

Spring 2019 Newsletter

Greetings to the faculty, students, and friends of material culture studies at the University of Delaware. The CMCS biannual newsletter is our way of staying in touch and letting you know of recent and upcoming developments at the Center, including grant cycles, events such as CMCS-sponsored symposia, faculty and graduate student Working Group opportunities, and, in this newsletter, changes in leadership. If you would like to receive this newsletter and other CMCS communications directly and are not already on our mailing list, please write to us at 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 and its mission to enhance graduate education in material culture studies at the University of Delaware, whether in terms of research, teaching, or public engagement.

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

Sincerely Yours,
Alba Campo Rosillo
Department of Art History
Graduate Assistant, CMCS

A Note from Our Co-Directors

The mission of the Center for Material Culture Studies is to enhance and support graduate education in material culture studies at U.D. It has over recent years established itself as a hub for faculty and graduate students across a number of departments and programs at U.D., all of whom share a strong interest in material culture approaches. Our support for graduate students is broad and varied, with more than \$110,000 awarded in the academic year 2019-2020 directly to students in eight distinct categories, including the highly competitive Delaware Public Humanities Institute (DELPHI) that will take place on campus in the early summer. We also sponsor a CMCS Graduate Assistantship; an annual graduate student lecture series held at the Osher Lifelong Learning Academy, 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; and ThingStor.org, a material culture database currently under development. More, we support several Working Groups: one, comprised of graduate students, is dedicated to the ThingStor project; another is led by faculty who meet regularly to hear invited guest speakers; and another that is run entirely by and for graduate students to visit historic sites, meet with guest lecturers, workshop papers, and share insights and advice on graduate study matters. All of these programs were established under the leadership of Professors Martin Brückner and Sandy Isenstadt, beginning in 2014. Now, after five years of service, Prof. Isenstadt will step down to become Chair of the Art History department while Prof. Wendy Bellion steps up to the Co-Director role alongside Prof. Brückner. Read more about Prof. Bellion on the next page.

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



Welcome Co-Director Wendy Bellion!

CMCS is delighted to announce the appointment of Dr. Wendy Bellion as Co-Director effective fall 2019. Bellion is a Professor and Sewell Biggs Chair of American Art in the Department of Art History, and has served as an Acting Director for the Winterthur Program in American Material Culture and as a Terra Visiting Professor at the University of Paris. Her interdisciplinary research focuses on the early United States and explores the cultural geographies of the British Atlantic world and early modern Americas.

Her publications include *Citizen Spectator: Art, Illusion, and Visual Perception in Early National America* (2011); a co-edited, special issue of *Winterthur Portfolio* titled *Objects in Motion: Art and Material Culture across Colonial North America* (2011); and the forthcoming *Iconoclasm in New York: Revolution to Reenactment* (2019). Dr. Bellion has been a member of CMCS since joining the University of Delaware in 2004, and she looks forward to helping advance its mission of scholarly innovation in material culture studies.

CMCS hosting CAMC in May

Founded by the Bard Graduate Center in 2007, the Consortium for American Material Culture (CAMC) has brought together leading academics and curators from diverse cultural institutions. At annual meetings each May, the group travels to different programs to meet faculty and learn firsthand of new directions in material culture studies at member programs. This year the Center for Material Culture Studies at the University of Delaware will host the meeting. Affiliated faculty will have the chance to learn about our programs in detail, including our unique Delaware Public Humanities Institute. Further discussions will explore the extent to which CAMC might open up membership beyond the programs that founded it. Over the past few years, material culture studies have expanded to quite a few universities and CAMC is to date the only association that aims to share information and encourage camaraderie among faculty at different institutions

Funding Opportunities

The Center for Material Culture Studies at University of Delaware is proud to announce the recipients of our 2019 Spring Grant Awards! This spring, CMCS awarded nearly \$17,000 total to faculty and graduate students pursuing projects in material culture studies.

SPRING 2019 GRANT AWARDEES

Finkel Fund

Marie Desrochers
Isaac Messina

Faculty Research Publication Fund

Jessica Horton, *Art History*
Kristen Poole

Graduate Research Presentation Fund

Katerina Acuna
Emily Brzezinski
Marie Desrochers
Chun-Tracy Liu, *Art History*
Julianna Ly, *Art Conservation*
Rebecca Olsen, English

Graduate Research Travel Fund

Olivia Armandroff
Sanchita Balachandran
Jordan Hillman, *Art History*
Sabena Kull, *Art History*
Emily Whitted
Zoe Wray, *Art History*

Collections-Based Seminar

Christine Bachman, *Art History*
Tiarna Doherty, *Art History*

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

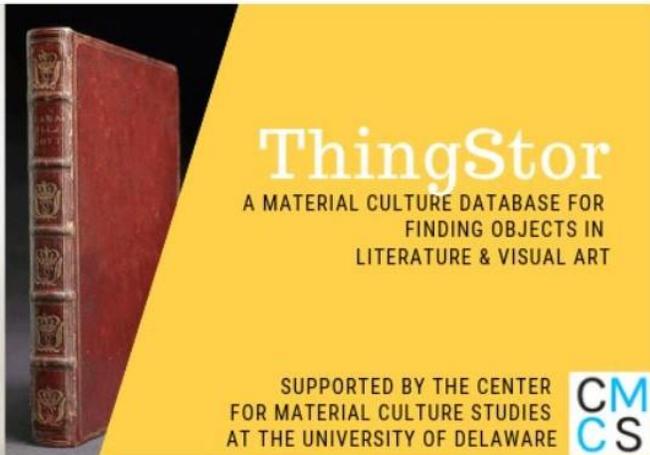
**2nd Biannual CMCS Conference
“Black Bibliographia: Print/Culture/Art”
University of Delaware, April 26-27, 2019**

The second biennial Center for Material Culture Studies conference wants to address the question “What is a black book?” Such question is implicit in the work of scholars and curators who examine histories of African American print production and reading, and it is equally germane to artists and printers experimenting with the book and other print forms today. Seeking to provide some answers, “Black Bibliographia: Print/Culture/Art” will host an exchange of ideas across long standing divides of discipline and practice.

The conference will begin on Friday, April 26, in the morning with a set of pre-conference workshops. In the afternoon, the conference will officially open in Morris Library with three scholarly panels on the topics of material culture, circulation, and publishing, followed by the first keynote presentation of the conference. A reception will take place afterwards, where Special Collections will exhibit texts and objects representing UD’s holdings in African American print culture. The conference will continue on Saturday in Memorial Hall, opening with a breakfast workshop on building ephemera collections. The second keynote presentation will be given, followed by a panel on theorizing the black book. A lunch in the Memorial Hall Dome will be accompanied by a screening of excerpts from Proceed and Be Bold! Afternoon panel sessions will explore print laborers and book history. The conference will wrap up with a special reading, as well as a reception hosted by the Center for Material Culture Studies.



Help us spread the word on social media by using @UDMatCult and #BlackBib in your posts



This spring, [ThingStor](#), the project of one of CMCS working groups, has gone live! *ThingStor* is conceived to provide an interactive digital database that enables students and scholars to recognize, understand, and ultimately conduct new research on or teach with material objects referenced in the works of literature and the visual arts. The [website](#) presents sample objects cited in English and American literature and paintings produced between the 1830s and 1870s, which are cross-referenced with period appropriate visual proxies and a host of contextual information.

Looking forward, *ThingStor* seeks to develop a greater searchable digital archive that tracks mundane and symbolic objects as they appeared in works reflecting American and English culture, including literature, paintings, or sculptures produced between the 17th and 20th centuries. To accomplish this, *ThingStor* seeks partners for developing computational and representational tools. In addition, *ThingStor* will supplement its database with teaching and research tools in order to provide students and scholars with new approaches for exploring how objects and their material qualities shaped popular stories and images over time.



The University of Delaware Press

200A Morris Library, 181 S. College Ave., Newark, DE 19717

<https://library.udel.edu/udpress/> (302)831-1149

New Book Series!

Material Culture Perspectives

The Center for Material Culture Studies has recently launched the Material Culture Perspectives Book Series. The series publishes innovative studies on material culture in literary, visual, and historical studies. The series seeks titles that engage with physical objects—broadly defined and including their formal attributes, ascribed functions, contribution to larger processes and practices, or symbolic significance—to explore historical and critical questions regarding the formation, dissemination, consumption, and contestation of material cultures and their ideologies, and how these affect any number of human pursuits, from scientific investigations to everyday material life. Books may address a wide range of topics, including matters of race, sexuality, or class, and encompass local or global contexts. The series also invites treatments that offer provocative, reflective, and theoretically informed approaches to material culture studies in the twenty-first century.

For more information visit our [website](#) or to submit a manuscript or proposal, please contact the series editors at materialculture@udel.edu

Don't Miss Out! Working Group
Events and Grant Deadline
Reminders @UDMatCult