



# Center for Material Culture Studies

February 2018

Welcome to the first biannual newsletter for the Center for Material Culture Studies at University of Delaware! At the start of each semester, CMCS will send these newsletters as a way of touching base with faculty, students, and friends of material culture studies at UD. In it, we will announce achievements and projects from the previous semester as well as what we (and you!) have to look forward to from CMCS in the coming term. This means being among the first to know about grant deadlines, working group opportunities, and upcoming CMCS-sponsored conferences! If you are interested in receiving these newsletters directly, and are not already on the CMCS-affiliated faculty mailing list, please email us at [materialculture@udel.edu](mailto:materialculture@udel.edu) with the subject heading, "Subscribe to CMCS Newsletter." If you are a graduate or undergraduate student, please specify so in your email. As always, thank you for your support of the Center for Material Culture Studies. We look forward to another enriching Spring in material culture research, writing, and public engagement.

Sincerely Yours,

Be sure to follow us on Twitter  
[@UDMatCult](https://twitter.com/UDMatCult) and subscribe to our blog  
[www.materialculture.udel.edu](http://www.materialculture.udel.edu) for  
updates on events throughout the term!

Jessica Venturi  
Department of English  
Graduate Assistant, CMCS

## **A Note from Our Co-Directors**

In recent years, the Center for Material Culture Studies has emerged as a hub for faculty and graduate students in Art, Art Conservation, Art History, CHAD, English, Fashion, Geography, History, Museum Studies, Preservation Studies and WPAMC, as well as a number of other units on campus. Our initiatives for graduate students are many: six different award categories, with close to \$30,000 disbursed each year; the Delaware Public Humanities Institute; a CMCS Graduate Assistantship; an annual graduate student lecture series held at the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, in Wilmington; a graduate seminar in theories of material culture studies; Emerging Scholars, a biennial symposium run by and for graduate students; a biennial CMCS-sponsored symposium, conducted with significant input from our graduate students; ThingStor, a material culture database being developed with the help of a graduate student Working Group; and another Working Group run by grads and dedicated entirely to graduate student matters. With these programs in place, we very much hope to develop a larger footprint in undergraduate education at UD. To that end, we invite ideas and suggestions from all of you, our greatest resource.

All Best,

Dr. Martin Brückner (English)  
& Dr. Sandy Isenstadt (Art History)

### Delaware Public Humanities Institute News

This summer, we celebrated the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Delaware Public Humanities Institute (DELPHI) at University of Delaware. Each DELPHI fellow is awarded a \$4,500 ten-week grant to pursue their material culture project, and attends our two-week institute. Focused on promoting public engagement with scholarly research, the institute consists of seminars, workshops, and hands-on experience with public speaking, digital media, and the marketing of their work. Fellows become a part of a dynamic cohort of material culture scholars across the humanities, and receive additional mentoring support from our faculty. Curious what our DELPHI alumni go on to do? Check out the new [\*Where Are They Now?\*](#) feature on our website for alumni follow-ups!

### 2017 DELPHI FELLOWS

Dona Altemus (Art & Design)  
Denise Burgher (English)  
Petra Clark (English)  
Kelli Coles (History)  
Michele Frederick (Art History)  
Anna Lacy (History)  
Chelsea Leiper (Geography)  
Reyhane Mirabootalebi (Preservation Studies)  
Kiersten Mounce (Art History)  
Hillary Neben (History)  
Galina Olmsted (Art History)  
Mina Porell (Winterthur)  
Allison Robinson (Winterthur)  
Claire Taggart (Winterthur)



***Mark Your Calendars!*** We are now accepting applications to our 2018 DELPHI class. Applications are due **February 15<sup>th</sup>**. Learn more about DELPHI and how to apply [here](#).

*CMCS aims to promote and support scholarship and innovative pedagogy in the study of material culture. The Center has emerged as a hub for faculty and graduate students in Art, Art Conservation, Art History, CHAD, English, Fashion, Geography, History, Museum Studies, Preservation Studies and WPAMC, among others. The Center also provides a nexus for the exchange of information on national and international developments in material culture studies, working with the goal to create a connected community of scholars who share their work in a variety of media and settings. The Center aims to honor the University of Delaware's longstanding commitment to material culture approaches by making itself a nationally and internationally recognized leader in this field.*

## Funding Opportunities

The Center for Material Culture Studies at University of Delaware is proud to announce the recipients of our 2017 Fall Grant Awards! This fall, CMCS awarded over \$20,000 total to faculty and graduate students pursuing projects in material culture studies.

### FALL 2017 GRANT AWARDEES

#### **Faculty Research Publication Fund**

Jon Cox, *Art & Design*  
Carla Guerron-Montero, *Anthropology*  
Sandy Isenstadt, *Art History*  
Thomas Rocek, *Anthropology*

#### **Graduate Research Presentation Fund**

Candice Candeto, *Winterthur*  
Sarah Leonard, *Art History*  
Erica Lome, *History*  
Kristen Nassif, *Art History*  
Maria Joao Petisca, *Preservation Studies*  
Trent Rhodes, *Winterthur*

#### **Graduate Research Travel Fund**

Alex Ames, *History of American Civilization*  
Caitlin Hutchison, *Art History*  
Harriette Lane, *History of American Civilization*  
Kiersten Mounce, *Art History*  
Jacqueline Peterson, *Winterthur*  
Hannah Segrave, *Art History*

**Mark Your Calendars!** The deadline for Spring 2018 CMCS Grants is **March 15<sup>th</sup>**. View all our grant descriptions and application information [here](#).

## Working Groups

CMCS is always excited to support faculty and graduate students who create intellectual communities and opportunities outside the classroom. CMCS-sponsored working groups are a vibrant and integral part of our mission to promote innovative, interdisciplinary research in material culture. We currently sponsor five active working groups on campus. These groups bring in distinguished speakers, offer hands-on and practical experience, and of course, talk material culture over the occasional meal together. You can read about all working groups [here](#).

Today, we are happy to announce the successes of two of our newest working groups. **Object Fight Club: The Methods in Material Culture Graduate Student Working Group** was designed by and for graduate students specifically. They hold regular meetings and field trips throughout each semester, and in a short time have grown their membership substantially. Contact co-conveners Michael Doss (English) and Victoria Sunnergren (Art History) for more information. The **ThingStor Working Group** was organized by our very own co-director, Martin Brückner and has since made incredible progress in its development of a literary object database. Do you want to get in on the ground floor of a fresh, new digital humanities project committed to material culture research? ThingStor is the place to be. Contact Professor Brückner for more information.



**Don't Miss Out! Working Group Event and Grant Deadline**  
Reminders are [@UDMatCult](#)

Conferences & Symposia

On November 17-18, 2017 CMCS hosted material culture scholars from around the world to present and discuss the topic ***Imagined Forms: Modeling and Material Culture*** at our biennial conference. Known for its patent model collection, the conference was held at the beautiful Hagley Museum & Library. You can visit [www.imaginedforms.com](http://www.imaginedforms.com) to view the full program, or read about the conference's success in UDaily [here](#). CMCS hosts a special topics conference every other year, so keep an eye out for CFPs and announcements regarding 2019! We would like to thank everyone who presented, attended, and otherwise made *Imagined Forms* possible. Special thanks goes out to our conference organizers: Martin Brückner, Sandy Isenstadt, Sarah Wasserman, and Lance Winn.



Dr. Martin Brückner welcoming guests and speakers to Imagined Forms conference (2017)



Graduate Student, Jeff Richmond-Moll, leading panel discussion at Imagined Forms conference (2017)

***Mark Your Calendars!*** The 2018 Emerging Scholars Symposium will take place at the Winterthur Museum, Garden, and Library on **April 27-28, 2018**. Stay tuned for registration information.

Looking forward, we are excited to announce the upcoming **2018 Emerging Scholars Symposium**. Emerging Scholars Symposia are organized by UD graduate students and feature presentations by graduate students, post-doctorates, and scholars at the beginning of their professional careers. This year's topic will be ***Hazardous Objects: Function, Materiality, and Context.***

This year's conference organizers are: Erica Lome (History of American Civilization), Kiersten E. Mounce (Art History), Allison Robinson (Winterthur Program in American Material Culture), and Victoria Sunnergren (Art History).