliated with CMCS; interdisciplinary projects (stipend as research support) for faculty; once-monthly cohort meetings on zoom
 - Interdisciplinary Summer Scholars: 10 weeks of research and project/cohort meetings; workshops, and Annual Undergraduate Research Summer Symposium (\$4,000 stipend for students)
 - Possible to work with student for a shorter time in the summer or the extend the fellowship to the academic year
 - Long-term Goal: Collaborative NEH Application in 2024-2025
 - Supported in part by successful I Heart UD Giving Day Campaign from Spring
 - Please let us know if you are working on a material cultured related project and would benefit from undergrad research assistant!
 - Upcoming: an interest meeting in December with Rosalie Rolón Dow
 - Catharine: What is a weekly hour expectation? (Answer: follows Summer scholars model, not using Workforce to log hours. Might vary by week, flexibility)
 - Lu Ann: in the future could interdisciplinary groups of undergrads work together? (Answer: that's the hope - at the moment, emphasizing interdisciplinary experiences with faculty. For example, if 3 faculty have 3 students, the hope is that at least once a month, the three faculty and three students meet as a cohort to discuss what's working, what's not, etc. Compensating faculty with research support to facilitate interdisciplinary support / experiences.)
 - Kedron: can we have more than 1 student? (Yes)
 - Kedron: In these cohort meetings, is there an expectation that all faculty attend? Or is it a representation (Answer: everyone that has a student is part of cohort, but not a weekly meeting and not in person because summer)

Discussion:

- Lu Ann: IHRC Collections-based teaching grants are interesting and maybe we should think together about this? Opportunity to develop more courses that are more interdisciplinary and to provide opportunity for students to interact with

people at these institutions about their collections, what collections mean, what to use them for, etc.

(Sarah: if people are currently working with community partners let CMCS know – might be able to offer support for ethical and reciprocal partnerships.)

- Mary: Will there be another I Heart UD Giving Day campaign this spring for CMCS? (Yes, tailored toward undergrad support) Lu Ann: raising funds to support interns and undergrads, we should collaborate rather than compete this spring; the possibility of partnering with all the members of the Humanities Hub for a larger campaign was raised

Reminders:

- Please refer your new colleagues with material culture interests to us. We would like to add them to our faculty affiliates list!
- And as always, send news to materialculture@udel.edu of your material culture related achievements: publications, talks, field work, teaching endeavors, media appearances, etc. We love to feature them on our website and Instagram account!