

Fall 2020 Newsletter



DELPHI 2019

Greetings from CMCS!

We hope this newsletter finds you safe and well during these challenging times. This semester brings changes in CMCS leadership as well as an important milestone: CMCS is turning 20!

Established in 2000, CMCS is a national leader in material culture studies, advancing innovative scholarship and interdisciplinary collaboration in research, teaching, and public engagement at and beyond the University of Delaware, with an emphasis on graduate student education. In 2019-20, CMCS provided financial support to 30 faculty and graduate students in the form of travel and research awards, publication subventions, and field study and internship funding. CMCS continues to offer DELPHI Fellowships, courses, a graduate student working group, and biennial symposia, including our Emerging Scholars Symposium ("Animaterialities," rescheduled to April 2021); the CMCS Biennial Conference ("The Disability Gaze," April 2022, co-organized by Jaipreet Virdi, History, and Jennifer Van Horn, Art History/History); and, for 2020-21, new working groups in Material Culture Pedagogy (Tom Guiler, WPAMC) and Blackness and Publicness (Tiffany Barber, Africana Studies, and Jennifer Van Horn).

We're delighted that Jaipreet and Tom will also be joining CMCS's inaugural Advisory Committee, together with Lu Ann DeCunzo (Anthropology) and Curtis Small (Special Collections & Museums, Morris Library). We are grateful to this fabulous interdisciplinary team and look forward to working together to expand on CMCS's achievements and imagine new possibilities for the future.

As we look ahead, thanks are due to the institutions, individuals, and UD partners that make our work possible, including UD's College of Arts and Sciences, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Unidel Foundation, the Rockwood Foundation, and the Finkel Fund. CMCS enjoys active relationships with the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI), the American Studies Association Material Culture Caucus, the Consortium for American Material Culture Studies (CMAC), and Winterthur Museum. Soon we'll be expanding our partnerships to include a public engagement initiative with Drexel University and the College of William & Mary supported by the Colonial Academic Alliance (CAA).

Please join us in congratulating Martin Brückner on six outstanding years as CMCS Co-Director! Martin's many contributions to CMCS include the innovative database [ThingStor](#), developed in collaboration with graduate student teams. We are delighted to welcome Sarah Wasserman as CMCS's new Associate Director. We're fortunate to work with the talented Laura Schmidt on all things financial. And last but not by no means least, we thank our outgoing Graduate Assistant Michael Doss (English) – and welcome Kristen Nassif (Art History) on board as our incoming GA.

Dr. Wendy Bellion (Art History), CMCS Director, and Dr. Sarah Wasserman (English), Associate Director



**Welcome
Associate
Director Sarah
Wasserman!**

Dr. Sarah Wasserman, a longtime contributor to CMCS, joins the Center as Associate Director effective September 2020. Wasserman is an Assistant Professor in UD's English Department, where she teaches courses in American literature from the 19th century to today, as well as material culture studies, literary theory, digital culture, and media studies. Her forthcoming monograph, *The Death of Things: Ephemera and the American Novel* (University of Minnesota Press, Oct. 2020) examines literary representations of ephemeral objects in American culture from the beginning of the 20th century through the present (learn more on a podcast at [iHeartradio](https://www.iheartradio.com)). Her other scholarly work appears in *PMLA*, *Contemporary Literature*, *Post45*, *Modern Fiction Studies*, *The Journal of American Studies*, and *Literature Compass*.

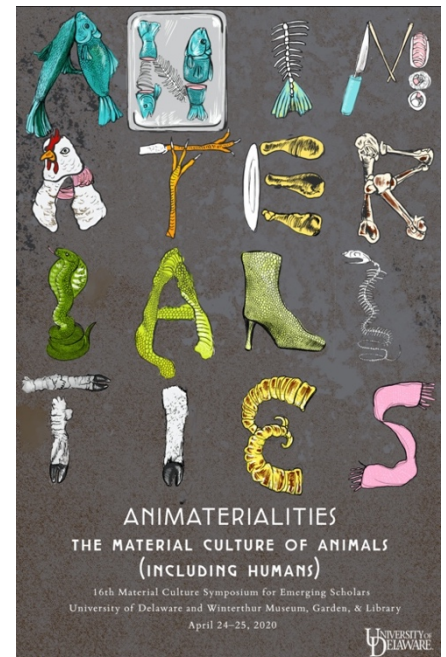
**The Sixteenth Material Culture
Symposium for Emerging Scholars,
April 23-24, 2021**

**"Animaterialities: The Material Culture of
Animals (including Humans)"**

The Sixteenth Material Culture Symposium for Emerging Scholars merges the interdisciplinary study of animals with material culture studies.

Nine graduate students from programs in the U.S. and abroad will present research on topics ranging from the public performance of animal intelligence in 18th century London to the impact of early automobile culture on the perception of animals in the US.

Dr. Giovanni Aloï, curator and adjunct assistant professor at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and Sotheby's Institute of Art, will deliver the keynote lecture: "Speculative Taxidermy: Indexicality, Vulnerability, and Representation."



The Emerging Scholars Symposium is organized by a committee of six UD graduate students: Nora Carleson and Katheryn Lawson (History), Samantha Nystrom (English), Thomas Busciglio-Ritter and Michael Hartman (Art History), and Bethany McGlyn (WPAMC).

Mark Your Calendars! The deadline for Fall 2020 CMCS Grants is **November 1st**. View all our grant descriptions and application information on our [website](https://www.cmcs.udel.edu).

CMCS Grants & Fellowships

CMCS awarded over \$17,000 in grants during 2019-20 to UD faculty & graduate students for teaching and research in material culture studies.

Collections-Based Seminar Grant

Emily Shartrand (Art History)

Fieldwork in UD Courses

Dr. Denva Gallant (Art History)

Dr. Tom Guiler (WPAMC)

Dr. Jennifer Van Horn (Art History/History)

Finkel Fund in Support of Cultural Internships

Nylah Byrd (WUDPAC)

Annabelle Camp (WUDPAC)

Julia Hamer-Light (Art History)

Graduate Research Presentation Fund

Olivia Armandroff (WPAMC)

Michael Doss (English)

Joseph Litts (WPAMC)

Fabian Rempfer (English)

Graduate Research Travel Fund

Tiarna Doherty (Art History)

Mary Fesak (History, Am Civ)

Samantha Nystrom (English)

Publication Subventions

Dr. Lu Ann DeCunzo (Anthropology) and

Dr. Catharine Dann Roeber (WPAMC)

Tiarna Doherty (Art History)

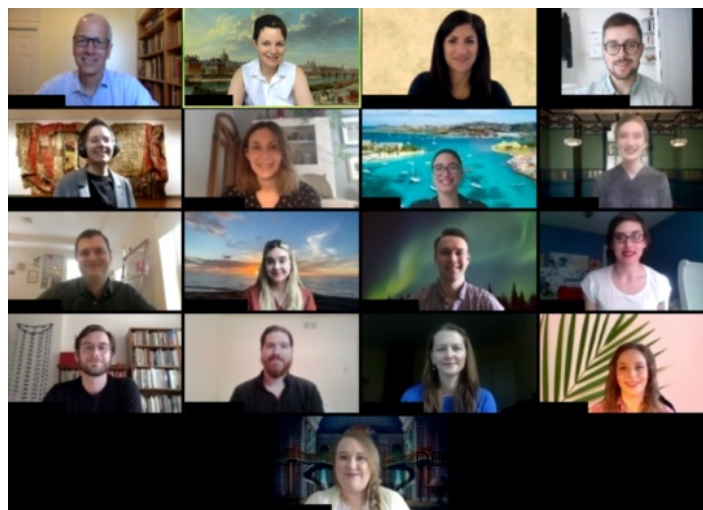
Dr. Alison Parker (History)

Rachael Vause (Art History)

Dr. Sarah Wasserman (English)

Delaware Public Humanities Institute (DELPHI), May 26-June 4, 2020

Congratulations to the 2020 cohort of Delaware Public Humanities Institute (DELPHI) Fellows! During this year's all-Zoom Institute, fourteen MA and PHD DELPHI Fellows from 6 departments and programs participated in a series of workshops on material culture and the public humanities, learning how to share their research with diverse publics. This year's Institute included exciting sessions and workshops in podcasting, grant writing, accessibility, TV and radio interviews, and much more.



2020 DELPHI Fellows

Justyce Bennett (WPAMC)

Thomas Busciglio-Ritter (Art History)

Nora Carleson (History)

Kris Cnossen (WUDPAC)

Zoë Colon (Art History)

Tiarna Doherty (Art History)

Michael Doss (English)

Laura Earls (History)

Peter Fedoryk (WPAMC)

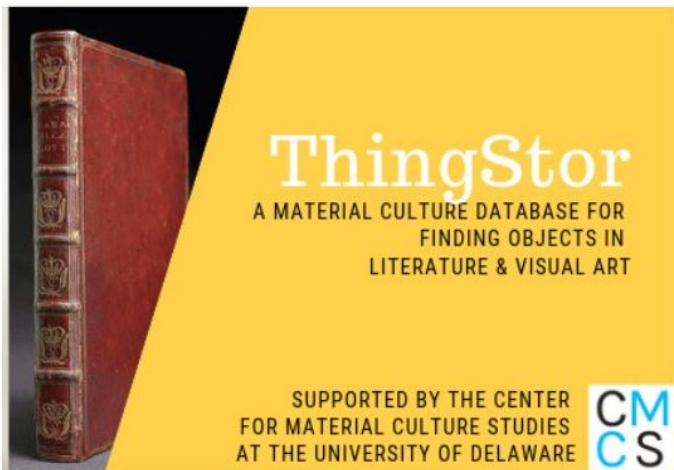
Jordan Hillman (Art History)

Molly Mapstone (WPAMC)

Rebecca Olsen (English)

Nathan Thayer (Geography)

Kyle VanHemert (History)



Over the past year, the [ThingStor](#) database expanded to over 500 objects! *ThingStor* provides 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 & 1870s, cross-referenced with period appropriate visual proxies and a host of contextual information. Having completed its goal of creating the database as a proof of concept, the *ThingStor* Working Group is now setting its sights on new goals. These include building up the database as a C19 research & teaching tool; recruitment and graduate research; outreach & development.



The University of Delaware Press

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

New Book Series!

Material Culture Perspectives

Working with the University of Delaware Press, CMCS supports the newly launched 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. The inaugural volume of the series, titled *Elusive Archives: Material Culture Studies in Formation*, is a collection of twenty-five essays co-edited by Martin Brückner and Sandy Isenstadt. For more information visit our [website](#). To submit a manuscript or proposal, please contact the series editors at materialculture@udel.edu.

Help us spread the word about CMCS! Instagram: [udcmcs](#) | Facebook & Twitter @MatCultUD
And if you'd like to be added to our mailing lists, please email materialculture@udel.edu.