

DIRECTOR'S REPORT
for the Advisory Board of
the Centre for the Study of the Renaissance
University of Warwick

October 2025

(covering the academic year 2024-25)



John Gerard's *Herball or Generall Historie of Plantes* (London, 1597), hand-coloured.
© Shakespeare Birthplace Trust.

STAFF AND ADVISORY BOARD, CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF THE RENAISSANCE,
2024-25

Director: *Professor Teresa Grant*

Director of Graduate Studies: *Dr Rich Rabone*

Administrator: *Mrs Jayne Sweet*

Research Professor: *Professor Catherine Bates*

Research Fellows

Dr Maria Czepiel (Leverhulme Early Career Fellow)
Dr Vittoria Fallanca (Leverhulme Early Career Fellow)
Dr Matteo Leta (EUTOPIA-SIF fellow, with IAS)
Dr Anca-Delia Moldovan (EUTOPIA-SIF fellow, with IAS)
Dr Thomas Pert (Leverhulme Early Career Fellow)
Dr Cecilia Sideri (UKRI-Marie Curie Research Fellow)
Dr Kate Travers (Leverhulme Early Career Fellow, Liberal Arts)
Dr Tim Wade (Leverhulme Early Career Fellow)
Dr Xiaona Wang (Lisa Jardine Early Career Grant Holder)

Honorary Professor

Prof. Em. Julian Gardner

Honorary Readers

Dr Elizabeth Goldring
Dr Alexandre Vanautgaerden

Honorary Research Fellows

Dr Stephen Bates
Dr Emma Campbell
Dr Marta Celati
Mr Tim Clark
Dr Giacomo Comiati
Dr Archie Cornish
Dr Alessio Cotugno
Dr Ania Crowther
Dr Claudia Daniotti
Dr Chloe Fairbanks
Dr Stella Fletcher
Dr Christa Gardner von Teuffel
Dr Lawrence Green
Dr Sophia Guthrie
Dr Valérie Hayaert

Prof. Em. Brenda Hosington
Dr Ioanna Iordanou
Dr Simon Jackson
Dr Alexander Lee
Dr Alice Leonard
Dr Victoria Leonard
Dr Chi-fang Sophia Li
Dr Giorgio Lizzul
Dr Gloria Moorman
Dr Cecilia Muratori
Dr Aidan Norrie
Dr Estelle Paraque
Dr Iván Parga
Dr Maria Pavlova
Dr Tom Pert

Dr Julian Richards
Dr Rosa Salzberg
Prof. Charlotte Scott
Dr Margaret Shewring
Dr Elizabeth Sharrock
Dr Anastasia Stylianou
Dr Felicita Tramontana
Dr Sara Trevisan
Dr Simona Valeriani
Dr Floris Verhaart
Dr Máté Vince
Dr Xiaona Wang
Prof. Christiania Whitehead

External Advisory Board Members:

Professor Brian Cummings (English, York): Chair
Prof. Alexander Marr (History of Art, Cambridge)
Dr Sara Miglietti (Warburg Institute representative)
Patrick Spottiswoode (Trustee, Rose Theatre Trust)
Dr Laetitia Sansonetti (Sorbonne Nouvelle University)
Professor Isabel Torres (Hispanic Studies, Belfast)
Dr Tabitha Tuckett (Rare Books Librarian, UCL & Manchester)
Dr Simona Valeriani (Victoria and Albert Museum)

Table of Contents

Staff and Advisory Board	inside front cover
Abbreviations	0
Director's Introduction.....	1
Membership and structure of the CSR.....	1
Teaching and research.....	1
International profile.....	2
Research funding.....	2
Digital media.....	3
News for 2024-25	3
Research and impact.....	4
International partnership fund.....	4
Shakespeare's Roses: 'Sweetest Odours'.....	5
Inaugural Honorary Research Fellows' annual lunch.....	6
Teaching and training activities for CSR students	10
Taught Postgraduate.....	10
MPhil/PhD	10
A selection of CSR PhD student research reports	12
Valeria Cesaraccio	12
Wanxin Du.....	13
Karin Sprang.....	13
Christian Martens.....	14
Yinhuizi Shi.....	16
Alex Tadel	17
Skills sessions open to other students in the University	18
Undergraduate modules.....	18
International exchanges and collaborations.....	19
Warwick–Newberry programme	19
Warwick–Johns Hopkins collaboration.....	20
Promoting Renaissance Studies	24
Dr Greg Wells undergraduate essay prizes 2025.....	24
CSR-based seminars and discussion groups.....	25
STVDIO seminar series.....	25
Reading Group	26
Meetings of societies with close ties to the CSR.....	27
International Courtly Literature Society (British Branch).....	27
FISIER.....	27
Renaissance Society of America.....	28
Society for Neo-Latin Studies	29
Individual research.....	30

Abbreviations

University of Warwick

CSR	Centre for the Study of the Renaissance
CADRE	Centre for Arts Doctoral Research Excellence
DGS	Director of Graduate Studies
HRC	Humanities Research Centre
HRF	Humanities Research Fund (Research & Impact Services)
IAS	Institute for Advanced Study
IATL	Institute for Advanced Teaching & Learning
RIS	Research and Impact Services
SCFS	School of Cross-Faculty Studies
SMLC	School of Modern Languages and Cultures

External Organisations

AHRC	Arts and Humanities Research Council
ERC	European Research Council
CESR	Centre d'Études Supérieures de la Renaissance, Tours
FISIER	Fédération Internationale des Sociétés et Instituts pour l'Étude de la Renaissance
RSA	Renaissance Society of America
SRS	Society for Renaissance Studies
SNLS	Society for Neo-Latin Studies

Roles and Functions

ECR	Early Career Researcher
DGS	Director of Graduate Studies
Co-I	Co-Investigator
PGR / PGT	Postgraduate Research / Postgraduate Taught
PI	Principal Investigator
RF	Research Fellow / Fellowship
RA	Research Associate / Assistant
UG	Undergraduate
VF	Visiting Fellow / Fellowship

DIRECTOR'S INTRODUCTION

Membership and Structure of the CSR

The CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF THE RENAISSANCE (CSR) is one of just two 'category one' research centres of the University of Warwick, with its own independent budget. It is among the very few centres at Warwick not to be part of a department, reflecting an interdisciplinary brief in practice as well as in theory. It has close connections especially to the Departments of Classics and Ancient History, English and Comparative Literature, History, History of Art, Liberal Arts and the School of Modern Languages and Cultures. Membership of the CSR includes over 50 academic staff and postgraduates, drawn from the CSR and other departments.

The CSR is led by a Director (on 30% secondment from an allied department), a Director of Graduate Studies (again, seconded), and a part-time Administrator. In 2024–25 it also included Prof. Catherine Bates, four postdoctoral research fellows, and its own cohort of 11 PhD students, in addition to one Honorary Professor, two Honorary Readers, and 40+ Honorary Research Fellows (see inside front cover). This year, in addition to his PhD co-supervision role, we've also hosted our friend Professor Craig Martin (Ca' Foscari, nominated by Caroline Petit) as an IAS Visiting Fellow. At the beginning of the 2024–25 academic year, Rich Rabone took over from Aysu Dincer as DGS, while Teresa Grant continued as Director for a second year.

The CSR is supported by a designated subject librarian, Andrew Calvert, and our thanks are due to him for all his invaluable help over this past academic year. We are most grateful for the support of our finance contacts Christopher Gordon and Leanne Bezuidenhout, and our HR contacts Pauline Meere and Lisa Hayes. The CSR receives guidance from an Advisory Board, which meets once a year and is composed of both internal and external members (for the latter, see inside front cover). The Advisory Board receives reports on the CSR's activities and provides suggestions on its strategic direction.

This year Jayne Sweet's central part in CSR life was underscored again when she had to take a period of medical leave over the summer. She was sorely missed by us all, not only for her practical help but also for the crucial role she plays as the heart of the Centre, never too busy to listen to our joys and sorrows and to celebrate or commiserate accordingly. We are overjoyed to have her back, fighting fit! The operationally critical parts of her role were taken on during her leave by the Department of History's professional services team, and we are immensely grateful to (especially) Claudia Gray, Sophie Shilliday and Emma Russell for helping us, and bearing with my incompetence.

Teaching and Research

The CSR is a major hub of the University for interdisciplinary research and postgraduate teaching in medieval and Renaissance studies. As detailed in this report, it offers both its own students and those from other departments (as well as visiting and exchange students) significant opportunities for learning and training, from MA through PhD level. In addition, it runs a series of sessions of interest to early career researchers, as well as offering training in areas such as **Latin**, **Greek** and **Palaeography** (p. 18). The 2024-5 year was particularly successful, with record numbers of students—both our own and from institutions across the world—signing up for our online training. We'd like to thank our tutors, whose classes were uniformly excellent and, as the feedback reveals, much appreciated by their students.

Links with other Warwick departments are maintained through the interdisciplinary [STVDIO seminar](#) series (coordinated in 2024-25 by Dr Cecilia Sideri and Dr Maria Czepiel; see p. 25) and through joint seminars and events, especially with the [Early Modern and Eighteenth-Century](#) (History) and the [Manuscript and Print Cultures](#) (English) research groups.

At PhD level the CSR also engages in several international collaborations: the major ones concern **Monash University** (joint PhD programme undergirded by an official Warwick–Monash Memorandum of Understanding), **Johns Hopkins University** (with which there has been regular student and staff exchange since 2015; see pp. 3, 4 & 20), and the **Center for Renaissance Studies of the Newberry Library**, Chicago (see p. 19). Our student mobility partnerships with the **Centre d'Études Supérieures de la Renaissance, University of Tours**, and Ca'Foscari University of Venice, allow students to visit the other institution for a portion of the academic year. We also hosted a China Scholarship Council Visiting PhD student for the first time this year, with Yinhuizi Shi visiting us from South West University to work on early modern drama (report below). Next year we will be hosting three more visiting PhD students and two of PGT students from China, in the hope that this will help us to build strong collaboration with new institutional partners.

International Profile

The CSR collaborates with several international research projects and has a strong presence at international conferences of relevant associations (such as the Renaissance Society of America and the International Society for Neo-Latin Studies; see pp. 26-29). It is keen to host students and scholars from abroad and to continue its connections with long-time partners such as Johns Hopkins University, the Newberry Library, the Warburg Institute, and (for instance, through co-tutelles) with other institutions, including the University of Amsterdam, the Centre d'Études Supérieures de la Renaissance (Tours), and Ca' Foscari in Venice.

The CSR's website also hosts the learned-society pages for various international organizations and research initiatives:

- the **SOCIETY FOR NEO-LATIN STUDIES** ([SNLS](#)) (webmaster: ALEX TADEL, CSR)
- the **INTERNATIONAL COURTLY LITERATURE SOCIETY (British Branch)** ([ICLS British](#)) (page contact: DR MATT LAMPITT)
- the **SOCIETY FOR EUROPEAN FESTIVALS RESEARCH** ([SEFR](#)) (webmaster: Dr MARGARET SHEWRING)

Research Funding

The CSR is a major catalyst of research funding across the Faculty of Arts. Over the past decade it has hosted [highly visible collaborative projects](#) such as 'Renaissance Cultural Crossroads' (Leverhulme Trust, PI Brenda Hosington), 'Renaissance Conflict and Rivalries' (Leverhulme Network, PI David Lines), 'Vernacular Aristotelianism in Renaissance Italy' (AHRC, PI David Lines), 'Petrarch Commentary and Exegesis in Renaissance Italy' (AHRC, PI Simon Gilson), 'Neo-Latin Poetry in Renaissance France' (MHRA, PI Ingrid De Smet), 'The Oxford University Press *The Complete Works of James Shirley*' (AHRC and MHRA, Co-I Teresa Grant), and 'The Correspondence of Isaac Casaubon in England, 1610-14' (Leverhulme, PI Paul Botley).

The Centre strongly welcomes postdoctoral research fellows and has a long-standing record of supporting and training its ECFs. In 2024–25 we welcomed **Dr Maria Czepiel** (mentor: Dr Rich Rabone, commenced October 2024; see p. 36), **Dr Tim Wade** (mentor: Professor Paul Botley, commenced April 2025; see p. 64) and **Dr Kate Travers** (based in Liberal Arts, mentor: Dr Bryan Brazeau; commenced May 2025; see p. 61) as new Leverhulme Early Career Fellows

Digital Media

The CSR's administrator, JAYNE SWEET, has continued to publicize the activities of the CSR through its website and digital presence, including a (term-time) weekly news e-bulletin to c. 300 addresses, with conference announcements, calls for papers, job advertisements, funding opportunities, and other relevant information received or generated by the CSR.

News for 2024-25

Changes, updates and new activities:

Education

- We are working on CSR's new taught **MA course** is to be re-accredited in concert with the Faculty of Arts relaunch of their PGT provision (still in progress). This coming year, the opportunities of Strategy Refresh meetings with the Chair of Faculty will enable marketing and finance to help us formulate the best possibilities for future sustainability.
- in the meantime, the current [MA in the Culture of the European Renaissance](#) has been made available also without a compulsory stay in Venice, to encourage applications from students whose circumstances cannot easily accommodate study abroad. In the 2024-25, the MA had 2 full time and 2 part time students; in 2025-6, we have 4 full time and 2 part time students. Three of our PGT students made a short visit to Venice as part of our mobility programme and took part in the seminars for the [Warwick/Johns Hopkins PhD summer school](#). In 2025-6, this mobility opportunity will be delivered by a bespoke module, [Renaissance Europe and the Environmental Humanities: Venice and Beyond](#), taught in Venice by Professor Teresa Grant, Dr Bryan Brazeau and Dr Kate Travers.
- as part of our [partnership with Johns Hopkins University](#), the third edition of the [University of Warwick / Johns Hopkins University PhD Summer School](#) took place at the Istituto Veneto di Scienze, Lettere, ed Arti and the Warwick Venice Centre from June 10th – 20th, 2025. Co-organised by Dr. Bryan Brazeau and Professor Stephen Campbell (Johns Hopkins University), the programme welcomed 15 doctoral students from Warwick, Johns Hopkins, the University of Cambridge, the Centre d'études supérieures de la Renaissance (CESR) at the Université de Tours, University of Cologne, and University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. The event was made possible through funding by the Charles S. Singleton Centre for the Study of the Pre-Modern World at Johns Hopkins and the Institute for Advanced Study at Warwick. The theme was the intersection of the environment and materials in the renaissance world, with a particular focus on Renaissance Venice, examining the use and production of materials such as wood, silk, glass, pigments, canvas, and how they intersect and interact with ecological and environmental concerns.
- The second year of our new [Inclusive Education Plan](#), continued our commitment to a student experience which has inclusion at its heart and involves fostering a culture that understands and embodies the values of diversity and inclusion. We used part of our original IEF budget to increase opportunities for our students (and ECFs) to participate online so that research trips, co-tutelle arrangements and personal circumstances were no longer a barrier to accessing in-person CSR events. Our [Meeting OWL](#) and the large screen in the CSR workroom have continued to allow hybrid [PhD Work In Progress](#) and [STVDIO](#) seminars, as well as allowing all staff and students to attend the termly Committee/SSLC meetings even when they are abroad.
- The Inclusive Education Plan also funded another year of the [Warwick Renaissance Society](#), which invites all Warwick students to join us on funded trips to local attractions relevant to Renaissance research. We had two itineraries in 2023/4: [Canons Ashby](#) (Tuesday 6th May 2025) and [Upton House & Compton Verney](#) (Thursday 12th June 2025). We were joined by many of our own students but also by others from across the University who welcomed the opportunity to investigate this exciting historical period.

- Aysu Dincer, Rich Rabone, Paul Grigsby (Classics) and Teresa Grant collaborated on a **WIHEA Small Project** called ‘Access/Barriers to PGT Study (Faculty of Arts)’ which was focused on gaining a clearer understanding of UG students’ expectations from PGT degrees on offer in the Faculty of Arts. It focused on identifying potential barriers to PGT applications in the Faculty, in order to enhance and maintain Warwick’s leadership in PGT provision and WP. The main aims of the project were to improve our understanding of how the provision and funding of PGT degrees are understood by UG students and how UG students perceive the ‘value’ of PGT degrees (in terms of their relevance to further academic study, employability and careers). We hope our findings will inform University policy in relation to pathways to PGT with the aim of removing barriers, with embedded WP principles. The project will contribute to the ongoing discussions around rethinking PGT provision in the Arts Faculty, as well as other faculties within Warwick and improving communications between the University and potential applicants around the structure, purpose and value of PGT degrees. Our overarching goal is to grow our PGT cohort, but with widening participation principles at the heart of our approach.
- The CSR held another very successful [Study Day in September 2025 on the topic of ‘Elizabeth and the Elizabethans’](#). We are very grateful to our speakers, Professor Peter Marshall (History), Drs Aidan Norrie and Elizabeth Goldring (who hold CSR Honorary positions), and PhD students Daria Akhapkina and Kristi Flake (History).

Research and Impact

- the CSR’s **International Partnership Fund** with Centre d’Études Supérieures de la Renaissance (University of Tours) continues, aimed at developing a closer relationship between these two preeminent Centres for Renaissance Studies and transforming the landscape in both education and research, particularly in grant capture and international visibility. A party from Warwick (see picture below) travelled to Tours in February 2025, to plan our new flagship Renaissance PhD Summer School in partnership with the CESR, Johns Hopkins, University of York and the Warburg Institute and to encourage our students and postdocs to collaborate. We are very grateful to our hosts for their warm welcome, particularly to the organisers Dr Anna Matheson and Professor Philippe Canguilhem.



Clockwise from top left: Rich Rabone, Teresa Grant, Aysu Dincer, Bryan Brazeau, Sophie Hartles, Mathilde Alain, Maria Czepiel.

- Despite very positive reviewers' comments and high scores, our application for the **AHRC Focal Doctoral Award Centre in Material Humanities**, was not successful. This consortium bid—with the University of York and the Warburg Institute (UoL), and with many significant non HEI, including the V&A and National Trust—proposed to deliver training for the next generation of UK researchers in the specialist, interdisciplinary and transferable skills required by the cultural and creative industries, including education/academia and in the Galleries, Libraries, Archives and Museums (GLAM) sector. The 4-year doctoral programme (with an integrated MA) will develop the high-level research skills students require for interdisciplinary humanities. However, the programme has now been selected by Philanthropy as a 'Campaign Project' and we are currently working with them in search of philanthropic funding.
- **Shakespeare's Roses: 'Sweetest Odours'** was an interactive exhibition at [New Place](#) in Stratford upon Avon, one of the [Shakespeare Birthplace Trust](#) houses, running from June to October 2025. The exhibition was curated by the SBT and the CSR's very own Director and Director of Studies, Professor Teresa Grant and Dr Aysu Dincer, to demonstrate how early modern roses were transformed into fragrance and cures. An interactive olfactory device, developed by Professor James Covington from Warwick's School of Engineering, delivered the scents of our partner [Floris London's](#) four rose perfumes. It was accompanied by an [online exhibition](#), which is still running. The exhibition was funded by the Arts and Humanities Impact Fund and by English and Comparative Literary Studies, for whom it may form a possible Impact Case Study.



(l to r) Teresa Grant, James Covington and Aysu Dincer at the exhibition installation at New Place.



Edie Hargreaves (daughter of CSR alumna, Emily) tests the 'Olfactory Display' (smells machine!)

- We were delighted to host our friend Professor Pascal Brioist in Stratford as part of our Roses weekend in June. Pascal is Professor at the University of Tours, France, and at the Centre d'études Supérieures de la Renaissance. Involved in public history, he has been the curator of several exhibitions on Leonardo, especially one on Leonardo's anatomy (2023), another one on Leonardo and perfumes (2024) and he is currently organizing a new one for 2025 on Leonardo and biomimicry. All those exhibitions are held at the Clos Lucé in Amboise, France, where Leonardo lived his last years. He gave a public lecture, **From Constantinople to Venice, Florence and Milan: Perfumes in the Renaissance in the time of Leonardo**, in which he told the story of Leonardo's mother, abducted in her youth on the banks of the Black Sea and sold into slavery. Slaves and perfumes followed the same itineraries and were bought in the same cities. Leonardo da Vinci was interested in fragrances and perfumes in various formats, like the Cyprus birdies/oiselets and pomanders, and wrote about them. He developed anatomically informed theories of sensations and also created complex 'alembics' (stills). His famous portrait 'the Lady with an Ermine' depicts a necklace made of bits of black amber. Similarly, Renaissance costumes and accessories conveyed beautiful odours. The luxury world of Renaissance Courts was full of elaborate smells and Leonardo's life lead him to encounter many

perfume traditions from various places, including Florence, Milan, Venice and France. The talk offered its audience a splendid trip into this world of wonders.



Professor Pascal Briost delivering his lecture.

- On 21st June 2025, **Alumni drinks** to celebrate the opening of Shakespeare’s Roses exhibition were hosted by the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust at New Place. Delicious local ‘champagne’ was provided by our partners [Welcombe Hills Vineyard](#) and everyone had a chance to sample the four Floris rose perfumes delivered by James Covington’s olfactory display. Over 30 of us went on to supper together in Stratford, despite the heat – the temperature was 30°C!



(l to r) Professor Rachel Moseley (Chair of Faculty) and Professor Teresa Grant (Director of the CSR), with Dr Ioanna Iordanou (CSR Alumna and HRF). Staff, students, alumni and guests at the ‘Shakespeare’s Roses’ drinks party.

- The inaugural Honorary Research Fellows’ Annual Lunch. This year saw a newly-instituted annual event for CSR Honorary Fellows to get together and meet, catch up and discuss our research. In future years, it will be scheduled to coincide with a bigger alumni event, but in 2025 this took the form of our Shakespeare’s Roses exhibition to which HRFs had had a separate invitation. So in July, over 30 of us, staff and honorary fellows, had lunch in Stratford upon Avon and visited the Shakespeare’s Roses exhibition. Next year we are planning a similar event at Coughton Court, with a guided tour, on Saturday 20th June, so please save the date.



Clockwise from left: Rich Rabone (DGS), Clare Merrick (MA 2024), Julian Gardner (Hon. Em. Prof.), Sophia Li (alumna and HRF), Susan Brock (HRF), Anca-Delia Moldovan (EUTOPIA-SIF Fellow), Giorgio Lizzul (HRF), David Lines (former Director), Teresa Grant (current Director), Alice Leonard (HRF). There were another two tables at this, the first HRF annual lunch.

- work has continued on the new **book series** with Brepols (Warwick Studies in Renaissance Thought and Culture, gen. eds Botley, de Smet and Lines). Several more series publications are in the pipeline.

It is that time again when I turn to assessing if, and how far, we have managed to advance the strategic priorities we had in mind last September at the start of my second year in post.

We continue with our widening participation agenda, with a continuing Inclusive Education plan and further WIHEA funds to improve our understanding of how the provision and funding of PGT degrees, and their value, are understood by UG students. We want to grow our PGT cohort, but we think that key to this is to find out what prevents people from applying for, or taking up their place on, the MA of the Culture of the European Renaissance. We think that these barriers operate across all the Arts subjects, both at Warwick and at other institutions, and that finding ways to surmount them will improve things for staff and students alike. Serious thinking, and communication of that thinking, about the value of an MA in Arts and Humanities is absolutely crucial. As we compile our report we will mesh with the new [Warwick Embedding Employability Framework](#), which seeks to ensure that all students have equal access to aspects of employability and skills, smoothing out inequalities and helping to make competition for jobs fairer.

Evidence over the last two years seems to suggest that offering the MA without a compulsory Venice stay has encouraged a wider range of applicants. We were also delighted that all of our students in 2024-5 took up the opportunity for a short-term mobility period in Venice. Hopefully the opportunity for both short and longer-term student mobility will allow us to continue to grow our PGT cohort numbers in a world where masters funding is now virtually non-existent and, increasingly, students are self-funding. The small rise in part-time applications seems to underline this, with many students having commitments and responsibilities outside the academy. This recognises the potential that the study of the Renaissance has to enhance lives more widely, as well as a gateway to further study. As ever, our Community Study Day, [Elizabeth and the Elizabethans](#), in September 2025 garnered fantastic feedback from the participants and demonstrated that, as ever, our research is extremely effective at engaging the public and therefore contributes brilliantly to Warwick's commitment to a shared regional leadership to enhance our local area.

We have also managed to continue existing, and to forge new partnerships, locally, nationally and internationally this year. Our partnership with St Mary's Collegiate Church, Warwick, continues, with their historian, Tim Clark a regular attendee at CSR events. We are planning another visit to the wonderful church with the Warwick Renaissance Society in the coming year. This year has also seen a new partnership in public engagement with the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust and a teaching partnership for 2025-6, with a new co-taught module, [Understanding and Promoting Cultural Heritage](#). Although our bid for funding for an AHRC Focal Doctoral Award Centre in Material Humanities was unsuccessful, the University has encouraged us to seek other funding via Philanthropy and, possibly, the Leverhulme Trust. Our partnership with York and the Warburg, as well as with a wide and impressive range of museum and other cultural heritage organisations has the potential to transform education and training in the material humanities, grounded in the specialist, interdisciplinary and transferable skills required by the cultural and creative industries, in which our Centre excels. Internationally, our student mobility agreement with the Centre d'Études Supérieures de la Renaissance (University of Tours), together with the award from Warwick's International Partnership Fund, continues our new chapter of collaboration between the two Renaissance Centres, consolidating existing links and exploring new ones. We have also connected with the Center for Medieval Studies and the Center for Renaissance and Reformation Studies at the University of Toronto with a view to future collaboration. I am particularly grateful to colleagues who have grown and fostered other international links: notable amongst many others, Bryan Brazeau with Johns Hopkins, Catherine Bates as our Newberry Library and RSA representative and Ingrid de Smet with FISIER. Natalya Din-Kariuki has maintained links with both the Newberry and the Folger Libraries, and with RSA, as well as securing an International Partnership Fund 2025-7 for a project-collaboration on 'Global Renaissances' with Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies (ACMRS) at Arizona State University and the Center for Renaissance and Reformation Studies at the University of Toronto. The symposium will take place in Tours in June 2026 to coincide with the Renaissance PhD Summer School, hopefully encourage cross-collaboration between all our international partners.

Following from last year's intentions we have made the first steps towards instituting an alumni circle, with our first annual alumni event (the opening of the 'Shakespeare's Roses' exhibition) and with our inaugural honorary fellows' lunch. Another event has been tentatively arranged for June 2026, and we are hoping also that alumni will be able to offer mentorship to our students in the future. We have also made some headway with outreach courses for secondary school students, currently exploring possibilities with both FutureLearn and the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust. Online courses at this level have been shown to substantially increase applications from non-traditional candidates, in our case aiming at undergraduate degrees across Warwick and then towards the CSR at postgraduate level. Last year we decided to consolidate and grow, particularly, medieval studies. While we were in Tours in February, Aysu Dincer and I met potential medieval collaborators in Poitiers, at the **Centre d'Études supérieures de civilisation médiévale (CESCM)**, considered one of the best such *laboratoires* in France, and with medievalist colleagues at Université de Tours. Unfortunately our subsequent application for the International Partnership Fund in medieval studies was unsuccessful, but we have secured an IAS Visiting Fellowship to host Dr Ileana Sasu at Warwick next academic year. We are particularly grateful to Vladimir Agrigoroaei and Cécile Voyer for hosting us at Poitiers, and to Ileana Sasu for helping make our stay in Tours so productive. We continue to curate the applications of ECRs who are applying for external grants, with exceptional support from the team in Research and Impact Services.

My second year in post has been as busy as the first, and just as fun. I have seen my first tranche of successful PhD and MA graduations: Ivan . In too short a span, I have made friends with and said fond farewells to wonderful postdoctoral colleagues: Tom Pert, Matteo Leta and Cecilia Sideri. We are very grateful to everyone who has contributed so much to making the CSR a truly interdisciplinary centre of excellence and we are delighted that so many of you want to stay in touch. As ever, colleagues have gone well beyond their duty to support the CSR and to nurture the talent of our students and early career scholars, whose energy and passion for collaborative research is remarkable. The CSR has also welcomed

three staff babies over this last year: many congratulations to Jen Edwards for the same arrival of Arlo; Vittoria Fallanca for Argyr ; and Nancy Jiang for Mirabel.

The invaluable input of our Advisory Board, whose guidance and support continues to shape our direction, contributes to our continuing success. This year is the last for board members Alex Marr and Isabel Torres, who leave us with heartfelt gratitude for all their care and thoughtfulness. Our fabulous chair, Brian Cummings, has stepped down a few months early, having shaped so much of our ambition and our successes over the past (nearly) 4 years. He will be sadly missed by all of us, but especially by me: I could always rely on Brian to run enthusiastically with even (maybe especially) rather outr  ideas. I suspect he takes the attitude that one should try anything once and for that, and many other things, I thank him. We are delighted that Sachiko Kusakawa (Trinity, Cambridge) has agreed to take his place as chair, starting immediately, and we will also welcome Jonathan Thacker (Oxford) to the board at the same time.

Thank you to Rich Rabone for stepping so ably into Aysu's shoes as DGS for the past year and for a wonderful shared teaching experience on our MA module 'Golden Age Drama in England and Spain', from which I learnt certainly as much as our students did. Aysu Dincer went on academic leave for a year but spent so much of it contributing to CSR projects that we missed her far less than I had feared; but we missed Jayne Sweet immensely when she was on leave for almost the whole of this last summer, and we are profoundly grateful for her return. It impossible to stress how much we depend on her or how much thanks are her due.

Teresa Grant
CSR Director
October 2025

TEACHING AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES

For CSR Students

Taught Postgraduate

The taught MA in the Culture of the European Renaissance ran in 2024-25, with a cohort of 2 full time and 2 part time students, all of whom chose a short mobility period in Venice.

The CSR's external examiner Lisa Sampson is Professor in Early Modern Italian Studies at University College, London. Professor Sampson works on early modern Italy, focusing on theatre and literary culture, women's writing, academies and court culture.

MPhil/PhD

The CSR's PhD programme has done very well recently. In 2024-25 the Centre had the following MPhil/PhD students (listed in order of seniority, then alphabetically):

- Sophie Hartles (M4C Scholarship), working on *Laughter and Violence in the Italian Renaissance: The physical and emotional abuse of the 'beffa', c. 1400-1600* (supervised by Jonathan Davies in History and Ingrid De Smet in French); started in 2020. (Successfully defended her PhD at a viva on 13th March 2025.)
- Eva van Kemenade (Chancellor's EU Scholarship), working on *'Popular Festive Rituals in Space, Sound and Print in Renaissance Italy and France'* (supervised by David Lines in Italian, Ingrid De Smet in Italian and Amsterdam co-tutelle colleague, Maartje van Gelder); started in 2020. (Successfully defended her PhD at a viva on 22nd September 2025.)
- Mathilde Alain (Chancellor's EU Scholarship), working on *'The Christian kingdom of Ethiopia in the travel diary of Francisco Álvares 1520-1526'* (supervised by Natalya Din-Kariuki and Paul Botley, both in the English Department and co-supervised by Nathalie Bouloux in a cotutelle arrangement with the Centre d'Études Supérieures de la Renaissance at Tours), started in 2021. (Successfully defended her PhD at a viva on 20th June 2025.)
- Daria Akhapkina (Chancellor's International Scholarship), working on *'Edible Saints and Holy Vices: Late Medieval and Renaissance Ecclesiastical Parody'* (supervised by Emma Campbell in French and Paul Botley in English), started in 2022.
- Wanxin Du (China Scholarship Council), working on *'Crime, Punishment and State Justice in Seventeenth-Century Tuscany'* (supervised by Jonathan Davies in the History Department), started 2022.
- Clive Letchford (part-time), working on *'Renaissance school teaching: Latin language pedagogy and innovation in the shadow of tradition in England, 1540-1640'* (supervised by Paul Botley in English and Richard Smith in Applied Linguistics), started 2022.
- Christian Martens (Swiss National Research Fund), working on *'François Hotman: Writing and Making History in Times of Religious Conflict'* (supervised by co-tutelle colleague, Prof. Paul-Alexis Mellet in History [Geneva] and, at Warwick, Ingrid De Smet in French), started 2022.

- Karin Sprang (M4C scholarship), working on ‘Transalpine Travellers and Friendly Affairs: Alba Amicorum in Early Modern Italy, ca. 1550-1700’ (supervised by Ingrid De Smet in French and David Lines in Italian), started 2022.
- Alex Tadel (M4C scholarship), working on ‘Bene constitutae civitatis alumna eloquentia: Neo-Latin letters by women humanists in the Venetian Quattrocento’ (supervised by Ingrid De Smet in French), started 2022.
- Valeria Cesaraccio (Chancellor’s International Scholarship), working on ‘Teaching and Learning Latin in Sixteenth-Century Italy: Theory and Practice’ (supervised by David Lines in Italian and Paul Botley in English), started 2023.
- Marta Spina (Chancellor’s International Scholarship), working on ‘Sallust in the European Renaissance’ (supervised by David Lines in Italian and Ingrid de Smet in French), started 2023.
- Claudio Azzarito (Chancellor’s International Scholarship), working on ‘The Logic of Diagnosis: Understanding and Predicting Diseases in the Medical School of Padua (1500 – 1600 ca.)’ (supervised by co-tutelle colleague Craig Martin [Ca’ Foscari] and, at Warwick, Caroline Petit in Classics)

CSR doctoral students are encouraged to avail themselves of the skills programmes described immediately below and to acquire facility in reading Latin and at least one modern language other than English. They are encouraged to help in various facets of the CSR, such as the organization of the STVDIO Seminars or of the Work in Progress Seminars. They are also encouraged to take part in seminars and activities of allied groups, including the Early Modern and Eighteenth Century Centre (History Department), and the Centre for the History of Medicine (History Department).

All CSR students benefit from support and training sessions from **Library** staff, and the CSR is very active in acquiring and promoting electronic collections, in which the Library is particularly strong. These include EEBO, Early European Books, ESTC, Iter, and most of the Brepolis Online Databases, such as Library of Latin Texts, Aristoteles Latinus, International Medieval Bibliography, and International Bibliography of Humanism and the Renaissance. The Library is trying to develop a more holistic approach to the purchase of early modern materials, in consultation with members of the CSR.

Students are also strongly encouraged to become familiar with the **scholarly databases and repertories developed through research projects at Warwick**. Notable examples include ‘Renaissance Cultural Crossroads’, the ‘Perdita Project’, ‘Vernacular Aristotelianism in Renaissance Italy’, and ‘Petarch Commentary and Exegesis in Renaissance Italy’.

CSR students continue to benefit from several **international exchange programmes** between the CSR and other centres, as well as **internship opportunities** and the like (see pp. 12).

A SELECTION OF CSR PhD STUDENT RESEARCH REPORTS

Valeria Cesaraccio, ‘Teaching and Learning Latin in Sixteenth-Century Italy: Theory and Practice’

I have done research on manuscripts and sixteenth-century books at the Biblioteca Nazionale in Naples (October–November 2024), and at the libraries Vaticana, Vallicelliana, Casanatense, Angelica and Nazionale in Rome, both in November 2024 and June 2025. In all these libraries I have studied sixteenth-century schoolbooks on Latin grammar and letter-writing, and manuscripts containing material related to Latin teaching, such as glossaries, translations, and letters. I have studied a manuscript from 1575 at the Biblioteca Ambrosiana in Milan in January 2025: this source belonged to the founder of the Ambrosiana Library and contains his school exercises of translation and composition. I have also done research on both primary and secondary sources at the Bodleian Library in Oxford and the Warburg Institute throughout the year, especially on catalogues of manuscripts.

In October–November 2024, I did a one-month internship at the University Library of Naples, which was part of the *CERL Internship and Placement Grants*. I have catalogued 40 incunables and created new entries for both the *MEI* (40 entries) and the *OOI* (39 entries) databases. This experience has helped me to familiarize with material aspects of early printed books and allowed me to better describe the primary sources of my thesis.

I presented at the doctoral workshop *Cultural Exchanges through Letters between the 14th and 16th Centuries* (University of Turin, 22–23 January 2025), with a paper entitled ‘Esercizi di scrittura: il *Liber epistolarum Philippi Venuti Cortonensis*’. I also presented at the RSA conference in Boston (20–22 March 2025) a paper entitled ‘Learning Latin in the Sixteenth Century: Manuscript Exercises of Translation and Letter Writing’, which was part of a panel organized by my supervisor (Prof. David Lines). In June (4) I presented a paper entitled ‘Le «Epistulae Magni Turci» di Laudivio Zacchia come esercizi di scrittura’ together with Prof. Luigi Silvano (my supervisor during the Master), at the conference: *Falsum est, mihi crede! Percorsi del falso letterario tra Antichità e Rinascimento* (Sapienza University of Rome, 4 June 2025); this paper will end up in a publication for a miscellaneous volume that will be published at the beginning of 2026. All these papers have made me more confident with presenting my research in front of a public.

Finally, I joined the editorial board of the academic journal *Archivio per il vocabolario storico italiano*, on which I have been publishing almost every year since 2020.

Publications:

- Entries: *accozzo*, *ardia*, *barbaricino*, *bardana*, *bassallu*, *carasau*, *carta da musica*, *cussorgia*, *gallurese*, *giara*, *girò*, *maiore*, *mezgoradu*, *nuraghe*, *stria*, in *Piccolo vocabolario storico dei sardismi in italiano*, ed. by Dino Manca and Luigi Matt (Sassari: Edes, 2025), pp. 7–8, 20–22, 26–36, 39–40, 71–76, 84–89, 109–17, 119–20, 123–25, 153–57, 166–68, 177–86, 267–69. ISBN: 9788860256478;
- ‘Per un vocabolario storico della terminologia codicologica, diplomatica e paleografica’, *Archivio per il vocabolario storico italiano*, 7 (2024), pp. 198–205;
- ‘Contributi sparsi. Lemmi singoli: “carta nuragografica”, “nuragologia”, “nuragologico”, “nuragologo”, “protonuraghe”, “pseudonuraghe”’, *Archivio per il vocabolario storico italiano*, 7 (2024), pp. 156, 161–63, 165–66;
- Review of Alessandro Aresti, *Il glossario latino-bergamasco (sec. XV) della Biblioteca Universitaria di Padova (ms. 534). Nuova edizione con commento linguistico, note lessicali e indici delle voci* (Berlin–Boston: De Gruyter, 2021), in *Studi linguistici italiani*, 50.1 (2024), pp. 159–61.

Other:

In January, I taught a class on *Latin and Vernacular*, which was part of the module: *Topics in Renaissance Thought and Culture*, taught by my supervisor (Prof. David Lines). In May, I taught the Beginner’s level intense short course of *Latin for Research*, offered by the CSR.

Wanxin Du, 'Violent Crimes and Criminal Justice in the State of Siena. 1590-1650'

Research activities:

During the past academic year, I continued to make progress in my ongoing PhD project on violence and justice in early modern Siena during the Medici rule. Funded by Warwick's HRC, I conducted my research as a visiting PhD student in the Department of History and Civilisation at the European University Institute (Florence, Italy) between 7 January and 15 March 2025. This experience allowed me to engage closely with scholars in the EUI's History Department. I enrolled in a weekly PhD seminar on early modern history and presented my current project to other early modernists there. I also participated in the activities of the EUI's Methods in Early Modern History Working Group, where I presented a paper on arms control legislation in grand-ducal Tuscany from the late sixteenth to the late seventeenth century and received valuable feedback from scholars with a wide range of expertise. Beyond my research at the EUI, I made the most of my time in Italy by gathering additional essential archival materials for my thesis in both Florence and Siena. I received generous assistance from the archivists at the Archivio di Stato di Firenze, Archivio di Stato di Siena, Archivio Arcivescovile di Siena, as well as from scholars at the Medici Archive Project, which I had visited in a previous year. Access to local libraries, such as the EUI library, Berenson Library at Villa I Tatti (Harvard's Center for Italian Renaissance Studies) and the Biblioteca Comunale degli Intronati in Siena, enabled me to consult Italian academic resources that are difficult to obtain in the UK. Thanks to these resources, during my stay in Italy I was able to complete a paper entitled 'Disputes and Negotiation in Sieneese Criminal Appeals in the First Half of the Seventeenth Century', which I presented on 22 March at the panel "Justice in Early Modern Italy II: Justice alla senese" of the RSA annual meeting held in Boston.

Karin Sprang, 'Transalpine Travellers & Friendly Affairs: *Alba Amicorum* in Early Modern Italy, ca. 1550-1700'.

Research activities

- Conference: 'Friendship on the Road: Transalpine Networks in the Travel Journal and Album Amicorum of Erckenbrecht Koler (1587-1593)', Society for Renaissance Studies Biennial Conference (University of Bristol, Bristol, UK – 2-5 July 2025);
- Workshop: 'Visual Encounters: Alba Amicorum in Early Modern Italy', Courtauld-Warwick Italian Renaissance Art Doctoral Workshop (Courtauld Institute of Art, London, UK – 19 June 2025);
- Seminar: 'The Apothecary in the Album: Foreign Friendship and Cross-Border Exchange in the Early Modern Veneto', Venetian Seminar (University of Sheffield, Sheffield, UK – 9 May 2025).
- Successfully applied to the Fondazione Lemmermann Fellowship Award for Research in Rome and the Venetian Research Program Award, Gladys Krieble Delmas Foundation (both to be taken up in 25/26 academic year).

Impact and public engagement:

Two student field trips with the Warwick Renaissance Society: Canons Ashby (National Trust), 6th May 2025 and Compton Verney & Upton House (National Trust), 12th June 2025.

Conference report by Christian Martens. ‘François Hotman. A Man of Action, between Law, History, and Theology’. (21-22 November 2024, Geneva, Institut d’Histoire de la Réformation)

On Thursday and Friday 21-22 November 2024, Paul-Alexis Mellet (Université de Genève, Institut d’Histoire de la Réformation), Ingrid De Smet (University of Warwick, CSR) and Christian Martens (Université de Genève, IHR / University of Warwick, CSR) organised an international symposium on the influential legal scholar, political thinker and Huguenot polemicist François Hotman (1524-1590). The conference, which coincided with the 500th anniversary of Hotman’s birth, was hosted by the Institute for the History of the Reformation in Geneva, thanks to generous funding from the Swiss National Foundation for Science. The two days were not without incident: a sudden cold snap gripped Europe, forcing one colleague to present via Zoom, while a fierce gust shattered a window in the conference room, toppling a heavy metal lamp perilously close to another speaker. Yet despite these disruptions, the symposium pursued an ambitious goal: to reinvigorate the study of Hotman. While until the 1990s Hotman elicited much interest from scholars working on Renaissance and Early Modern political thought, the study of his learned (Latin) writings has since become the preserve of a handful of aficionados. This conference aimed to reverse that trend, renewing interest in Hotman’s career, ideas, and influence. We believe it succeeded.

Director of the Institut d’Histoire de la Réformation Ueli Zahnd gave a short welcome address. Paul-Alexis Mellet and Ingrid De Smet then introduced the next two days of work by focusing on the tasks and questions that present-day scholars have yet to address, in the decades that have passed since the foundational work of Donald Kelley, Ralph Giesey and J.H.M. Salmon among others. They outlined the main areas the participants would explore over the next two days: 1) Hotman’s life, family, and network; 2) Hotman and the law; 3) Hotman and the Reformation; 4) Hotman and history; 5) Hotman and politics; 6) Hotman and polemics. They also provided telling examples of how quickly new discoveries on Hotman could be achieved.

Denis Tappy (Université de Lausanne) focused on Hotman’s career in Lausanne, where the humanist held his first university position. Building on recent research by Karine Crousaz, Prof. Tappy showed how this early period of the jurist’s life had unjustifiably been neglected and proved much more dynamic than previously thought. By underlining Hotman’s mobility between Lausanne and Geneva and his initial focus, in his publications, on the study of Roman law, Tappy sketched a new and much fuller picture of Hotman’s academic debut.

Jérémie Ferrer-Bartomeu (Université catholique de Louvain / Université de Liège) presented a little-known relative of Hotman, François Hotman de Morfontaines, a leading official of the court under the reigns of Henri III and Henri IV. While very little manuscript material has been preserved in his hand, Ferrer-Bartomeu has found traces of his diplomatic activities during the late 1590s in Switzerland. Working also from posthumous publications of our François Hotman, who died in 1590, he showed how Jean Hotman, his son, publicly engineered the reunion of the Hotman family, which had been split along confessional lines since the 1550s, by dedicating numerous works of his famous Calvinist father to his Catholic uncle – whom Ferrer-Bartomeu showed to be a diligent, but rather unexceptional servant of the Crown.

Lorenzo Paoli (Université de Genève) presented “the other Hotman”, that is Hotman’s pseudonymous other, the alchemist Thomas Arfoncinus. Focussing on a small text printed in 1576 under this name as part of a controversy with Doctors of Medicine in Geneva and Lyon, Paoli warns future researchers not to insist too loudly on Hotman’s modernity. Instead, Paoli’s inquiry showed that Hotman was deeply embedded in the so-called “heterodox” networks active in Basel (well-studied by, among others, Carlos Gilly), with their wide-ranging scientific interests, notably for Paracelsian and alchemistic approaches to natural philosophy. Hotman’s interest in alchemy, notably in the transmutation of baser metals into gold, remained vivid during the latter part of his life, up until his death in Basel.

Paul-Alexis Mellet tried to answer a simple, yet crucial and much-debated question in Hotman studies: did the *Franco gallia*, published in 1573, make the jurist a Monarchomach? The foundation of Mellet’s answer was the definition he gave to the so-called Monarchomach treatises in his doctoral thesis: rejection of tyranny; the double alliance; the sovereignty of the people; conditional political obedience. Mellet showed convincingly that, while Hotman could be at times said to fulfil any of these conditions, the idiosyncrasies

of the *Francogallia* (published under his own name, rather than anonymously; no reference to the present civil-war situation) should not be watered down to satisfy the historiographical need for labels.

Isabelle Turcan (Université de Lorraine) presented Gilles Ménage's (1613-1692) uses of Hotman's works. With her focus on the early modern reception of the jurist's writings, she led the way in refining our approach to the meaning of Hotman's name and work in times of unequivocal rejection of his political theories. Ménage's linguistic concerns, as a lexicographer, necessarily limited the scope of his borrowings. However, Turcan showed that he had in his library a wide array of works by Hotman – among them also some that had been heavily attacked, like the *Francogallia* –, works which, through his reception, entered French dictionaries up until the mid-18th century.

Ana Alicia Carmona Aliaga (Université de Franche-Comté) presented Hotman's life as written and studied by Pierre Bayle. She expertly dismantled the latter's construction of text, notes on the text, and notes on the notes, and revealed just quite how subtly Bayle worked his critique of the jurist's work in his article about him. Indeed, reminding us that Bayle, while as much a Calvinist as Hotman, remained all his life a staunch defender of strict obedience to political authority, Carmona Aliaga highlighted Bayle's unambiguous clarity in rejecting the conditionality of political obedience defended by Hotman.

On the second day, Corinne Noirot (Virginia Tech) offered us an in-depth analysis of the *Tigre de France*, a short and virulent tract of 1560, written against the Cardinal of Lorraine and long attributed to Hotman. In her presentation, Noirot showed how what could be at first construed as the height of rhetorical mastery, with easily recognisable yet powerful echoes of Cicero's *Catilinarians*, in truth revealed the weakness of the Protestant party and their own awareness of it. Her systematic reading of Hotman's text makes abundantly clear quite how little – in his own eyes – his words could achieve against the repressive policies of the Guises and the raging desperation that was growing out of it.

Étienne Feuillant (Université de Bordeaux) also worked on the *Tigre*, but with a reception-studies approach. He made us enter the world of 19th-century bibliophiles, as they rediscovered, read in small, privileged circles, and eventually published the *Tigre*. This half-mystical approach to Hotman's short tract turned it into a printed cry for freedom in a time of intolerant persecution and ensured for it a golden status in the historiography, transforming the jurist's own image in the eyes of historians. In his conclusion, Feuillant could then suggest that the long series of 20th-century attributions of short political pamphlets to Hotman was undoubtedly linked to his reputation as a master polemicist, made in the forge of the *Tigre*'s modern rediscovery.

Jean-Philippe Hias (Université de Rennes) inquired upon the kind of Romanist Hotman was, given the abundant literature on the renewal of the study of Roman law under the impulse of humanism. Focusing on Hotman's approach to the notion of usufruct, he highlighted the jurisconsult's unease at and rejection of Tribonian's cuts and adjunctions to the texts of Roman jurists. Hias then showed the utilitarian spirit with which Hotman justified further contemporary use of Roman law, visible in his personal taste for general rules and his call for reform of French legislation under its influence.

Christian Martens presented the corpus of Hotman's so-called *Observationes*, focusing on two lines of inquiry. First, he showed how the *observatio*-genre, as it became prominent in French Roman law studies, was channelled by Hotman to construct a charismatic public *persona* for himself, notably as put against Jacques Cujas, the great other practitioner of the genre. Second, by analyzing select *observationes*, he demonstrated how these texts illuminate the evolution of Hotman's legal thought, especially in feudal and Roman law.

Arnaud Le Gonidec (Université de Toulouse-Capitole) examined Hotman's place within his generation of legal scholars, who, as he termed it, shaped “the doctrinal matrix of the state and of French law.” Through textual parallels, he demonstrated how Hotman's legal epistemology was deeply influenced by the civil-war context of his time, leading – like in some of his contemporaries – to a lasting preoccupation with peace.

Ki-Won Hong (Yonsei University) challenged the prevailing scholarly view that *Brutum fulmen* (1585) marked a shift in Hotman's political thought from *Francogallia* (1573). He argued that the latter's core principle – the rejection of all Roman influence – remained unchanged and that *Brutum fulmen* transformed

this idea into a powerful appeal for national autonomy, directed at both domestic and international audiences.

The organisers are planning to publish selected papers from the conference, combined with some additional, invited contributions, with a view to covering all aspects of Hotman's life and thought. They would also like to express their deep gratitude to the Swiss National Science Foundation for funding the event, to the Institut d'Histoire de la Réformation for its warm hospitality, and to the speakers for their diligent and insightful contributions.

Christian Martens
Université de Genève, Institut d'Histoire de la Réformation
University of Warwick, CSR

Ingrid De Smet
University of Warwick, CSR

Yinhuizi Shi, visiting PGR student from South West University, China, working with Teresa Grant on Renaissance Drama

Research activities:

Over the period from September 2024 to June 2025, I significantly refined the research perspectives and core questions outlined in my PhD dissertation proposal and restructured the overall framework of the thesis. Under the guidance of my supervisor, Teresa Grant, and other faculty members in the CSR at the University of Warwick, I conducted a more comprehensive literature review and completed the first chapter of my dissertation, which comprises approximately one-third of the entire thesis. This chapter consists of three articles, each focusing on the imaginative representations of money and related ethical questions in different early modern plays: *Othello*, *Englishmen for My Money*, and *The Shoemaker's Holiday*. Thus, this year's learning experience has been instrumental in the development of my dissertation.

I also attended a series of highly informative seminars both within and outside the university, which exposed me to cutting-edge research topics and stimulating modes of critical thinking. These sessions offered valuable insights into how accomplished researchers formulate questions, apply methodologies, and interpret social phenomena, substantially enhancing my own analytical approach.

In terms of academic output, I currently have two articles in the process of submission and one theatre review under external peer review. My proficiency in academic writing has improved markedly, and I have expanded my research perspective by venturing into performance criticism alongside literary analysis.

Furthermore, during this period, I presented at both an international academic conference and the Work-in-Progress Seminar organized by CSR at the University of Warwick. These opportunities exposed me to a wide range of research topics and methodologies pursued by fellow postgraduate researchers. The experience significantly enhanced my conference presentation skills and bolstered my confidence, thereby providing valuable impetus for the progress of my research.

Publications:

- “Lady Macbeth in Sichuan Opera: Exploring the Boundaries of Female Subjectivity through Chinese Experimental Theatre” submitted to *Multicultural Shakespeare: Translation, Appropriation and Performance* (under review)
- “Review of the Royal Shakespeare Company's Production of *The Winter's Tale*” submitted to *Shakespeare Bulletin* (under review)
- “Double-Entry Bookkeeping in *Othello*: From a Redemption Economy to a Profit-Oriented Economy” submitted to a Chinese journal *Foreign Literature Studies* (under review)

Impact and public engagement:

In June 2025, I attended The British Graduate Shakespeare Conference and delivered an oral presentation on “Double-Entry Bookkeeping in *Othello*” in a panel session.

Alex E. Tadel, 'Why Are There So Few Learned Women? The Female Neo-Latin Authorial Voice in the Venetian Quattrocento'

Research activities:

I have written full drafts of two of my dissertation chapters, and I am currently working on the other two. I have finalised the structure and the argument of my dissertation. In September and October 2024, I carried out primary source research in Florence and Rome, funded by the M4C Research Development Fund. I have successfully applied for a Delmas Research Foundation Grant to undertake research in Venice (September 2025) and to a Seminarium fellowship at KU Leuven (November and December 2025). I was invited to give a talk at the Cambridge Neo-Latin Seminar in February 2025. In addition to this talk, I gave a paper at a one-day workshop at the Medici Archive in Florence on women's humanist epistolography in September 2024 and a paper at the IANLS triennial conference in Aix-en-Provence in July 2025. I also co-organised the Warwick CSR WiP event series throughout the year, and I co-organised an online roundtable on women as authors of Latin literature that featured leading scholars in the field.

Publications:

Peer-Reviewed Articles

2025 (Forthcoming). 'An Exceptional Woman? Polissena Messalto Grimaldi and the Variety of Women's Latin Writing in the Quattrocento', *Journal of the Warburg and Courtauld Institutes* 88

2024. 'Isotta Nogarola as a Public Intellectual: An Unpublished Letter from Silvestro Lando Concerning her *Defence of Eve*', *Humanistica Lovaniensia* 73: 65–98 (Co-authored with Thomas Hendrickson)

2022. 'Isotta Nogarola: Elegija v slavo cianskega podeželja', *Kerla* 24.1: 195–202

Book Chapters

2025 (Forthcoming). 'Scholarly Shepherd(ess): Angela Nogarola's Eclogue on Milanese Politics (1403)', *An Anthology of Neo-Latin Literature by Women*, ed. by Stephen Harrison and Gesine Manuwald (Bloomsbury)

Editorial

2026 (Forthcoming). Special Issue on 'Women Latin Authors' of the *Journal of Latin Cosmopolitanism and European Literatures*, 12.1 (Co-edited with Simon Smets)

Book Reviews

2023. Review of *Idealising Women in the Italian Renaissance* (2022), ed. by Elena Brizio and Marco Piana, *Modern Language Review* 118.4: 629–30

SKILLS SESSIONS OPEN TO OTHER STUDENTS IN THE UNIVERSITY

CSR Skills Courses 2024-25

The Centre made a decision to widen the remit of our available skills modules this academic year. These were taught online to our own students, to those from Newberry Library partner institutions and to other interested parties as space was available. As usual we offered palaeography, both English (taught by our Leverhulme post-doc Tim Wade and honorary research fellow, Anastasia Stylianou), Italian (taught by Marie Curie-UKRI Assistant Professor Cecilia Sideri), and Latin (taught by Professor David Lines). As well as weekly intermediate level Latin classes (taught by Alex Tadel, CSR PhD student), there were tremendously successful forays into intensive week provision in beginners' Latin (taught by Daria Akhapkina, and Valeria Cesaraccio CSR PhD students) followed immediately by a weekly post-beginner's Latin course (Marta Spina, CSR PhD student). This 'beginners followed by post-beginners' format was especially successful in Latin, demonstrating a real need for such provision, and it has encouraged us to run several such courses again in 2025-26. We also ran one term of beginner's Greek, taught by Clive Letchford, another of our wonderful PhD students.

UNDERGRADUATE MODULES: RENAISSANCE EUROPE I AND II

In 2019 the CSR launched two new modules for undergraduates, each for the length of one term. Both modules are co-taught, cover a variety of disciplines, and benefit from strong involvement by CSR early career fellows. *Renaissance Europe I: Foundations and Forms* and *Renaissance Europe II: Movement, Revolution, and Conflict*, examine a series of themes, such as the circulation of people and books in the Renaissance, as well as the spaces where people met (e.g., inns), as well as different instances of conflict or subversion, including attitudes toward philosophical and religious authority.

These modules have been gratifyingly well-received by students, even in other faculties such as Science, and have been reasonably well attended (with around 7–14 students each), though with rather disappointing numbers in 2023/4. We adjusted the class timings to avoid clashes with other departments' core modules and are pleased to report that both modules recruited much better in 2024/5. We are looking forward to continuing to grow the number of students on these modules, which may lead to more stable MA enrolments in the future.

INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGES AND COLLABORATIONS

The Centre has strong ties internationally with various projects and institutions and encourages both students and ECRs in Medieval and Renaissance Studies to avail themselves of opportunities forged over the years to gain international experience or participate in international exchange.

Warwick–Newberry Programme

Thanks to generous support from Warwick’s HUMANITIES RESEARCH FUND and the HUMANITIES RESEARCH CENTRE, the CSR renewed its membership of the Newberry Library’s Renaissance Consortium (www.newberry.org). This remains a highly-prized transnational partnership for our research community, supporting jointly-funded (HRC & CSR) Warwick PhD and Early Career Research Fellowships. PhD candidate **Esteban Catalan** (SMLC) was the recipient of this award in the 2024-25 round, and his report is below.

My project Molhuia Mababa (Náhuatl for ‘they are called maps’) took place in the Newberry Library, city of Chicago, between August 27th and September 12th, 2024. Designed as a maps redux scheme, it is part of an effort to position the University of Warwick at the forefront of current research on the potentialities of non-Anglophone, non-European languages and representations of territory.

At the reading rooms of the Newberry library, I analysed six resources unique to this collection that were quintessential to the construction of the Americas, and Latin America in particular, from a European perspective. I started with Cortés’ 1524 ‘Map of Tenochtitlan’, in *Praeclara Fredinadi Cortesii de Nova maris Oceani Hispania* (1524), *Livro que dá razão do Estado do Brasil* (1612), ‘Carte du Detroit de Magellan et des nouvelles découvertes dans la Mer du Sud’ (ca. 1708), ‘A New and accurate map of Chili’ in *Terra Magellanica* (ca. 1747), Bernardino de Sahagún’s Nahuatl-Spanish-Latin dictionary, and James Pilling’s collection of Indigenous linguistics (1903).

As well as digitising this collection to collaborate with colleagues in Warwick such as Elizabeth Chant following copyright law, and creating a back-up of items that have not been digitized yet, I analyse these resources under the extraordinarily detailed guidance of University of Chicago’s Associate Professor Dr Edgar García. A leading scholar in how non-Anglophone, non-European cultures represent turbulent times within the *longue durée*, Professor García and I dialogued and exchanged observations on two main topics. First, how traditions such as the Náhuatl and the K’ché depicted transitional historic times as opportunities and beginnings of new possible worlds instead of what ecopsychologist Joanna Macy defines as the dilemma of denial or ‘business as usual’ and resignation or ‘the great derangement’ (*The Work that Reconnects*, 2014) in the Anglophone canon. As a second main topic, my attention, as well as Professor García’s, was to dissect the occasional but consistent commentary in these texts that showed the extraordinary exchange and reflections that happened when Europeans encounter these cultures, beyond cosmologic clashes, preconceptions and projections. The purpose of this exploration was to bring this perspectives to think our current time —when modern nations’ disputes over territory are once again taking centre stage in the midst of our climate and economic crisis— to look for productive answers to questions about extinction anxiety.

Finally, following professor García’s advice, I focused on the original *The Popol Vuh* (1515) itself which, despite not being in a literal sense a map, acts as a mappa mundi in its own way, reckoning with its place in a new colonial world while also trying to situate that world in a larger and encompassing Maya cosmos. Given the short time of my stay in Chicago, this work could not have been done without the daily help of Alexis Flaherty, library assistant, in the American Indian and Indigenous Studies collection. I want to thank especially the generous guidance of Dr Christopher Fletcher, assistant director of the Center for Renaissance Studies (CRS). As Dr Fletcher’s research focuses on premodern public engagement and its lessons for contemporary society, I have agreed with him to future collaborations to help to expand this project as an interdisciplinary dialogue born out of a shared love of maps.

Beyond my future collaborations with both Dr García and Dr Fletcher, during my stay in Chicago I had productive meetings with Dr Paulina León, Visiting Assistant Professor at New York University (whose research explores the cultural dimensions of disease in colonial Latin America), and Dr Luis Madrigal, Teaching Fellow at University of Chicago (with a focus on spatial criticism in Latin America). Besides an invitation to give a conference in February to talk about the Molhuia Mababa project at the University of Chicago, León and Madrigal offered a collaboration with Warwick scholars from now on expanding this particular line of research with their respective departments.

As I said in my proposal, the results of this research, which emphasizes the interrelationship between storytelling, philosophy and coexistence of language and cultures in our time of crisis, will be used in two projects, with both academic and public engagement focuses. Firstly, an academic article will be published simultaneously in Spanish in Chile (following an invitation to showcase my work to the Universidad Diego Portales of Santiago de Chile next March), and in English in the University of Warwick's Institute of Advance Studies (IAS) journal *Exchanges*. Secondly, the documented historical graphic materials will be presented together in a website under this project's title. This collection of early maps and their commentary showing the frictions and intersections between cultures will be the starting point of a website which will work as an archive of maps and commentary about them from non-European sources to point out to the veiled potentialities of points of view often missed in global debates – and their possible implications in thinking shared futures.

This effort will be aided by other IAS fellows including Aravinthen Rajkumar (Sri Lanka), Noorin Rodenhurst (India, Gujarati speaker), Erika Herrera (Mexico) and Emmanuel Effiong (Nigeria), and it has been conceived as an ongoing project to be enriched in coming years by the next IAS cohorts, enhancing the institute's position as a central hub in the UK for international researchers' exchanges. In particular, this part of the project aims to strengthen something that in my opinion Warwick lacks such as a sophisticated, visually attractive web design that highlights the unique work that is done by its researchers from perspectives from non-performative, truly diverse points of view that are, as a result, uniquely rich. I am currently applying for funding to get make this project a reality through schemes such as the BA Small Research Grant and others.

Warwick–Johns Hopkins Collaboration

On the back of a 3-year collaborative project (*Antiquity and its Uses: Reception and Renewal*) between the CSR and the Charles S. Singleton Center for Premodern Studies (Johns Hopkins University), involving joint workshops and staff and student exchanges, both Warwick and JHU have established a pattern of exchanging doctoral students or early career fellows each year, usually for a period of a month. The collaboration continues in principle, and between September 2024–January 2025, Warwick (Classics) PhD candidate **Gustavo Ruiz da Silva**, spent time at JHU; his report is below.

This report outlines the key activities undertaken during my research visit to Johns Hopkins University (JHU), detailing my academic engagements, institutional networking, and potential benefits to the University of Warwick. The trip significantly contributed to my doctoral research and fostered valuable academic connections that may lead to future collaborations between Warwick and JHU.

Research Activities

One of the primary objectives of my visit was to conduct in-depth research on crucial historical texts. I closely examined two significant works:

- *Elegiae, sive Carmina*, edited by Bernardinus Cyllenius (1491), which provided invaluable insights into early elegiac poetry.

- *De civitate Dei* by Augustine (1475), an essential text for understanding theological and political thought in the medieval period.

Additionally, I acquired specialized books that contributed directly to the writing of one of my thesis chapters. My engagement with archival material and rare manuscripts was further enhanced through workshops on archive research and the handling of old and fragile texts. These experiences sharpened my methodological approach and expanded my expertise in working with primary sources.

Academic Engagements

- During my stay, I attended several PhD vivas and seminars, gaining exposure to diverse research methodologies and critical discussions within my field. These sessions allowed me to refine my own analytical approach and stay updated on current scholarly debates.
- Moreover, I attended two international conferences, including one organized by Yale University, where I presented a chapter from my thesis. This platform enabled me to receive valuable feedback on my work and engage with leading scholars from various institutions. It also facilitated discussions on potential interdisciplinary collaborations.

Institutional and Professional Networking

- My visit to JHU proved instrumental in expanding my academic network. I engaged with my temporary supervisor at JHU, who not only provided valuable academic guidance but also wrote me a reference letter for a funding scheme. This collaboration reflects the strong academic rapport established during my stay.
- I also met several PhD candidates, which allowed me to strengthen my personal and institutional connections. These interactions may lead to joint research projects, conference panels, or academic exchanges in the future. Additionally, I reconnected with Brazilian researchers at JHU, reinforcing my ties with the broader academic community beyond the UK and the US.

Institutional Collaboration and Future Prospects

- My discussions about the Warwick-Johns Hopkins funding scheme, established by The Singleton Center for the Study of Premodern Europe at JHU and Warwick's Centre for the Study of the Renaissance, underscored the importance of continued collaboration between the two institutions. By raising awareness of this scheme among researchers at JHU, I contributed to strengthening Warwick's presence in transatlantic academic partnerships.
- I also visited key historical sites affiliated with JHU, such as the Peabody Library, which houses extensive special archives. This visit allowed me to understand conservation techniques and archival management, which could inform future research methodologies at Warwick.

Social and Cultural Engagements

Beyond academic activities, I participated in various departmental social events at JHU, which facilitated informal yet productive discussions with scholars across disciplines. These events fostered a sense of academic community and strengthened professional relationships in a relaxed setting.

Personal report

My journey to Johns Hopkins University began with a flight departing from London, with a layover in Iceland before landing in Washington, D.C. From there, I made my way to Baltimore, a city that would soon become my home for the duration of my stay. To ensure a comfortable and convenient living situation, I rented a fully furnished apartment within walking distance of the Johns Hopkins campus. This allowed me to easily integrate into the university's environment and fully immerse myself in my academic pursuits.

One of the most remarkable aspects of my time at Johns Hopkins was the unparalleled access I was granted to the university's facilities. The library system, with its extensive collections and resources, proved to be an invaluable asset to my research. Beyond academics, I was able to take advantage of the graduate lounge, the gym, and sports facilities, all of which contributed to a balanced and fulfilling daily routine. Johns Hopkins also provides excellent transportation options, including shuttles throughout the city and personalized night rides. This thoughtful system not only made getting around convenient but also ensured a strong sense of safety, allowing me to fully enjoy my time in Baltimore without concerns about late-night commutes.

The people at the Department of Classics were incredibly welcoming and accepting. From the very beginning, I was met with a sense of collegiality and warmth that made the transition into my new academic environment seamless. Engaging with faculty, fellow researchers, and graduate students allowed me to form meaningful connections, both professionally and personally. The department's support greatly enhanced my research experience and reinforced my enthusiasm for my work.

Baltimore is a city of contrasts—intense, diverse, and full of cultural and historical layers. As a newcomer, I found its vibrancy and complexity intriguing. The city's energy, combined with its proximity to Washington, D.C., opened up countless opportunities for exploration. Only an hour away by train—at a cost of about \$9—Washington, D.C. quickly became a frequent destination for me. One of the greatest advantages of this proximity was the opportunity to visit the Smithsonian system of museums, all of which offer free entry.

Johns Hopkins University stands out as an incredibly dynamic and creative institution. Throughout my stay, the campus was buzzing with events that fostered a strong sense of community. From the festive winter ice-skating rink to the distribution of small but thoughtful souvenirs like mugs and power banks, the university made every effort to create a welcoming and engaging atmosphere.

Beyond campus life, the JHU campus in Washington, D.C. regularly hosted high-profile institutional and governmental events. During my stay, for instance, I had the unique opportunity to witness the visit of the President of Kosovo. Such experiences underscored the university's global presence and its commitment to fostering dialogue on pressing international issues.

As my time in Baltimore and at Johns Hopkins came to an end, I was filled with a profound sense of gratitude and happiness. This experience was truly transformative, both academically and personally. The friendships and professional relationships I built during my stay will remain invaluable, and I will always cherish the time I spent in such a stimulating and supportive environment.

Finances

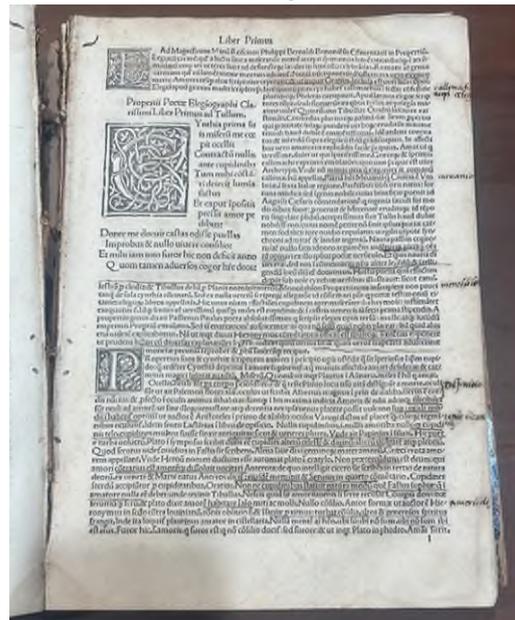
- Managing the financial aspects of my research stay at Johns Hopkins University required a combination of funding sources and careful budgeting. This report provides an overview of my financial planning and expenditures during the semester-long visit.
- To support my stay, I used multiple funding streams. The primary source was the Warwick PhD and Early Career Research Fellowship, which provided GBP 3,000. This fellowship played a key role in organizing my research trip to the US, covering several essential expenses. Additionally, my UKRI funding of GBP 1,603 helped sustain me throughout my semester at Johns Hopkins University.
- The journey from London to Washington, D.C., and local transit costs required careful financial planning. My flight ticket cost approximately GBP 600, with an additional GBP 200 allocated for local transport between my apartments and the respective airports in both the UK and the US. Part of my research fund was also used for relocation expenses, including purchasing small personal items such as pillows and duvets. Additionally, I allocated funds for my first major grocery shopping trip, which

included essential items like cleaning products, seasonings, and water filters. My apartment deposit was also covered by part of my fellowship funding.

- While in Baltimore, I rented a fully furnished apartment close to the Johns Hopkins campus for USD 1,300 per month, inclusive of all bills. I chose not to share the apartment, ensuring a comfortable and independent living environment conducive to my research activities. For daily necessities, including food, groceries, and household supplies, I budgeted approximately USD 550 per month.
- The remainder of my fellowship was allocated for my return flight. Overall, my financial planning and secured funding allowed me to manage my research stay effectively. While the costs were substantial, the combination of grants and careful budgeting ensured that I could fully engage with my academic and professional activities without financial strain.

Conclusion

Leaving Johns Hopkins was very melancholic, as I knew I would deeply miss the friends, colleagues, and experiences that made my time there so special. This journey has left an indelible mark on my academic and personal growth, and I look forward to future collaborations and opportunities that may arise from this incredible chapter of my life. My research visit to Johns Hopkins University was a highly productive and enriching experience, yielding significant academic progress and valuable institutional connections. The trip directly contributed to my PhD research through archival studies, conference presentations, and access to specialized literature. Additionally, it expanded Warwick's academic outreach by fostering collaborations and reinforcing its relationship with JHU. Future research exchanges, joint events, and potential funding applications may arise from these engagements, further benefiting both institutions.



Elegiae, sive Carmina,
edited by Bernardinus Cyllenius (1491)

PROMOTING RENAISSANCE STUDIES

The CSR has been trying to make the field of Medieval and Renaissance Studies better known outside its community of postgraduate students and research fellows. In part the undergraduate modules described above are making the Centre more visible at Warwick, and revisions of the University's and Arts Faculty's websites are also giving the CSR more prominence. Also important are the initiatives below.

Dr Greg Wells Undergraduate Essay Prizes 2025

In a bid to make our field better known to undergraduates, the CSR instituted a new competition in 2017. The Dr Greg Wells prizes for the best intermediate-year essay, final-year essay, and dissertation reward scholarly work of outstanding merit, quality, and value in the field of Medieval and Renaissance studies by undergraduates of the University of Warwick. The initiative for the prizes was taken thanks to a charitable donation to the Centre for the Study of the Renaissance by the late Dr Laurence Gregory (Greg) Wells (d. 2017), a former, mature MA and PhD student in the Arts Faculty.

The Centre received eleven nominations for essays and dissertations on Medieval and Renaissance subjects (broadly conceived) written for undergraduate modules at Warwick. The independent adjudicators were Drs. Stephen Bates, Ania Crowther, Stella Fletcher, Sofia Guthrie, Gloria Moorman and Iván Parga, all members of the CSR (and whom the Director thanks for their very helpful work). We congratulate the authors of the winning essays, which were this year:

Intermediate year essay: Izzie French (English) for an essay entitled, 'How are ideas of 'deception and the household' presented in Marlowe's *The Jew of Malta* and in *Arden of Faversham*?' The adjudicators in this category said,

"The winning essay offers impressively contextual readings that are solidly grounded in a single discipline yet manage to please and surprise readers outside the student's field of primary training: an accomplishment worth celebrating. Two plays that are not commonly considered together are here productively brought into conversation, and the results of this research are themselves organised in a rhetorically successful manner. Stimulating from its very first lines, this essay's interdisciplinary appeal extends – smoothly and seemingly effortlessly – into visual and material culture when "A semantic field of commodity emerges" through a well-chosen example of "sensuous and visual imagery" (p. 2) arising out of the excellent and creative close-readings of the textual sources throughout this essay. It is to be hoped that this student might go on to do a dissertation in Renaissance Studies."

Final year essay: Charlotte Hastie (English) for an essay entitled, 'How does the geographical setting of *Arden of Faversham* affect its meaning?' The adjudicators in this category said,

"This was an ambitious and erudite analysis of the anonymous Elizabethan play *Arden of Faversham*, focusing on its use of spatiality to draw some insightful conclusions. To understand the significance of the play's geographical settings, the essay examines internal and international political tensions, integrating cultural geography, political and social history, cartography, and literary analysis. The student took inspiration from Julie Sanders' work on seventeenth-century drama; this was particularly apposite in the discussions on Kent's coastal situation (its vulnerability to invasion and its relation to trade with the rest of Europe), social mobility, and the symbolic imagining of appropriated monastic lands...The essay was well-researched and the deployment of scholarship in support of the discussion was good, although there was room for greater critical engagement with the views referenced. The use of contemporary cartography (Ortelius' *Theatrum Orbis Terrarum*) to examine Faversham's

geographical relevance within England and Europe as early modern audiences understood it was an appreciated methodological choice, as was the use of Thomas Southouse's *Monasticon Favershamiense*. Overall, this was a very fine effort to identify the play's geographical boundaries and to analyse them, and the result was an original and well-argued essay."

Final year dissertation: Milo Oldale (History of Art) for their work entitled, "Original Imitation in the Origins of European Porcelain: A Transcultural Reinterpretation of Medici Porcelain". The adjudicators in the category said,

"This dissertation was an informative and enjoyable read. The judges were very impressed with its original research and contribution to knowledge on the history of Medici porcelain, and we would encourage the author to consider publication. The illustrations were beautiful and helpful to building the case, though it might have been useful to position the figures next to the relevant paragraphs, if house formatting style permits. One or two typos do not detract from a well written, clear and engaging dissertation in which all of the information was pertinent to building the overall argument. The topic and scope were well chosen, allowing the author to provide a balance of contextual information, historical narrative and close detailed analysis. The work is a valuable contribution to material culture studies and has inspired the judges to learn more about porcelain making! Well done."

CSR-BASED SEMINARS AND DISCUSSION GROUPS

The STVDIO Seminar Series

Convened by **DR CECILIA SIDERI** and **DR MARIA CZEPIEL**

The STVDIO Seminar Series 2024–25 continued to form an integral part of the Centre for the Study of the Renaissance's research and engagement programme. The series provided a platform for scholars to share and discuss innovative work in Renaissance and early modern studies, fostering dialogue across disciplines and institutions.

Across the academic year, the series featured a diverse range of speakers from Warwick and other universities in the UK and abroad, addressing a broad spectrum of topics within the field:

- **Ingrid de Smet** (University of Warwick) — *"Ac tu, bibliotheca, iam valet": Concepts of Libraries and Book-Collecting in Neo-Latin Poetry*
- **Angela McShane** — *Investigating Empowerment and Song via the 100 Ballads Project*
- **Gary Watt** (University of Warwick) — *Poetic Conjunction: Shakespeare's Legal Rhetoric*
- **Craig Martin** (Ca' Foscari University of Venice) — *Averroes among the Paduan Physicians, 1540–1600*
- **Cecilia Sideri** (University of Warwick) — *Roberto Valturio and his De re militari: Manuscript Circulation, Authorial Control and Autography in Renaissance Italy*
- **Michael Michael** (University of Glasgow) — *Images Associated with the Office of the Dead in English Manuscripts of the 13th–14th Centuries*
- **Ben Griffiths** (University of Birmingham) — *"Portada", "preliminares" and profit: The Misleading Editorial Strategies of Seventeenth-Century Printer-Booksellers*
- **Samuel Agbamu** (University of Reading) — *Petrarch's "Africa": The Dream of Renovatio Imperii*

- **Daniele Conti** (University of Cassino and Southern Lazio) — *Pico della Mirandola's Conclusiones nongentae: Textual and Interpretative Issues*
- **Felicita Tramontana** (Roma Tre University) — *Controlling at a Distance: Franciscan Accounting in Jerusalem in the Early Global Era*
- **Vittoria Fallanca** (University of Warwick) — *Love Will Tear Us Apart: Erotic Misreading and Amorous Misery in the Anterotic Tradition*

Collectively, these talks reflected the Centre's ongoing commitment to advancing interdisciplinary research and international collaboration in Renaissance and early modern studies. The series reinforced Warwick's role as a leading hub for scholarship in this field, bringing together researchers and students to engage critically with the intellectual, artistic, and historical dimensions of the early modern world.

The CSR Reading Group

The Centre's Reading Group engaged in an ambitious study of two Renaissance texts: Giovanni Boccaccio's *Decameron* (completed in the 1350s) and Marguerite de Navarre's *Heptaméron* (published posthumously, and unfinished, in 1558). The rationale of reading the two in close succession considered medieval anthologies as a distinct genre of prose. As a consequence, the group's discussion of the *Heptaméron*, in the Summer Term, involved significant comparison of both the curated material and the purposes of the writers. Many fascinating insights were thereby discerned. Boccaccio seemed to have been writing in a largely satirical mode and, while his stories ranged from the appalling to the farcical, those of us who had read Montaigne's *Essays* a couple of years ago could understand why the Frenchman included the *Decameron* among his favourite books. Marguerite, by contrast, presented a critique of chivalry in which the romance of unrequited service by knights to their ladies frequently developed into embittered attempts at rape. While the bawdiness of Boccaccio chafed against our post-Victorian cultural prudishness, Marguerite felt far more modern. Indeed, the group renamed her character of Simontaut as 'Simon Tate', seeing in him the progenitor of incel culture!

The group was convened online by Stephen Bates, an Associate Fellow, and was attended by members of the Centre past and present, and of all levels from undergraduate to professor. No experience of the texts or their languages was required, although the convenor occasionally drew insights from the original to inform the discussion of the translation; this allowed all participants to contribute on an equal footing. Both anthologies were hugely entertaining and it is hoped that many of this year's group will have enjoyed the experience sufficiently to join in with whatever we read next year!

Stephen Bates

Honorary Research Fellow, Centre for the Study of the Renaissance

MEETINGS OF SOCIETIES WITH CLOSE TIES TO THE CSR

The CSR is affiliated with several international learned societies, and indeed its website serves as the main landing page for the Society for Neo-Latin Studies, the British branch of the International Courtly Literature Society (ICLS), and the Society for Early Festivals Research (SEFR).

International Courtly Literature Society (British and Irish Branch)

Branch Conference 2025

The Branch Conference took place online from 22–23 April 2025, hosted by the University of Liverpool. This year also saw the launch of the Branch’s Early Career Scholar Prize.

Sponsorship

The British Branch was pleased to be able to sponsor ‘The French of the Celtic Worlds’, a three-day, international conference hosted at the University of Bristol, 9–11 April 2025.

Website Usage

- Membership Enquiries. New members continue to sign up using the webform. Although payment cannot be taken directly online, completion of the form returns to a page displaying payment details, and this system seems to pose very few problems. Existing members also use the webform to indicate updates to their circumstances or information.
- Publicity. The website is being used to publicise many of the Branch and International Society’s activities, including the 2026 International Congress in Montpellier, the International Society’s open-access publication series, *Encomia*, and the Branch’s new Early Career Scholar Prize.
- Repository. The website has now been set up as a repository of Branch activities, including conference programmes and AGM minutes from 2012–present. Records for activities beyond 2012 are no longer available.

Membership

The ICLS British & Irish Branch currently has an active membership of around 60. This includes colleagues at various career stages from across the UK and Republic of Ireland.

Dr Matt Lampitt
ICLS British Branch Treasurer
30 September 2025

FISIER

(Fédération Internationale des Sociétés et Instituts pour l’Étude de la Renaissance)

The CSR continues to be a member of FISIER (<https://fisieronline.wordpress.com/>). Warwick’s input has been on the backburner in the past year. However, FISIER’s buoyant online seminar series ReNoV | ReNeW (for Renaissance: Nouvelles Voies | Renaissance: New Ways) now offers recordings of its sessions on YouTube. See the FISIER website for relevant links. The ReNoV | ReNeW session on 30 January 2026 on “Rabelais and Shakespeare” will feature talks by Antoine Compagnon (Columbia University New York), with a response from Romain Menini (Paris-Est Marne-la-Vallée), on Rabelais, and Alessandra Petrini (Padua), with a response from Tess Grant, on the Bard.

Renaissance Society of America (RSA)

The CSR continues to be an Associate Organization of the RSA, the world's largest society of Renaissance Studies (and whose main publication, *Renaissance Quarterly*, is the leading journal in the field). Several of its members serve in senior capacities, with CSR's Dr Natalya Din-Kariuki (English) having been appointed to the Associate Organizations and International Cooperation Committee 2024-5. Until the recent reorganization, Dr Caroline Petit (Classics) was Discipline Representative for Medicine and Science and for several years Prof. David Lines was Discipline Representative for Philosophy, with Ingrid De Smet the Editor for the Renaissance Texts series.

The 2025 annual meeting took place last month, online, with Dr Din-Kariuki representing the CSR and Warwick. During the meeting the Newberry provided a short list of Warwick-Newberry activities over very recent years including 2024-25, including:

- Esteban Catalan Munoz, research on map history at the Newberry in August-September 2024, with the support of the Warwick Transatlantic Fellowship.
- Naomi Pullin, speaker at the Newberry's Eighteenth Century Seminar in September 2024. Paper title: "A Social History of Solitude in Early Modern Britain".
- Natalya Din-Kariuki, instructor for selective-enrolment workshop "Travel Studies: Theories, Methods, Materials" in May 2025.

Leverhulme Research Fellow Maria Czepiel attend the RSA this year, commenting, "I gave a conference presentation entitled 'Spanish Biblical Paraphrase in the Wake of the Valdés Index' as part of the panel 'Rewriting the Bible in Verse: Contests in Context' at the Annual Meeting of the Renaissance Society of America. Afterwards, I received extremely helpful feedback on my research by one of the attendees, which has helped me develop my ideas going forward. At the RSA I was able to attend a range of papers over various panels including 'Asia in the Making of the Global Renaissance', 'Gender Roles and Politics in the Comedia', 'Calderón de la Barca: Dramatist and Historian', 'Listening to the Afterlife: Sounds and Space in Eschatological Belief in Early Modern Spain', 'Shaping Female Sanctity and Divine Knowledge in Early Modern Spain and the New World', 'Presencing African Culture', 'Black Performance in Early Modern Iberia', 'Working Across Languages in the Early Modern Mediterranean', 'Lyric Embodiments: Disability and Bodily Deviance in Early Modern Spanish Verse and Prose', and 'Performing Indigeneity in Colonial Latin America'.



This photo shows PhD students Valeria Cesaraccio and Wanxin Du enjoying the biggest Renaissance conference in the world at RSA Boston 2025. Valeria presented a paper entitled 'Learning Latin in the Sixteenth Century: Manuscript Exercises of Translation and Letter Writing', which was part of a panel organized by her supervisor (Prof. David Lines). Wanxin presented a paper entitled 'Disputes and Negotiation in Sieneese Criminal Appeals in the First Half of the Seventeenth Century', as part of the panel "Justice in Early Modern Italy II: Justice alla senese".

Society for Neo-Latin Studies

In 2024/25 the Society for Neo-Latin Studies (SNLS) organized a range of events and carried on with its regular activities. In November 2024 SNLS celebrated its twentieth anniversary with an event in Cambridge, the city where SNLS was founded. The day started with a guided tour of the Wren Library at Trinity College Cambridge, followed by the AGM and, in place of the usual Annual Lecture, a roundtable discussion involving a number of members, reflecting on the development of the discipline in the past two decades and into the future under the title ‘The digital turn in Neo-Latin studies’. At the AGM members received reports of the past year from all relevant officers and discussed plans for activities in the coming year; most officers were re-elected for another year (with just some minor changes).

As it does every few years, in September 2025 SNLS hosted a two-day international conference on ‘Neo-Latin and issues of style: places and periods 1450–1750’, reflecting the interests of a variety of members; this conference took place at UCL in London and was attended by a stimulating cross-section of researchers from Europe and North America with a variety of backgrounds.

In addition, SNLS continued activities in support of more junior members. In June 2025, under the auspices of SNLS, an online event for postgraduate students and early career researchers was held, hosted by the Warburg Institute, at which postgraduate students and early career researchers were invited to share aspects of their research and receive feedback from attendees, including several senior members of SNLS; this kind of interaction was regarded as a fruitful forum for exchanging ideas. Across the academic year SNLS continued to run its mentoring scheme for junior academics and to award the SNLS Ann Moss Early Career Essay Prize for work by postgraduate students and early career researchers. To interest students in Neo-Latin at an earlier stage in their careers, a prize for undergraduate students was also offered. In autumn 2024, in collaboration with the Teaching Committee of the International Association for Neo-Latin Studies, an online event on ‘Teaching Neo-Latin texts’ was organized, which attracted a large international audience.

Moreover, SNLS is keen to reach a wider public. For that purpose, for instance, it has a library of podcasts and an anthology of curated texts on its website (in the process of being updated). In addition, across the year, a group of officers created and ran several extremely popular ‘Early Modern Latin in London’ walking tours, some of which were offered as part of the ‘Being Human’ Festival in November 2024.

Thanks to the webmaster at Warwick, the SNLS website can be updated regularly, featuring information for members, outward-facing material, such as the teaching anthology and the podcast series, as well as announcements of events, calls for papers, job opportunities etc. The President continues to send a quarterly Newsletter to members, which is also accessible via the website.

In the coming academic year SNLS will continue its regular activities and events (both online and in-person). There will be the Annual Lecture and AGM at the Warburg Institute in November 2025, another event for postgraduate students and early career researchers in the spring 2026 as well as more walking tours (again in collaboration with the Being Human Festival).

Gesine Manuwald, President, October 2025

INDIVIDUAL RESEARCH

Members of the Centre for the Study of the Renaissance (CSR) have continued to be active as individual researchers despite the challenges posed by the pandemic. The following list (in alphabetical order) is far from exhaustive, but gives insight into current research of CSR members.

Professor JENNIFER ALEXANDER (History of Art, SCAPVC)

Research interests:

Medieval/early modern building construction; building materials; building methods

Research activities:

Main activity completion of book for Routledge 'Stonemasons' Marks', to be submitted late Sept 2025. Attendance at conferences; Madrid Feb 25, paper submitted for proceedings, All Things Stone, SW France, May 25, Brit Archaeol. Assoc. July 25, paper for submission May 26, organised session at Leeds IMC July for 3 international scholars.

Publications:

'The Lincoln Judgement Portal' published in Die Archaologie des Mittelalterlichen Portals July 25.

Impact and public engagement

- Interview CNA Singapore (TV) on restoration of Notre-Dame cathedral, Dec 24.
- Continuing work with on the worked stone collection at Lichfield Cathedral as part of my remit for work on the Fabric Council of the cathedral. Preparation of ICS on Lichfield Graffiti Project.

Other:

Annual lecture on Cambridge MStud course on Buildings Archaeology.

Professor CATHERINE BATES (Director of Research, CSR)

Research interests:

English literature and culture of the sixteenth century, with particular emphasis on poetry, poetics, and courtly forms, including lyric, epic, and romance.

Research activities:

Completed

- 'The structure and organization of *Salve Deus Rex Iudaeorum*', in *The Cambridge Companion to Aemilia Lanyer*, ed. Kimberly Johnson and Brice Peterson (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press), 6,000 words.
- 'Landmarks in Criticism: Psychoanalytic theory – Interpreting *Hamlet*', *The English Review*, 36.1 (2025), 1,850 words; in production; to be published in November 2025.
- 'Teaching Politics and Form in the Sonnets of Philip Sidney', 8,000 words, accepted for publication by *Sidney Journal*.

Ongoing editorial work on

- *Shakespeare and Psychoanalysis: Method in the Madness*, ed. Catherine Bates and James W. Stone, 10 essays, plus Introduction, Appendix, and Afterword, 125,000 words (Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan), in production; to be published in 2025.

- *A Companion to Renaissance Literature*, ed. Catherine Bates (London and New York: Routledge, 2026), 52 essays plus Introduction, 485,000 words, contracted; in progress; final copy due to be submitted 1 December 2025; to be published in 2026.

Publications:

- [*The Oxford Handbook of Philip Sidney*](#), ed. Catherine Bates (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2024), Pp.xx + 838. The volume includes the following authored by myself: ‘Introduction’, 1–20; ‘*Astrophil and Stella*’, 166–88; and ‘Drama’, 443–56.
- ‘The Symbolic and the Imaginary in Shakespeare’s *Venus and Adonis*’, *American Imago*, 81.4 (2024), 335–66. **Winner of the 2023 Julius Silberger Award for interdisciplinary work in psychoanalysis by the Boston Psychoanalytic Society and Institute.**
- “‘Wild for to hold though I seem tame’”: the paradox of the phallic female in falconry imagery’, in *Hunting Troubles: Gender and Its Intersections in the Cultural History of the Hunt*, ed. Laura Beck and Maurice Sass (Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2024), 197–211.
- ‘Hunting/Prey’, in *Shakespeare/Nature: Contemporary Readings in the Human and Non-human*, ed. Charlotte Scott (London: Bloomsbury, 2024) for the Arden Shakespeare Intersections series, 227–46 (“a stand-out chapter [...] a particularly original reading”, *MLR*, 120.1 (2025), 154).

Other:

- Elected Fellow of the English Association.
- Elected Fellow of the Royal Historical Society.
- Invited speaker at University of Bremen, Interdisciplinary conference on the Cultural History of the Hunt, Halle, Germany, 2024.
- Invited to give plenary lecture at The Spanish and Portuguese Society for English Renaissance Studies (SEDERI) conference, Alicante 2026.
- The American Psychoanalytic Association Book Prize 2024, awarded to *The Cambridge Companion to Literature and Psychoanalysis*, ed. Vera Camden (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2022), as the book that best promotes the integration of the academic and clinical worlds of psychoanalysis; includes my essay ‘Recognitions: Shakespeare, Freud, and the story of psychoanalysis’, 41–53.
- External Examiner, PhD, Sophie Baramidze, ‘The use of Rhetorical Paradox in the Sidney Circle’, Kings College London.

Dr STEPHEN BATES (Honorary Research Fellow, CSR)

Research interests:

Religious and cultural history, c.1350-1700, especially lay piety, gender and print culture

Research activities:

I continue to juggle my academic activities with my role as primary care-provider for my two children, aged 5 and 9. I am therefore extremely grateful for the Centre's support, which allows me to keep abreast of recent scholarship and to continue moving forward with research and writing. My main focus has been bringing my monograph to conclusion by exploring the role of the Virgin Mary in Elizabethan society, especially among Catholic communities. I have also become interested in the reformation of Allhallowtide and hope to complete an article for publication based on this research.

Other:

I remain active in the Centre and, this year, greatly enjoyed convening study groups on Giovanni Boccaccio's Decameron and Marguerite de Navarre's Heptaméron. I was also pleased to serve as one of the judges for the Greg Wells undergraduate prize. I remain a dedicated participant in the STVDIO seminar series. Beyond the Centre, I continue to teach history part-time with Oxford University's Department for Continuing Education.

Professor PAUL BOTLEY (English and Comparative Literary Studies)

Research interests:

The classical tradition; renaissance letters; neo-Latin literature; the history of the Bible; early modern education; translation; the Greek diaspora in fifteenth-century Europe; editorial method; the history of scholarship; Leonardo Bruni; Giannozzo Manetti; Erasmus; Joseph Scaliger; Isaac Casaubon; Dominicus Badius.

Research activities:

In October 2022 Prof. Botley (PI) and Dr Floris Verhaart began work on a two-year project, funded by the Leverhulme Trust, to publish the first critical edition of the correspondence of the northern European poet, rhetorician and historian Dominicus Badius (1561-1613). This project is now complete, and the edition of 463 letters was published in Geneva in May 2025.

Badius was a talented and sophisticated writer whose letters were reprinted fourteen times in the seventeenth century. He was also an alcoholic whose personal life became increasingly chaotic in the years leading up to his early death. His letters are genuinely and consistently remarkable and yet they had remained almost entirely unstudied for eighty years. The new edition provides English readers with an introduction to Badius' life and work, with summaries of all the letters, and with extensive commentary on their meaning and fortunes.

Badius' habitual frankness ensured that his correspondence was heavily censored when published after his death. The first edition of 1615 prints 234 letters: of these, 96 letters (41%) are visibly censored in some way, and asterisks mark censored passages in more than 200 places. The project located over 200 manuscript sources for the correspondence, and this new material enabled the editors to repair the censorship and study its motives. Three quarters of all the censorship which appeared in 1615 is reversed in the new edition, and much of what remains has been tentatively resolved. The restoration of the collection transforms a frustrating and sometimes misleading set of documents into a reliable and substantial source.

Modern accounts of the intellectual culture of Renaissance Europe lean heavily upon letters of scholars published in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. Modern researchers have, however, placed too much faith in the texts published by early modern editors. These early editors carefully selected, excerpted and edited a subset of the available letters in accordance with principles they chose not to articulate. The new edition draws attention to patterns of suppression in this correspondence, a task incompletely or only accidentally achieved by other critical editions of letter-collections, including my own. The new edition shows how and why these printed letter-collections were manipulated by their earliest editors. It identifies what early editors chose not to print, and asks why they chose not to print it.

Now that Badius has been published, I can return to my work on his old friend Johannes Woverius of Hamburg (d. 1613; 400 letters). I have in hand a related project on Johann Kirchmann (1575-1643) who worked in Rostock and Lübeck. Kirchmann's extensive correspondence (735 letters), largely unpublished, has been hidden from modern scholars by unhelpful library catalogues. It is a rare and instructive example of a seventeenth-century editorial project, brought close to completion then abandoned.

Publications:

Paul Botley and Floris Verhaart, ed. *The Correspondence of Dominicus Badius (1561-1613)*, 2 vols. Geneva, Droz, 2025. 1490 pages.

Professor FABIO CAMILLETTI (Italian Studies / School of Modern Languages and Cultures)

Research interests:

Italian and European Romanticisms; Dante; Dante Reception; Gothic; Occulture

Research activities:

Project 'Dante and the Ouija Board'; visiting fellowship IAS, University of London

Publications:

- Dante/Dante Gabriel Rossetti, *The New Life*, ed. by Fabio Camilletti (Florence: Leonardo Libri, 2025)
- *Lessico leopardiano: la paura*, ed. by Fabio Camilletti & Giulia Scialanga (Rome: Sapienza Università Editrice, 2024)
- 'Sergio Citti's Mortacci (1989): Death, Orrore popolare, and the Survival of Paganism', *Anabases*, 40 (2024), pp. 173-85

Prof. em. BERNARD CAPP (History)**Research interests:**

Early modern England; cultural and social history; gender; print culture

Research activities:

- Research and writing on the history of gesture, specifically relating to the wearing and deploying of hats, hatbands, accessories and caps etc. An article has been submitted and is currently under consideration.
- An essay on a 17th century Anglo-Russian had been accepted; so has another, on political allegories in the Popish Plot period. Both may be published in 2026.
- Research paper at the University of Sheffield, along with a 'Career Reflections' paper, delivered during the same visit.

Publications:

- 'Blind Lives: the sightless and society in seventeenth century England', *The Seventeenth Century*, 39.4 (Sept., 2024)
- OUP notified me that one of my earlier books (*When Gossips Meet*) is being translated into Chinese for publication in China.

Impact and public engagement:

- Podcast (on British slaves and Barbary corsairs) on Susannah Lipscomb's series, 'Not Just the Tudors'.
- Public seminar on sources relating to Warwick in the civil war period, at the Lord Leycester Hospital (part of a series organized by Naomi Pullin and Angus Crawford)

Other:

- 'Other Research Activities', delivering the keynote paper at a symposium on 'Usable Temporalities' (!) at the University of Freiburg, Switzerland, in May 2025. The paper, in revised form, has been accepted for publication in a volume growing out of the symposium.
- I was very honoured to receive a second *Festschrift*, *From the Margins to the Centre in Seventeenth-Century England. Essays in Honour of Bernard Capp* (Boydell Press; Woodbridge, 2025).

Dr MARTA CELATI (Honorary Research Fellow, CSR)**Research interests:**

Italian Renaissance Literature; Humanism; Neo-Latin Studies; Classical tradition; Historiography; Political thought; Relationship between literature and visual culture; History of the book; Philology

Research activities:

I am carrying out my research at the University of Pisa, *Dipartimento di Filologia, Letteratura e Linguistica*, as Professor in Medieval and Humanist Literature.

Publications

Edited volume:

The Prince and the Condottiero in Italian Humanism and Renaissance: Literature, History, Political Theory, and Art, ed. by Marta Celati and Maria Pavlova (Oxford: Peter Lang, 2024). [ISBN 978-1-80079-591-4]

Articles and book chapters:

- ‘Giovanni Filippo De Lignamine e l’edizione della *Vita et laudes Ferdinandi regis*, tra storia, politica e arte tipografica’, *Bullettino dell’Istituto storico italiano per il Medioevo*, 126 (2024), pp. 398-402.
- ‘The *Felix Prince*-condottiero in Italian Humanist Literature: The Multifaceted Portrayal of Alfonso the Magnanimous’s *Felicitas*’, in *The Prince and the Condottiero in Italian Humanism and Renaissance: Literature, History, Political Theory, and Art*, ed. by Marta Celati and Maria Pavlova, Oxford, Peter Lang, 2024 (ISBN 978-1-80079-591-4), pp. 19-61.
- ‘The Prince and the Condottiero: New Forms of Leadership in Early Modern Italy’, in MARTA CELATI - MARIA PAVLOVA, *Introduction*, in *The Prince and the Condottiero in Italian Humanism and Renaissance: Literature, History, Political Theory, and Art*, edited by Marta Celati and Maria Pavlova, Oxford, Peter Lang, 2024 (ISBN 978-1-80079-591-4), pp. 1-7.
- ‘Giovanni Filippo De Lignamine e l’edizione della *Vita et laudes Ferdinandi regis*, tra storia, politica e arte tipografica’, *Bullettino dell’Istituto storico italiano per il Medioevo*, 126 (2024), pp. 349-401.
- ‘Il principe e lo stato: la teoria del potere monarchico nel *De maiestate* di Giuniano Maio’, *CESURA - Rivista*. 3, 2 (2024), pp. 297–350.
- ‘La *felicitas* nella definizione umanistica del potere principesco: Filelfo Francesco e la celebrazione di Francesco Sforza’, *Bollettino di italianistica*, 22 (2025), pp. 37-64.
- *Petrarca e i tiranni: tra realtà storica e tensioni ideali*, in *Fantasma della tirannide*, edited by C. Varotti e N. Catelli, Bologna, Il Mulino, 2025, pp. 31-49.
- ‘L’ultimo Poliziano politico: lettere e orazioni, tra rievocazione letteraria, scrittura diplomatica e autocitazione’, *Parole rubate*, 30 (2025), forthcoming.
- ‘Una nuova idea di leadership nella letteratura quattrocentesca: la *felicitas* come categoria politica’, *CESURA - Rivista*. 4, 1 (2026), forthcoming
- ‘The Portrayal of the Rebel in Italian Humanism: Sedition between Vice and Crime’, *Vivarium*, under review.

Impact and public engagement:

Conference papers

- ‘Una nuova idea di leadership nella letteratura quattrocentesca: la *felicitas* come categoria politica’, International Conference: *Riscritture del Quattrocento*. Per una rilettura delle due Italie attraverso le fonti storiche e letterarie, Université de Liège, 5-6 December 2014.
- ‘Condanna e riabilitazione dei Pazzi dopo la congiura: tra fonti letterarie e storiche’, International Conference: *The Pazzi Beyond the Conspiracy*, Medici Archive Project, Archivio di Stato di Firenze, Firenze, Palazzo Alberti, 6 June 2025.

Other:

Teaching

I have taught the following modules (120 hours) in the academic year 2024-2025 at the University of Pisa:

- “Medieval and Humanist Philology”, for the Post-graduate courses of “Italianistica”, Department of “Filologia Letteratura e Linguistica”
- “Textual Bibliography and History of Early-Printed Books”, for the Post-graduate courses of “Italianistica”, Department of “Filologia Letteratura e Linguistica”
- “Medieval and Humanist Philology”, for the Post-graduate courses of “Archeologia”, Department of “Civiltà e Forme del Sapere”.

Dr GIACOMO COMIATI (Honorary Research Fellow, CSR)

Research interests:

Renaissance Italian Literature; Early-Modern Latin Literature; Reception of the Classics; Italian Lyric poetry (late 16th–early 18th century)

Research activities:

- During the period under review (September 2024 – June 2025), I taught a first-year undergraduate module entitled “Italian Literature in the Middle Ages” in the Department of Linguistic and Literary Studies at the University of Padua. I had full responsibility for this course.
- In February 2025, I was appointed Researcher in Italian Literature within the project “LVTHeR – Lyric Poetry in Venice in the Heterodox Renaissance (1545–1657)”, funded by the Italian Ministry of Culture and University. The project investigates the impact of Protestant ideas on lyric poetry composed in Venice and its territories during the late sixteenth and the first half of the seventeenth century.
- In these initial months, I have undertaken a detailed survey of lyric production in the Venetian area, with particular attention to forms of literary expression that reflect tensions or aspirations linked to the religious and moral renewal of the period. This preliminary exploration has involved not only the identification of key texts for further analysis, but also the examination of original editions and the collection of information on the editorial, cultural, and religious contexts in which these works were produced and circulated. During the first five months of research, I focused in particular on a significant portion of the corpus, including Gabriel Fiamma’s *Rime spirituali* (1570), Pietro Massolo’s *Rime morali* (1583), and the poetic collections of Celio Magno and Orsatto Giustinian (1600). Although still in a preliminary phase, the analysis of these texts has already revealed several recurring thematic concerns, such as the tension between interiority and religious norms, the idea of moral reform through poetry, and the spiritual reinterpretation of both classical models (notably Horatian elements in Massolo’s poetry) and Petrarchan traditions. These lines of inquiry will be developed in greater depth as the project progresses.

In parallel, during the period under review, I also delivered the following papers at various international conferences:

- ‘*Versiones petrarchesche tra inventio lirica ed esegesi: i casi di Emanuele Tesauro e di Girolamo Cicala*’, Rende, University of Calabria, Conference ‘TransLATINg Italian Literature: il secolo XVII’ (8-9 Apr. 2025)
- ‘*Progymnasmata petrarcheschi: le cinque traduzioni di RVF 134 di Tito Elio Vittore Astemio*’, Bari, University of Bari, Conference ‘TransLATINg Italian Literature: i secoli XV e XVI’ (13 Dec. 2024)
- ‘*Lyric Poetry and Renaissance Politics. Venice as the New Rome in Celio Magno’s Poems*’, Bergamo, University of Bergamo, Conference ‘Lyric Poetry, between Theory and History’ (1-3 Oct. 2024)
- ‘*Hymnaeus* (1578) and its integrated Petrarch translation’, Tübingen, University of Tübingen, Conference ‘Latin Translations of Vernacular Dramas’ (20-11 Sep. 2024)
- ‘*Le traduzioni latine manoscritte di Flaminio Rai nella Toscana di metà Cinquecento*’, Palermo, XXVII Congresso ADI (12-14 Sep. 2024).

Publications:

Edited Special Issue:

- co-edited with Francesco Luciola, ‘La letteratura italiana in traduzione latina (1350-1850)’, *The Italianist*, 44.3 (2024)

Journal Article:

- ‘*Petrarca tra Euripide ed Ermogene: il Discorso di Pietro Pagani sopra il secondo sonetto del Canzoniere*’, *Petrarchesca*, 13 (2025), 67-86
- ‘*Strutture interne e linee tematiche nelle odi di Fulvio Testi*’, *Nuova rivista di letteratura italiana*, 27.2 (2024).
- ‘*Ex italico Francisci Petrarcae: le latinizzazioni del Canzoniere in Italia fra Umanesimo e Rinascimento*’, *The Italianist*, 44.3 (2024), 422-451
- ‘*Le parole immaginate dell’Amorosa visione. Le Heroïdes d’Ovidio e le eroine boccacciane nel Trionfo d’Amore*’, *Studi sul Boccaccio*, 52 (2024), 169-202

Book Chapters:

- ‘*Translations and Adaptations of Petrarch’s Poems in Girolamo Cicala’s Carmina* (1649)’, in *Petrarchism: Competing Models for Early Modern Community Building (1400-1700)*, ed. by Bernhard Huss (Heidelberg: Winter, 2025), pp. 141-156.

Encyclopedia Entry:

- ‘*Iohannes de Casa*’, in *C.A.L.M.A. Compendium Auctorum Latinorum Medii Aevi* (Florence: Sismel-Edizioni del Galluzzo, 2024), VIII.2

Dr ERIN CONNELLY (School of Life Sciences)

Research interests:

Ancientbotics, medieval medicine, wound healing, history of medicine, antimicrobials, plant medicines, natural products, oxymel, plantago spp.

Research activities:

*Note: I had a career break from September 2024 to mid-January 2025 following the end of a UKRI FLF and transition to Assistant Professor role

My main research activities include the development of an advanced wound care dressing toward a clinical trial application with our NHS team (and related natural product research). I continue to complete a long-standing publication with EETS – an edition of the 15th-century Middle English translation of Bernard of Gordon's *Lilium medicinae* (Oxford Bodleian Library MS Ashmole 1505).

Conferences & Presentations

- Invited talk, History of Medicine Network, University of Plymouth
- Conference talk, ILA
- Conference talk, IMC Leeds
- Invited talk, Massachusetts Historical Society
- Invited talk, NEHGS

Commercialisation

- 2 patentable outputs (as of March 2025)
- £5000 awarded by Warwick Innovations

Publications:

- Erin Connelly and Christina Lee, Menace or Medicine: What to do with Nettles?, in Deborah Hayden and Sarah Baccianti *Medicine in the Medieval North Atlantic World* (Brepols, 2025); <https://www.brepols.net/products/IS-9782503613338-1>
- Fiorin, Elena; Roberts, Charlotte A.; Baldoni, Marica; Connelly, Erin; Lee, Christina; Ottoni, Claudio, Cristiani, Emanuela, First archaeological evidence for ginger consumption as a potential medicinal ingredient in a late medieval leprosarium at St Leonard, Peterborough, England. *Scientific Reports* 14:2452 (2024). 10.1038/s41598-024-52422-8
- Erin Connelly, Zerobabel Endecott's Seventeenth-Century Book of Remedies, in Claire Burridge and Neha Vermani, *Decoding Recipes* (Brill, expected September 2025)

Impact and public engagement:

- Impact Award Winner of University of Warwick Award for Public and Community Engagement from the Warwick Institute of Engagement in the category of Inspiring Experiences
- Impact Case Study, Business Partnerships (Warwick Innovations)
- History of Medicine Room, Resonate Festival, University of Warwick
- Science in the Park Wollaton Hall (collaboration with University of Nottingham)

Other:

- Board of Trustees, Bromley House Library
- Board of Examiners, School of Continuing Education, University of Oxford
- Advisory Panel, Medica: Society for the Study of Healing in the Middle Ages

Dr MARIA CZEPIEL (Leverhulme Research Fellow, CSR)

Research interests:

Religion, poetry, festival culture, Spanish Golden Age

Research activities:

Conference papers:

- Participation in Roundtable: ‘The Digital Turn in Neo-Latin Studies’, SNLS Annual General Meeting 2024, 15/11/2024.
- ‘Spanish Biblical Paraphrase in the Wake of the Valdés Index’, Annual Meeting of the RSA, 22/3/2025.
- ‘Hebraist erudition in Spanish Renaissance biblical poetry’, Medieval Church and Culture Seminar, University of Oxford, 11/3/2025.
- ‘Black Agency and the Black Body as Concepto in a Seventeenth-Century Festival (Barcelona, 1601)’, *The Cultural Agency and Limits of Minority Groups in Early Modern Iberia: A Comparative Approach*, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, 26/6/2025.
- ‘The Sack of Rome in a Newly Discovered Poem by André de Resende’, 19th International Congress of the IANLS, 18/7/2025.

This year, as part of my Leverhulme ECF project, I have been studying poetic paraphrases of the Bible (ca. 1550–1620). Initially, I had intended to demonstrate how humanists were able to circumvent the Spanish Inquisition’s prohibitions on biblical translation into the vernacular. I discovered that, in fact, censors were much more tolerant of biblical verse paraphrase at the end of the sixteenth century than is often thought! Rather, it seems readers were simply less interested in this material than in other kinds of religious poetry which were becoming popular in the Baroque, such as religious epic. I presented research on biblical paraphrase at conferences (2) and (3) above. I have also been pursuing an interest in festival literature: see (4) above and publication (3).

Finally, I have been involved in a new edition of the Latin works of the Renaissance poet Garcilaso de la Vega with the international research group PRONAPOLI, as well as editing a Special Issue on the author (publication 2) to which I also contributed an article (publication 5). My research has been supported through regular meetings with and invaluable feedback from my mentor Rich Rabone.

Publications:

Monograph:

1. Submitted full manuscript of *Humanism and the Bible in the Poetry of Benito Arias Montano* (Bloomsbury, forthcoming).

Special Issue:

2. Editor, *New Perspectives on Garcilaso de la Vega (Bulletin of Hispanic Studies)*, forthcoming 2026

Articles and chapters:

3. ‘Baroque Style in Some Iberian Neo-Latin Funerary Epigrams (and a poem by Cervantes)’, in *An Ill-Shapen Pearl? The Neo-Latin Epigram in the Baroque* (London: Bloomsbury Academic). Accepted pending revisions
4. ‘Sor Ana de la Trinidad y Cecilia del Nacimiento, ¿lectoras de Francisco de Aldana?’, in *Vidas en la memoria: Erudición y escritura en el Carmelo reformado (siglos XVI-XVIII)* (Madrid: Casa de Velázquez, forthcoming 2025).
5. ‘Ovidian exile in Garcilaso’s Ode V (with notes on its date and place of composition)’, *Bulletin of Hispanic Studies* (forthcoming 2026).
6. ‘Arias Montano and Biblical Humanist Writing’, Routledge [first draft completed].

Impact and public engagement:

- Recorded a podcast for the *Bulletin of Spanish Studies*

Other:

Peer Review

- Reviewed an article for *Humanities*
- Reviewed an article for *Studia aurea*
- Reviewed a monograph for *Supplementa Humanistica Lovaniensia*

Academic Service

- Presentation at PGR session on applying for postdocs (13/11/2024)

Dr CLAUDIA DANIOTTI (Honorary Research Fellow, CSR)

Research interests:

history of art; classical antiquity and its reception; ancient Famous Women; medieval and Renaissance iconography.

Research activities:

In the past academic year, I was employed as a Senior Tutor (Maternity Cover) at the Middlebury College CMRS Oxford Humanities Program (i.e. American study abroad programme offered to BA Liberal Arts students). My duties entailed organising and administering the academic programme, acting as key reference for students on academic and pastoral matters, engaging tutors and lecturers, and directing the admissions and assessment process. While this was mainly an administrative job, a 10-month affiliation to Keble College, University of Oxford, allowed me to carry out some research, which resulted in a few publications and lectures (see relevant sections below).

Publications:

- *La Cronaca Crespi. Una storia per figure nel primo Rinascimento/The Crespi Chronicle: An Illustrated History of Mankind in the Early Renaissance*, co-edited with Paolo Sachet, Scalpendi, Milan (forthcoming January 2026)
- 'Ennius in Images', in *The Oxford Handbook of Ennius*, eds Jason Nethercut and Sandro La Barbera, Oxford University Press, New York (forthcoming 2026)
- 'Murdering the King: Clytemnestra and the Death of Agamemnon in the Illuminated Manuscript Tradition of Laurent de Premierfait', in *Nouvelles traductions et réceptions indirectes de la Grèce ancienne. Tome 1: Histoires des héros grecs et troyens (textes et images, 1300-1560)*, ed. Catherine Gaullier-Bougassas, Brepols, Turnhout 2025, pp. 175-188
- 'Ancient Heroes to Teach the Young Ludovico il Moro: Alexander the Great and the Indian King Porus in the Codice Sforza', in *The Prince and the Condottiero in Italian Humanism and Renaissance: Literature, History, Political Theory, and Art*, eds Marta Celati and Maria Pavlova, Peter Lang, Oxford 2025, pp. 287-312.

Impact and public engagement:

- London, V&A Academy, 5 March 2025, 'Drawing from Classical Sculpture' Course: Lecture on *Narrative in Sculpture*
- Oxford, Middlebury College CMRS Oxford Humanities Program, 25 February 2025: Lecture *How to Tame Dangerous Women: Ancient Heroines in Renaissance Europe*
- London, Royal Academy of Arts, 1 December 2024, 'The Art of the Italian Renaissance' Course: Lecture on *Women Artists of the Renaissance*
- Milan, Biblioteca Nazionale Braidense, 12 November 2024, Conference *La Cronaca Crespi illustrata da Leonardo da Besozzo: Un ciclo di Uomini Illustri in miniatura: paper Historia per figuras. Il Codice Crespi e un perduto ciclo di affreschi a Roma*
- London, V&A Academy, 14 and 28 October 2024, 'Classicism from Antiquity to Christianity' Course: Lectures on *Olympia* and *Women in Myth and Society*.

Dr JONATHAN DAVIES (History)

Research interests:

the history of violence in early modern Europe; folklore in Europe (including the British Isles) from prehistory to the present.

Research activities:

I am completing an article on peacemakers in early modern Italy.

Publications:

I am the editor of the volume *A Cultural History of Violence in the Renaissance* which is part of the series *A Cultural History of Violence* which is to be published by Bloomsbury in October 2025. I have written the introduction and a chapter for this volume.

Dr NATALYA DIN-KARIUKI (English and Comparative Literary Studies)

Research interests:

travel, migration, rhetoric, poetics

Research activities:

This year I continued work on the “Decolonising Travel Studies” project, of which I am a co-lead with Guido van Meersbergen (Department of History). We presented work from this project at a workshop we co-organised on the “Traveller’s Tale” at the Warwick Venice Centre in November 2024. Our special issue, “Travel studies and the decolonial turn”, was published in *Studies in Travel Writing* in January 2025. Our joint Hakluyt Society Annual Lecture, “Decolonising Travel Studies: Notes for the Hakluyt Society”, delivered in June 2024, was also published this year. In May 2025 I led a workshop entitled “Travel Studies: Theories, Methods, Materials” at the Newberry Library’s Center for Renaissance Studies. This workshop brought together over 30 scholars from institutions based across the United States and China to examine significant theoretical and methodological developments in the interdisciplinary field of travel studies and reflect on the directions that it might take next. In June and July 2025, I organised two public events to mark the launch of **Crossings: Migrant Knowledges, Migrant Forms** (punctum books, 2025), a volume I co-edited with Subha Mukherji and Rowan Williams. I was awarded funding for various projects by the Humanities Research Fund and the Arts and Humanities Research Fund. I also put in an application to the International Partnership Fund to establish a new partnership with Toronto and Arizona State University, which was successful, and which will result in a research collaboration on the topic of “Global Renaissances”. I gave several invited talks, including two at the University of California. From September 2025, I will be one of the convenors of a new Institute of Historical Research seminar series on Migration and Mobility History. Finally, I served as Chair of executive committee of the Travel Writing forum of the Modern Language Association and continued in my role as Treasurer of the Society for Renaissance Studies.

Publications:

- “Travel Studies and the Decolonial Turn”, *Studies in Travel Writing* 27.2 (2024, online 2025), ed. Natalya Din-Kariuki and Guido van Meersbergen. *Crossings*:
- *Migrant Knowledges, Migrant Forms*, ed. Natalya Din-Kariuki, Subha Mukherji, and Rowan Williams. (punctum books, 2025).

Impact and public engagement:

In January 2025 my chapter “Practical Knowledge and Medical Recipes in Sixteenth-century English Travel Writing” was singled out for its scholarly contributions in the *Times Literary Supplement* as well as on the TLS podcast. In the summer of 2025 I organised two major public events to launch **Crossings**: one at Magdalene College, Cambridge, the other at the British High Commission in Nairobi, Kenya.

Professor REBECCA EARLE (History)

Research interests:

18th century ships; the global circulation of art in the early modern era, Hispanic artworks in early modern Britain, the history of cookbooks

Research activities:

I am working on two, or perhaps three, projects: the history of a Spanish ship sailing from Lima towards Cadiz in the 1790s, which had the misfortune of being captured at sea not once, but twice, and whose

eventful journey had complex implications both for geopolitics and individual lives. I am working on a related project on circulation of artworks from colonial Spanish America around Europe in the early modern era, and finally a project on what we can learn from cookbooks other than how to cook.

Publications:

Rebecca Earle, 'The World of Jacob de Pinna, Notary and Culture-Broker', *Journal of Early Modern History* (2025), 1-31. Rebecca Earle (with Susan Deans-Smith), "'Spanish' Casta Paintings in Nineteenth-Century Britain', *Art Bulletin* 106:2 (2024), 65-91.

Impact and public engagement:

- Talk to Warwick Horticultural & Allotment Society, Warwick, 15 July 2025: 'Potatoes: From the Andes to the Allotment'
- Appeared on BBC Radio 4 The Food Programme, 'Potatoes with Poppy O'Toole', 4 July 2025.
- Research profiled in MailOnline, 19 July 2025: Jonathan Chadwick, 'Ketchup or brown sauce on a fry-up? Scientists FINALLY settle the debate - as they reveal the formula for the perfect Full English Breakfast'.
- Research profiled in National Geographic, 13 June 2025: Lauren Paige Richeson, 'How the Potato Went from Banned to Beloved',
- Research profiled in TimeOut, 16 May 2025: James Inglis, 'The king of all London caffs: an oral history of E Pellicci'
- Research profiled in CityAM, 12 April 2025: Anna Wolfe, 'Silence over Lamb: The Terrible Politics of the Dinner Table',
- Interviewed on BBC Radio 5Live, Matt Chorley Show, 4 April 2025.
- Research profiled in Telegraph, 23 Jan. 2025: Lauren Shirreff, 'Modern British Food is Making us Ill— These are the Old-fashioned Meals to Eat Instead'.
- Research profiled in Country Life, 22 Dec. 2024: Emma Hughes, 'How the Humble Potato Became the Most Important Part of Christmas Lunch, and How You Can Make them Crunchier than Ever'
- Research profiled by Riverford Organic: Matt Chittock, 'Does Organic Food Have a Class Problem?' Wicked Leeks: Food, Farming, Fairness, 20 Nov. 2024
- Recorded 'Who Invented the Potato? And Why Should we Care?', British Academy Ten-Minute Talks, 25 July 2025.
- Wrote 'How Strawberries and Cream were a Rare and Exciting Treat for Victorians—and then Became a Wimbledon Icon', *The Conversation*, 27 June 2025.
- Interviewed on Good Morning Scotland, BBC Radio Scotland, 24 Dec. 2024
- Interviewed for in The Napoleonic Wars Podcast, 17 Dec. 2024: Luke Reynolds, 'Christmas Before Dickens'
- Interviewed on World at One, BBC Radio 4, 13 Dec. 2024.
- Interviewed in The Napoleonic Wars Podcast, 27 Nov. 2024: Zack White, 'Food, Glorious Food, in the Napoleonic Era', Letter in 'Financial Times, 4 Oct. 2024: Hotly Contested',

Dr CHLOE FAIRBANKS (Honorary Research Fellow, CSR)

Research interests:

Transcultural encounter, ecocriticism, early modern drama, early modern practical texts, microhistories of the lower classes

Research activities:

During the period Sept 2024-June 2025 I completed an article on internal conflict within English communities in *The Merry Wives of Windsor* and *Henry V*. I also submitted a rough draft of my first

monograph to the series editors, and since the spring have been working on implementing their feedback prior to peer review. During this time, I also successfully applied for a Leverhulme ECF to commence in October 2025, which entailed preliminary research into transcultural encounters in early modern London at the level of the lower classes.

Publications:

- “‘Here’s company’”: Fractured Englishness and Conflicted Communities in *The Merry Wives of Windsor* and *Henry V*, *Shakespeare Survey*, 78 (accepted November 2024, forthcoming September 2025)
- Invited review of Francisco Martínez Montañó’s *The Art of Cooking, Pie Making, Pastry Making, and Preserving: Arte de cocina, pastelería, vizcochería y conservería*, edited and trans. by Carolyn A. Nadeau for *Food & History*. Submitted and forthcoming 2025.
- Review of *Staging Female Characters in Shakespeare’s English History Plays* for *Shakespeare Quarterly*, 76.1 (2025). DOI: 0.1093/sq/quaf007

Impact and public engagement:

In September 2024 I led a session on transcultural encounters on the early modern stage for the Centre for the Study of the Renaissance, University of Warwick’s Community Study Day.

Other:

Before Earthrise: Global Imagining in Literature and Visual Culture, 1550-1968, June 2025, University of Oxford: ‘Insular Travel and the Cartographic Turn in Early Modern England’

Dr VITTORIA FALLANCA (Leverhulme Early Career Fellow, CSR)

Research interests:

Montaigne; design; lyric poetry; history of love; literary theory

Research activities:

In the past 12 months, I have been mostly occupied with researching the first part of my book project, on anti-love narratives and discourses in early modern France (and parts of Europe). The first part of the project concerns the development of an anti-love tradition in early modern Italy and its reception in France in the sixteenth century. I have been pursuing a gendered angle on the issue of reception of anti-love discourse in France, and exploring how this interacts with the questions of national and poetic identity. I presented part of this work at a Warwick STUDIO Renaissance seminar on the 17th of June, and received positive and helpful feedback. I have been transforming this presentation into an article, entitled ‘Thomas Sébillet’s *Contr’amour*: Towards an Anterotics of Translation’. For this first part of the project I have conducted periods of research both in Rome and in Oxford. Most of the research has involved reading and interpreting primary sources, and tracing lines of influence and reception between early anti-love writings and later French counterparts. Following a question from a colleague at my STUDIO presentation on the role of artistic representations of anti-love, I am keen to expand the initial scope of my proposal to include a self-standing section on the visual arts.

I have also been continuing and completing other projects, including the following:

- Completing the production steps for my first monograph, “The Design of Montaigne’s *Essais*”, which will be published with Oxford University Press in March 2026. This has involved soliciting image permissions, liaising with production, design and publicity at OUP, copy-editing and index-writing.
- Submitting an edited volume (edited with Jennifer Oliver and Olivia Smith), ‘Elemental Objects’, to Brepols (Techne Imprint) for peer review, and editing and revising the manuscript in response to readers’ comments.

- Collating, editing and submitting a special issue, 'Early Modernity on the Edge: Reflections on the Pre-History of Precarity', for the journal *SubStance* which solicited the special issue following a conference of the same name held in June 2023.

Dr STELLA FLETCHER (Honorary Research Fellow, CSR)

Research interests:

Catholic hierarchy: cardinals, bishops, abbots

Research activities:

Nothing relevant to Renaissance Studies, but I have continued to write on modern topics.

Impact and public engagement:

Lecture: 'Papal Elections', South Warrington in Stockton Heath Library Friends, 14 March 2025. This event attracted the group's largest ever audience, in part because I have spoken to them before and in part because the lecture was linked to a screening of the film 'Conclave'.

Dr ELIZABETH GOLDRING FRHistS (Honorary Reader, CSR)

Research interests:

Tudor-Stuart painting and court culture

Research activities:

In February 2025, I submitted the final manuscript of my book, *Holbein: Renaissance Master*, to Yale/The Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art, since which time I have seen the manuscript through the copyediting, proofreading, etc stages. Publication is scheduled for November 2025. In March 2025, I was appointed Specialist Consultant to the Philip Mould Gallery, London, for its forthcoming exhibition of Elizabethan and Jacobean portrait miniatures, scheduled to open November 2025. See below for other research outputs.

Publications in print or at press/forthcoming:

Book:

Holbein: Renaissance Master (forthcoming from Yale/The Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art)

Articles/essays:

- (co-authored with Bianca Arthur-Hull et al.) 'Putting a Name to a Face: Parham House's *Portrait of a Lady*,' *The Burlington Magazine* (July 2025), pp.670-79.
- (co-authored with Emma Rutherford and Sir Jonathan Bate) "'A woman's face ...'"; *Times Literary Supplement* (publication date TBC)
- 'The "Queens Limner": Nicholas Hilliard and Elizabeth I,' in *Artists and Female Patrons at the European Renaissance Courts*, edited by Noelia García Pérez (Brepols, publication date TBC).

Book/exhibition reviews:

- 'At Kenwood House: Curtain Pictures', *The London Review of Books* (24 October 2024).
- 'At Compton Verney: Portrait Miniatures,' *The London Review of Books* (20 February 2025)
- *Thomas More: Life and Death in Tudor England* by J. Paul, reviewed in *The Spectator* (24 May 2025)
- *The Story of Tudor Art* by C. Faraday, reviewed in the *Literary Review* (September 2025)
- 'At the Frick,' *The London Review of Books* (publication date TBC)

Impact and public engagement:

Talks:

- Lecture on Holbein for the V&A Academy (16 October 2024)
- After-dinner speech on Hilliard for a Tudor art evening co-hosted by the National Portrait Gallery and Crosby Moran Hall at Crosby Moran Hall, London (7 May 2025)
- ‘Smart Talk’ on Hilliard for the Lord Leycester Hospital, Warwick (15 May 2025)

Podcasts:

- Interviewed by Adam Pennington for *The Tudor Chest* podcast series (25 Sept 2024) about my discovery of a hitherto unknown Hilliard cabinet miniature of Lady Arbella Stuart (1592)
- Interviewed by Amy Matthews for *The English Heritage Podcast* (10 July 2025) about the 1575 Kenilworth festivities.

Miscellaneous impact/public engagement:

- Interviewed by Dalya Alberge for *The Guardian* (1 December 2024) about my discovery of a hitherto unknown Hilliard miniature depicting Elizabeth, Lady Leighton (c.1585)

Other:

- I have served as a reader for several leading presses and journals, including Yale, *The Burlington Magazine*, *British Art Studies*, and *Colnaghi Studies Journal*.
- I have continued to serve on the Consultative Committee of *The Burlington Magazine* (2011-); as a Trustee of the Selden Society and Member of its Council (2015-); as an Ambassador for the Lord Leycester Hospital, Warwick (2018-); and as a Member of the Athenaeum’s Works of Art Committee (2024-).
- I advised researchers for BBC1’s long-running ‘art detective’ show *Fake or Fortune* and also advised the Folger Shakespeare Library, Washington DC, on the exhibition ‘How to be a Power Player: Tudor Edition’, which opened in February 2025.

Professor TERESA GRANT (English and Comparative Literary Studies)

Research interests:

Early modern drama; Shakespeare’s contemporaries; James Shirley; early modern ecologies

Research activities:

I have been working on three different strands of research over this period: the continuing OUP *The Complete Works of James Shirley* as general editor; an essay on mice in children’s books pre-1800 for the *Cambridge History of Children’s Literature* (ed. Giddens, Jaques and Joy); my edition of *The Fair Maid of the West* for *The Collected Works of Thomas Heywood*, ed. Barry Gaines and Grace Ioppolo (Oxford UP, 2022-). Aysu Dincer and I have also been working on early modern roses as part of the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust exhibition, and this has burgeoned into a much larger project than we had initially planned.

Impact and Public Engagement:

Major exhibition ‘[Shakespeare’s Roses: Sweetest Odours](#)’ at the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust, curated with Aysu Dincer, and with engineering innovation by James Covington.

Dr LAWRENCE GREEN (Honorary Research Fellow, CSR)

Research interests:

Shakespeare’s Plays & Poetry, Shakespeare Production History, Neglected poets of the English Renaissance.

Research activities:

Research in respect of two Open Access Shakespeare Groups (Adults: Stratford & Warwick Town). Plays studied: Hamlet (Autumn 2024, 12 weeks), Julius Caesar (Spring 2025, 10 weeks).
Research in respect of proposed 5-week summer term, 2025: 'Shakespeare and Mirrors'

Impact and public engagement:

Both taught groups (Stratford & Warwick Town) are Open Access with Members ranging from post-grad qualifications to little or no academic qualifications.

Other:

I give occasional lectures to local Literary Societies - next for the Shipston Lit. Soc. - 2026, date TBC.

Dr SOPHIA GUTHRIE (Honorary Research Fellow, CSR)**Research interests:**

Southern French Calvinism, with particular attention to Montauban and its Protestant academy; epic poetry as a vehicle of ideology and political identity; neo-Latin; the French Wars of Religion; the Thirty Years' War; the Swedish Vasa dynasty

Research activities:

My current activities build on my PhD research, which produced a commented edition of the *Adolphiid* (Montauban, 1649), a Latin epic on Gustavus Adolphus. It was authored by the Huguenot theologian Antoine de Garissoles and dedicated to Christina of Sweden. I am now in the process of turning my PhD thesis into a book manuscript. A publisher has expressed initial interest but has requested to see a full manuscript before making a decision.

My research on the epic also generated research which did not fit in my PhD thesis but which I am in the process of publishing in article form (see below under 'Publications').

In addition to my work on the epic, I am in the course of transcribing, editing, and translating a number of texts mostly authored by de Garissoles. I expect this endeavour will lead to the publication of several articles and shorter editions. Examples include:

- A group of graduation speeches in Latin – addressed to students of Montauban's academy, its faculty, and various other local stakeholders – which were read out in one of Montauban's churches. Largely prompted by this material, I have gathered ideas that I expect will lead to an article that will shed light on Huguenot academic culture.
- In preparation for an article on local-patriotic characterisations of Montauban and its Protestant academy, I have started to collect relevant descriptions in prose and verse authored by the city's ministers and the academy's professors, including de Garissoles.

Conference papers and seminar presentations:

- 'Martyrdom and pan-Protestantism: Antoine de Garissoles' *Adolphiid*', at *Identities in the Early Modern Period*, University of Aarhus, Denmark, September 2024.
- 'Almost from my cradle I have been told that I am a poet: A Huguenot theologian's letter in verse to Queen Christina', seminar presentation hosted by Nylatinskt Nätverk at Uppsala University, Sweden, March 2025.
- 'A battle fever filled the people of the North: Seventeenth-century Sweden, as envisioned in an epic about Gustavus Adolphus', at *Northern Narratives: Multidisciplinary Approaches to the Early Modern Period in the North Atlantic and Baltic*, June 2025, University of the Highlands and Islands (online).

Publications:

I have not had any finalised publications during the past year, but the following are in the pipeline:

- 'Descriptions du siège de Montauban: Extraits de trois épopées latines'. This article analyses excerpts

from three epics which mention the siege of Montauban (1621). It will be published, probably in 2026, by the Société Montalbanaise d'Étude et de Recherche sur le Protestantisme in a volume with the title *Assiéger et défendre les villes en France pendant les guerres de Rohan (1620-1629)*.

- 'Almost from my cradle I have been told that I am a poet: A Huguenot theologian's letter in verse to Queen Christina'. This is a translation, with an introduction and a commentary of a letter that de Garissoles sent along with his epic to be delivered to Queen Christina. *Bibliotheca Neolatina*, a publication series based in Uppsala, has indicated an interest in publishing this piece. My draft is near-complete, and I expect to submit it this autumn.
- 'Huguenot martyrology and epic poetry: The death of Gustavus Adolphus in Antoine de Garissoles' *Adolphid* (1649)'. This piece was submitted to *Nordic Journal of Renaissance Studies* on 1 September, and it will be part of a special issue devoted to the theme of 'Identities in the early modern period'.

Dr VALÉRIE HAYAERT (Honorary Research Fellow, CSR)

Research interests:

Legal humanism, Cultural History of Law, Emblem Studies, Law and Performance, Legal Iconology

Research activities:

- 2025 10-13 June, respondent to the final symposium concluding the research project “La ville ornée” a research project on painted facades in Europe (Switzerland included), University of Fribourg (Switzerland), Pr. Jérémie Koering.
- 20-21 May a one-day symposium (Imagination Days) at the University of Queen Mary, London, to discuss my book *Lady Justice* (EUP, 2023) organized by Pr. Maksymilian del Mar, with following respondents Julie Stone-Peters (Columbia), Piyel Haldar (Birkbeck), Isobel Roele, Miri Rubin, Delfi Nieto Isabel <https://www.qmul.ac.uk/ihss/whats-on/items/imagining-justice.html>
- 22-23 May: « Colloque la Vertu de Justice », Château de Bournazel (Rodez, France) organized by Xavier Prévost, Violaine Giacomotto, François Roudaut.
- 31 March 2025 Séminaire M2 Histoire de l'Art de la Renaissance, Pr. Michel Weemans : « Lady Justice's fragility »

Publications:

- October 2025, Partie "Genres de l'humanisme juridique" dans *Introduction à l'humanisme juridique*, dir. Xavier Prévost Luigi Alberto Sanchi, Droz Geneva; Hayaert, V. (2025).
- The Versification of Legal Codes. In: Mukherji, S., Roberts, D. (eds) *Literature and the Legal Imaginary. Crossroads of Knowledge in Early Modern Literature*, vol 4. Palgrave Macmillan, Cham. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-74093-0_12

Prof. Em. BRENDA HOSINGTON (Honorary Research Fellow, CSR)

Research interests:

Early Modern translation history, theory, women translators; Neo-Latin studies

Research activities:

- Completion of the research project, “Trajectories of Translation in Early Modern Britain (1473-1660): Routes, Mediations, Networks”. Funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada as an Insight Grant.
- Continuation of my study of English women translators with a chapter due out in October 2025, ‘Anna Hume, Translator of Petrarch’s First Three *Triumphs* and “glossatrice extraordinaire”’ (University of Manchester Press). My ongoing interest in translations of works on women has resulted

in a chapter entitled “Trajectories of Translation and the *querelle des femmes* in Early Modern England” (Bloomsbury Press).

- With a book under contract to Brill, *Neo-Latin and Translation*, I am combining my interest in Neo-Latin Studies and translation history.

Publications:

* “Elizabeth Jane Weston” in *The Palgrave Encyclopedia of Early Modern Women Writing in English* (eds Patricia Pender and Rosalind Smith). Palgrave Macmillan, Online 2025.

* “The Seymour Sisters, their Circles, and their Authorship” in *The Palgrave Encyclopedia of Early Modern Women’s Writing in English* (eds. Patricia Pender and Rosalind Smith). Palgrave Macmillan, Online 2024.

* “English Catholic Women Translators: Networks and Trajectories of Textual Transmission” in *The Palgrave Encyclopedia of Early Modern Women’s Writing in English* (eds Patricia Pender and Rosalind Smith). Palgrave Macmillan, Online 2024.

Electronic publication:

Cultural Crosscurrents Catalogue of Translations in Stuart and Commonwealth Britain 1641-1660, eds. Marie-Alice Belle and Brenda M. Hosington. Annotated entries of all translations into all languages printed in Britain and into English printed on the Continent. Free access. Funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada. Hosted by the Iter Press, Toronto.

Other:

Conferences:

- ‘Gateway To Romance: Trajectories of Translation and Mediating Agents in Mid-Seventeenth-Century Britain.’ Renaissance Society of America, Boston, March, 2025.
- ‘Elizabeth Jane Weston’s Use of Rhetoric and Translation in Constructing her Identity as Aspiring English Poet and Suffering Exile,’ *Identities in the Early Modern Period*, Nordic Network of Renaissance Studies, University of Aarhus, September 2024.

Dr IOANNA IORDANOU (Honorary Research Fellow, CSR)

Research interests:

Preindustrial organisational history; Business History; Intelligence and Espionage in the Renaissance

Research activities:

During the past academic year, I advanced a new strand of research that explores the emotional dimensions of state secrecy in the early modern Venetian Republic. This emerging line of inquiry complements my broader interest in wellbeing and the dynamics of work in Renaissance professional and institutional settings, thereby extending the thematic scope of my scholarship beyond more familiar economic and political frameworks.

I was also honoured to be elected as a Non-Resident Distinguished Fellow at the Global and National Security Institute at the University of South Florida, a leading US research-intensive institution. This three-year fellowship formally acknowledges my position as a world-leading expert on pre-modern intelligence practices and provides a platform for dialogue between historical perspectives on intelligence and contemporary security studies.

In addition, I completed the archival research phase for my forthcoming monograph, provisionally entitled *The Galley Makers: Life and Work in Renaissance Venice’s State Shipyards*. This project builds directly on my doctoral research undertaken at the CSR between 2003 and 2007, while also expanding its focus to illuminate the lived experience of labour within one of the largest and most strategically significant industrial complexes of Renaissance Europe. Although ongoing leadership responsibilities and extensive doctoral supervision commitments have inevitably delayed progress towards final completion, the archival foundation for the monograph is now firmly established, and it remains a central focus of my medium-term research agenda.

Finally, I note that, as a scholar based in a Business School who works across two distinct disciplinary domains, the present report necessarily highlights only the Renaissance strand of my research activities. A significant proportion of my research time continues to be dedicated to non-Renaissance projects that address contemporary issues within management, organisation, and wellbeing at work.

Publications:

- Iordanou, I. (2025). Emotions at work: The emotional labour of professional diplomats in the early modern Venetian Republic. *Business History*, 1–25.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/00076791.2025.2458076>
- **Iordanou, I. (2026)**, Intelligence in the Mediterranean World during the Renaissance, in Peter Jackson and Sir David Omand, eds., *Cambridge History of Intelligence from the Renaissance to the First World War*, 2nd vol. of *Cambridge History of Intelligence* (eds. Christopher Andrew and Calder Walton). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2026 [forthcoming].
- Iordanou, I. (2025). Espionage. In *Oxford Bibliographies in Renaissance and Reformation*. Ed. Margaret King. New York: Oxford University Press.

Other:

Delivered the following invited talk to the North America Society of Intelligence History on Intelligence in the Mediterranean World in the Renaissance (February 2025, Washington , DC).

Professor MARK KNIGHTS (History)

Research interests:

Early Modern political culture; the history of corruption

Research activities:

- My 2021 book (*Trust and Distrust*) is coming out in paperback in September and a Chinese translation is also being prepared for publication early in the new year.
- I co-organised (with a Spanish ECF) a conference, ‘The Cultural Legacies of Corruption in Europe, 1500-today’, held at University of Warwick@Venice and raised funding from HRC, IAS to supplement the departmental contribution.
- I gave three keynote and four other conference papers.
- I chaired the Royal Historical Society’s ‘First Book Prize’ and was elected to a Fellowship of the British Academy

Publications:

- My chapter, ‘Political Debate’, in the *Oxford Handbook of English Prose 164-1714* eds. Nicholas McDowell and Henry Power was published.
- ‘Conceptualising Corruption as a Systemic Issue’ was published in *Corruption and the Modernisation of the State* edited by Ricard Torra Prat, Arndt Brendecke and Joan Pubill-Brugués (Routledge).

Impact and public engagement:

- I appeared on BBC R4’s *In Our Time*, talking about the Hanoverian Succession.
- I taught on a Sutton Trust summer school for disadvantaged students.
- I liaised between the department and the Warwick Words History Festival, organising who was to speak at the main festival and a subsequent day of talks.

Professor BEAT KÜMIN (History)

Research interests:

Memory studies / parish churches and public houses / food and drink history / spatial approaches to the past / the German lands c. 1400-1800

Research activities:

The main focus remained on the Germanic phenomenon of [tower capsule deposits](#), i.e. the custom to leave chronicles and objects in golden spheres located at the top of spires. First documented in the late Middle Ages, it is still practiced today, with over 1800 sites recorded to date. I presented related papers at the German History Society conference in Manchester (September), the early modern seminar at the University of Regensburg / Germany (November) and addressed the annual assembly of the History Society of the Swiss Canton of Schwyz (December). In March, I returned to the latter location, on that occasion for a public lecture on the complex notion of ‘freedom’ in the history of this rural republic. The year also saw a number of short trips dedicated to archival research and field studies, notably in the Czech Republic (where I also gave a talk on premodern public houses at West Bohemian University) and the Lake Constance region (focusing on locations with formerly shared churches, i.e. communities where Catholics and Protestants used the same building for worship). Alongside, I drafted essays on spaces of early modern wine consumption, peasant self-representation / resistance and the place of tower capsules within wider premodern deposit culture. In June, I delivered a keynote address to the Tenth Convention on Food & Drink Studies at Tours in France and – throughout the period under review – I continued to co-edit the [‘Cultures of Early Modern Europe’](#) book series for Bloomsbury.

Publications:

- Beat Kümin, 'Das Wirtshaus als sozialer Ort [The Public House as a Social Site]', in: Südtiroler Landesmuseum für Volkskunde (ed.), *gemisper - gerüchte - geschrej: Wirtshaus und Bauernkrieg 1525*, Beiträge zur Volkskunde 5 (Dietenheim, 2025), 110-125 [near-final [pdf Version](#)]
- Beat Kümin, 'The Peasants and the Empire', in: *History Today* 75 (3/2025), 28-39 [[pre-print](#) version]

Impact and public engagement:

- One of the most prominent outreach initiatives this year was [‘The Legacy of Tower Capsules’](#), a six-part video series commissioned by my project funder, the German Gerda Henkel Foundation (viewed 6000 times Oct.-Dec. 2024). Radio interviews were broadcast on German station Bayern 2 and Swiss SRF1. Since July 2023, I have been [keeping a research blog](#) on the project homepage, while a regional Swiss newspaper commissioned an 8-article series on the phenomenon.
- In another priority area, I organized the Twenty-Third Warwick Symposium on Parish Research in May. The topic of [‘Parish Communication’](#) brought leading academics in contact with early career researchers and independent scholars.
- Last but not least, on the occasion of its Quincentenary, I wrote a survey article on the German Peasants’ War of 1525 for a wider audience (see publications).

Professor DAVID LINES (Italian Studies / School of Modern Languages and Cultures)

Research interests:

Renaissance humanism, scholasticism, science, medicine, ethics; history of universities; Aristotle and Aristotelianism; commentaries and translations; Latin and vernacular; Bible interpretation

Research activities:

Current project: an annotated edition of documents (including statutes) relevant to the faculty of arts and medicine of the University of Bologna, c. 1350-1750 (for Brepols, Studia Artistarum)

Publications:

- *Interpreting Aristotle’s Ethics in Fifteenth-Century Florence: John Argyropoulos, Donato Acciaiuoli, and Niccolò Tignosi*, *eHumanistica*, 63 (2025), 283–303 (special issue: *Humanismo y escolástica en torno a la escuela de*

Salamanca: La órbita de Alfonso de Cartagena, ed. by Juan Miguel Valero Moreno and Héctor Javier García Fuentes).

- ‘Anna Laura Puliafito (1961-2023): Un ricordo’, *Bruniana & Campanelliana*, 31.1 (2025), 143–149.
- ‘Philosophy Teaching and Filiations of Learning in Sixteenth-Century Bologna: Ludovico Boccadiferro’s Early De Anima Lectures’, in *Filosofia e medicina in Italia fra medioevo e prima età moderna*, ed. by Luca Bianchi and Luigi Campi (Turnhout: Brepols, 2025), pp. 201–237.

Other:

- Elected as Fellow of the British Academy (July 2025).
- Visiting Research Fellow, Schoenberg Institute for Manuscript Studies, University of Pennsylvania (March–April 2025).
- ‘The Elements of Studies and Disciplines in Late Medieval and Renaissance Italy’. Invited keynote talk for CHIASMI graduate conference, Harvard University (4 April 2025).
- Organizer of two panels for the RSA in Boston, March 2025, ‘Sources for Teaching and Learning in Renaissance Europe’.
- Attended the Sixteenth Century Studies Society (Toronto, Nov. 2024) and presented a paper.
- Attended a conference in Bologna on Carlo Cesare Malvasia (Nov. 2024) and chaired a panel.
- Respondent at a workshop on *I corsi universitari inediti di Pietro Pomponazzi. Giornata di studi in occasione del V centenario della morte* (Bologna, 29 May 2025), co-organized by Leonardo Graciotti, visiting PhD student at Warwick.
- Respondent at a workshop on *Aristotelismo e atomismo nella prima età moderna. Giornata di studi, Roma 3* (Rome, 30 May 2025), co-organized by Giacomo Rughetti, visiting PhD student at Warwick.
- Scientist-in-charge for Matteo Leta, Marie Curie COFUND Fellow (2024–2025).

Dr MATTEO LETA (Eutopia SIF Postdoctoral Researcher, CSR/IAS)

Research interests:

Italian theatre; Science and Literature; ‘Otherness’; Digital Humanities.

Research activities:

I have recently submitted an article to *Italian Studies* on the relationship between science and theatre in the works of Giovan Battista Della Porta. Earlier versions of this research were presented at international conferences as well as in invited lectures. In parallel, with Graham Fowler (University of Warwick) I have designed a relational database to catalogue and describe surviving copies of early editions of Della Porta’s plays. Alongside this work, I am co-editing, with Dr. Massimo Aresu, a special issue of *Quaderni d’Italianistica* devoted to the representation of the Romani people in Early Modern Italy. The volume will include nine contributions by scholars affiliated with institutions in Italy, the UK, Ireland, and Canada. My own article examines the portrayal of Romani people in Ariosto’s *Il Negromante*, and traces how these representations shift in the French and Neo-Latin translations produced by Jean de La Taille and Juan Pérez Petreyo. I have also published a shorter study on *Il Negromante* in a collected volume, where I explore the figure of the charlatan Lachelino, analysing the possible sources that shaped his construction and reflecting on the interplay between magic, illusion, and writing in Ariosto’s oeuvre.

Publications:

- “Wonders of Nature and Wonders of Stage in the Theatre of Giovan Battista della Porta”, *Italian Studies*, under peer review.
- ‘Andiamo come zingani di paese in paese’. Writing and rewriting Ariosto’s *Il Negromante* in the 16th century, *Quaderni d’Italianistica*, under peer review.
- “Storia di un impostore. Il monologo-racconto di Nebbio sulle gesta di Lachelino nel *Negromante P*”, in *I modi del raccontare. Spazi della narrazione nella letteratura italiana del Cinquecento*, edited by Michela

Fantacci and Ilenia Viola, Soveria Mannelli, Rubbettino, 2025, pp. 133-150.

Impact and public engagement:

- “Science of the Stage, Science on the Stage: Giambattista Della Porta’s Plays and Philosophy” (Department of Italian Studies, University of Toronto, Goggio Lecture, 05/05/2025)
- “The Stage and the Laboratory, The Stage as Laboratory: Giovan Battista Della Porta between Science and Theatre” (Italian Research Seminar, University of Warwick, 04/12/2024).
- “Interconnections between Theatre and Sciences in the Italian Renaissance”, in the panel “Scientific and Celestial Writing” during the Society for Renaissance Studies biannual meeting (Bristol, 02-04.07.2025)
- “The Business of Playwriting for a Natural Magician: Della Porta’s Comedies and Renaissance Science”, in the panel “The Serious Business of Italian Theater”, organised by Sarah Ross and Serena Laiena, during the Renaissance Society of America annual conference (Boston, 20-22.03.2025).

Dr GIORGIO LIZZUL (Honorary Research Fellow, CSR)

Research interests:

Intellectual History; Political and Economic Thought; Public Finance; Aristotelianism; Economic History; Risk & Insurance

Research activities:

Since June 2024 I have been a postdoctoral researcher (Assegno di ricerca) at the Department of Environmental Science and Policy, Università degli studi di Milano on the project *Under Uncertainty. Coping with Risks in the Mediterranean Maritime Business (Italy 16th-19th centuries)*. My position on this project came to an end in August 2025.

The project in Milan involved archival work in the Genoese State Archive to collect data for the risky business database (a multinational, public database of recorded marine insurance prices from the earliest records (C15th to c. 1870). During this postdoctoral position I presented at the workshop *The Future of Digital Humanities: Data Preservation and Dissemination in the Long Run, The University of Milan*, as well as presented my paper ‘La gestione del rischio marittimo nella Genova della metà del Quattrocento: la produzione notarile di Tommaso Duracino’ at conference *Rischio, fortuna e probabilità: la percezione dell’incerto (sec. XV-XIX)*, Dipartimento di Civilt. e Forme del Sapere, Universit. di Pisa. I also presented a paper at the International Congress on the Study of the Middle Ages, University of Leeds (‘Languages of Good Governance in the Venetian Camera degli Imprestiti, c. 13th-15th Centuries’)

During this period, I completed a chapter on Venetian historiography for a volume on Italian merchant culture, as well as a peer reviewed article on Venetian taxation based on a new set of fiscal data I discovered in the archive. In 2025 I was awarded Marie Skłodowska-Curie Postdoctoral Fellowship (MSCA-PF 2024), and as of October 2025 I will be joining the Institute of Economic and Social History, Faculty of Historical and Cultural Studies, University of Vienna. I will be working on my project VenHisCred: Venetian Historiography and Public Credit 1200-1600.

Publications:

- ‘Narrating the History of Debt in Venetian Chronicles ca. 1300–ca. 1500’ in *Cultures of Exchange: Mercantile Mentalities Between Italy and the World* Eds. William Caffero, Susanna Barsella, and Germano Maifreda. IN PRESS. Toronto: Toronto University Press, to be appear 1 January 2026.
- ‘Un nuovo ritratto fiscale della Venezia del Quattrocento’ in *Storia Economica* 1/2024.
- ‘Taking a Breath: The Representation of the Venetian Debt and Common Good with Corporeal Metaphors’ in
- Mobilizing Money for the Public Good. Eds. Mauro Carboni and Pietro Delcorno. Bologna: il Mulino, 2024.

Impact and public engagement:

13/09/2024 “The Cives and Estimo Database” *The Future of Digital Humanities: Data Preservation and Dissemination in the Long Run, The University of Milan*

Professor PETER MARSHALL (History)

Research interests:

Early modern religious and cultural history; Thomas More; Orkney Islands; Reformation; Pilgrimage of Grace

Research activities:

I have been on research leave in the academic year 2024-5, which has provided the opportunity to wrap up some longstanding projects and give thought to new ones. In late summer and early autumn I worked on a second edition of my 2009 book, *The Reformation: A Very Short Introduction*, which will appear in October 2025. At the same time, I was involved with the volume arising out of my presidency of the Ecclesiastical History Society in 2023-4, on *Margins and Peripheries in Christian History*. For this, I contributed a research piece looking at patterns of Reformation in Britain's various offshore islands, a development from the project on Orkney which has occupied me for much of the last few years. I also, in my capacity as co-editor, wrote the introduction to the volume. In the last months of 2024 and early part of 2025, I researched, wrote and submitted the text for *Thomas More: A Very Short Introduction*, which will be published by OUP in April 2026. More recently, I have been able to think about my next research and writing project, a new history of the Pilgrimage of Grace, and to draw up a detailed proposal. This has been accepted for publication by William Collins.

Publications:

- Authored Book: *Storm's Edge: Life, Death and Magic in the Islands of Orkney* (paperback ed., London, 2025)
- Edited Book: (with David Jones and Charlotte Methuen), *Margins and Peripheries in Christian History*, Studies in Church History vol. 61 (Cambridge, 2025)
- Research Article: 'Reformations in Britain's Islands', *Studies in Church History*, 61 (2025), 258-83.

Other works: 'Celebrating the 600th English Historical Review: Swanson, "Problems of the Priesthood"', *English Historical Review*, 139 (2024), 984-5; 'What is Modernity?', *History Today* (Jan 2025), 8; 'Introduction', in David Jones, Peter Marshall and Charlotte Methuen (eds), *Margins and Peripheries in Christian History*, Studies in Church History vol. 61 (Cambridge, 2025), 1-11; 'Bernard Capp as Colleague and Mentor', in Tim Reinke Williams and Angela McShane (eds), *From the Margins to the Centre in Seventeenth-Century England: Essays in Honour of Bernard Capp* (Woodbridge, 2025), 200-204

Reviews: W. Miller, *The Enthusiast: Anatomy of the Fanatic in Seventeenth-Century British Culture*, in *History: Reviews of New Books*, 52 (2024), 65-7; M. Wiesner-Hanks, *Women and the Reformation: A Global History*, in *Literary Review* (Oct. 2024), 23-4; A Jotischky, *The Monastic World: A 1,200-Year History*, in *Literary Review* (Jan. 2025), 21-2; L. Roper, *Summer of Fire and Blood: The German Peasants' War*, in *Literary Review* (Mar. 2025), 8-9; J. Paul, *Thomas More: A Life and Death in Tudor England*, in *Literary Review* (June, 2025), 22-3

Impact and public engagement:

- 11 Dec 2024: podcast interview for 'The Rest is History'
- 3 Feb 2025: podcast interview on career and research for Ecclesiastical History Society
- 3 May 2025: podcast interview on 'Magic, Witches and the Supernatural in Orkney' for 'The North of Sooth
- 8 May 2025, 'The Lost Voices of Orkney', online talk and discussion for the Highland Writing Centre, Moniak Mhor.
- 28 July 2025: podcast interview on 'The Pilgrimage of Grace: When England Fought for Reformation', for Subject to Change
- 21 Mar 2025: lecture at Prayer Book Society's annual Commemoration of the Martyrdom of Thomas Cranmer, University Church, Oxford

Other:

28 Jan 2025: Storm's Edge long-listed for The Highland Book Prize

Dr DELIA MOLDOVAN (Honorary Research Fellow, CSR)

Research interests:

Art History; History of Science and Technology, Intellectual History; Environmental Studies; 16th century; Italy. My project 'OLEUM', Olive Cultivation and Environment in Tuscany in the Early Modern Period proposes a multifaceted investigation into the environmental, artistic, and intellectual history of the olive in the Medici Grand Duchy of Tuscany (1569–1737).

Research activities:

- Seminar presentation: 'Artisans and Mother Nature in Stradano's Nova Reperta (1580s)', Italian Society for the History of Science, SISS meets early careers, 25 Mar. 2025.
- Conference papers: "Branching Vine, Why Do You Trouble Me? I Am the Tree of Pallas": A Cultural and Iconographic Study of the Olive Tree and Vine in Early Modern Emblems', Conference Nutritional Knowledge and Practices in Modern Europe, 8 – 9 May 2025, Università Roma Tre, Rome.
- 'Art and Nature in Stradano's Oleum olivarum Print', Conference Immagini e Metamorfosi della Natura nel Rinascimento Europeo, 26 - 28 November 2024, Università Vita-Salute San Raffaele, Palazzo Arese Borromeo, Cesano Maderno.
- 'Lacking the Benefit of the Air': An Olive Tree-Focused Perspective on Climate in Sixteenth-Century Medici Tuscany', European Society for the History of Science, Barcelona, 4 – 7 Sep. 2024.
- 'Reforming Nature: Agriculture and Moral Renewal in Leandro Bassano's series of the Months', Invited lecture in occasion of the exhibition 'Arcimboldo – Bassano – Bruegel Nature's Time', Kunsthistorisches Museum, Vienna, 5 June 2025.

Publications:

- 'Simple Machines, Complex Organizations. Stradano's Vision of Technology'. Essay co-written with Samir Boumediene in a volume on Giovanni Stradano, Brill, NIKI Studies in Netherlandish-Italian Art History. Forthcoming 2025.
- 'Piero Vettori and the Noble Art of Olive Growing: Botanical Knowledge as Environmental Strategy in Early Modern Tuscany', in *Environment and Economy in the Global Renaissance*, eds. Robert Fredona, Sophus Reinert, and Caroline Murphy, Delaware University Press, forthcoming.

Impact and public engagement:

- 'L'Olivo nella storia di Toscana' (The Olive Tree in the History of Toscana). Public presentation on olive history within the O.L.I.O. project (Local Organization for the Innovation of Olive Goves) Festival, 1 Dec. 2024, Fattoria dei Ragazzi, Florence.
- On 12 December 2024, I have organised in collaboration with the Società Toscana di Orticoltura a public event at the Villa Bardini, Florence, entitled 'L'Olivo in Toscana: Un Viaggio tra cultura, tradizione e innovazione' (The Tuscan Olive Tree: A Journey Through Culture, Tradition, and Innovation). The event highlighted the holistic potential of the olive tree by reuniting historians and art historians, landscape architects, technicians, agronomists, and artists.

Other:

Re-designing and convening the UG module Renaissance Europe II. 'Renaissance Ecologies'. Delivering Introduction and seminar sessions. 2nd Term 2024/2026.

Dr GLORIA MOORMAN (Honorary Research Fellow, CSR)

Research interests:

Book History; Art History; Archaeology; Colonialism; Cartography; Visual Representations of Power.

Research activities:

At the end of 2024, I completed my period as postdoctoral fellow on the AHRC project ‘Envisioning Dante, c. 1472–c. 1630: Seeing and Reading the Early Printed Page,’ led by Professors Guyda Armstrong and Simon Gilson at the Universities of Manchester and Oxford. From January to June 2025, I was the Mellon Foundation Long-Term Fellow at the Newberry Library in Chicago, where I started work on my new project *The Global Ownership of Discovery: Catacombs, Sacred Archaeology, and the Early Printed Book (c. 1578-1700)*. As a result of serendipitous encounters in Oxford and at the Newberry Library, I have since secured new funding for my catacomb project in the shape of a Provost’s Postdoctoral Fellowship at the University of Notre Dame. For the coming two years (September 2025-2027: <https://al.nd.edu/news/latest-news/six-early-career-scholars-join-inaugural-cohort-of-prestigious-notre-dame-postdoctoral-fellowship-program/>), I will continue work on the representation and reception of subterranean Rome in close collaboration with Professor Heather Hyde Minor in the department of Art, Art History, and Design. I especially look forward to continuing my archival work in the city of Rome.

Publications:

Submitted (currently under review)

- ‘Empire after the Ancients: Imagining Conquest in the Early Printed Book (c. 1640–1700)’, c. 10.000 words, submitted to the open access journal *Early Modern Low Countries*;
- ‘Dante, Stradano, and Cartography: Portraying the ‘Divine Poet’ in Print, c. 1588–1595’, c. 7.000 words, contribution to a special issue of *Italian Studies*;
- ‘Een Koningsboek voor Burgers: De Wereld ‘Doorwandelen’ in de Blaeu Atlas’, c. 2.000 words, currently under review by *De Boekenwereld*;
- Survey of 11 exceptionally rare, Dutch atlases in the Newberry Library, issued from c. 1850 to 1937—most of which are known to survive exclusively in the copies currently held at the Newberry. Under review by Martijn Storms, Curator of Maps and Atlases at the Leiden University Library, for publication in the Brill book series *Atlantes Neerlandici*

Forthcoming (revised following peer review)

- ‘Amsterdam, 1662: The Imagined Conquest of Brazil in the Works of the Blaeu Publishing House (1640s-1670s),’ *Textuality and Diversity: A Literary History of Europe and its Global Connections* (Oxford: OUP), ed. Warren Boutcher;
- ‘Globes for Kings and a Republican Prince. Geography as Visual Motif in the Representation of Power’;
- ‘Towards the Republican Atlas: Blaeu, Coronelli, and Early Printed Map Books in Venice and the Dutch Republic (c. 1660-1691),’ *Representing Republics: Ideas, Books, Visual Culture (1550-1700)* (Toronto: Centre for Reformation and Renaissance Studies, 2026), ed. Alessandro Metlica.

Impact and public engagement:

- Public lecture: Newberry Colloquium, 5 February 2025, entitled ‘From Chicago to Subterranean Rome: Early Printed Books, Archaeology, and the Ownership of Discovery (c. 1578-1700).’
- Adjudication for the CSR’s Greg Wells Prize, in pleasant collaboration with Stella Fletcher.

Dr CECILIA MURATORI (Honorary Research Fellow, CSR)

Research interests:

History of Renaissance and early modern philosophy, with particular attention to the human-animal distinction, and the role of mysticism for philosophical speculation; philosophical historiography; environmental humanities.

Research activities:

I have co-organised the following conferences and workshops:

1. *Le virtù delle piante: Ricettistica medica e farmacopea botanica tra Medioevo ed età moderna*, workshop organised with Gabriella Zuccolin and Sergio Filippo Magni (PRIN DIET-ETHICS), Collegio Ghislieri, 17 June 2025.

2. *Minima naturalia. Un lessico per le Environmental Humanities*, seminar series organised as a member of Naturalia – Pavia Research Group in Environmental Humanities, Università di Pavia e Collegio Borromeo, Pavia, 21 March-20 May 2025.
3. *Vegetarianesimo: Storia di un'idea*, workshop organised with Michele Merlicco as part of the project PRIN PNRR DIET ETHICS, Collegio Ghislieri, Pavia, 13 January 2025.
4. *The Invention of Mysticism*, international conference organised with Anne Eusterschulte and Antje Wittstock, Collegio Ghislieri, Pavia, 7-9 October 2024.
5. *Storie naturali di digiuni prodigiosi*, workshop organised with Michele Merlicco as part of the project PRIN PNRR DIET-ETHICS, Università di Pavia, 17 September 2024.

Furthermore, I presented my research at the following events:

1. 'L'animale donna: la definizione del femminile nella fisiognomica rinascimentale', conference *Rappresentazioni e narrazioni di filosofe nel Rinascimento*, University of Notre Dame, Rome, 12 June 2025
2. 'The Hand of the Monkey: The Distinction Between Humans and Animals in Renaissance Chiromantic Literature', conference *La rationalité des sens aux limites de l'homme et de l'animal*, CNRS, Paris, 31 March-1 April.
3. 'Renaissance Physiognomics of Food', Centre for the Study of Medicine and the Body in the Renaissance, 11 February 2025.
4. 'A Tactile Memory: Early Modern Physiognomists on Reading the Past', conference *Mémoire et oubli dans la philosophie du Moyen Âge et de la Renaissance*, Centre d'études supérieures de la Renaissance, Tours, 28-29 November 2024.
5. "'The Aer about London: natura, città ed ecologia in *Fumifugium* (1661) di John Evelyn', conference *Immagini e metamorfosi della natura nel Rinascimento europeo*, 26-28 November 2024.
6. 'Chiromanzia adriatica', lecture series *Umanesimo adriatico (sec. XIV-XVI): ricerche, racconti, letture*, Università di Macerata, 12 November 2024.

Publications:

1. *Dissident Renaissance: Rewriting the History of Early Modern Philosophy as Political Practice*, ed. by Mario Meliàdò and Cecilia Muratori (Leiden: Brill, 2025). This publication includes:
 - (with Mario Meliàdò) "Renaissance Historiography and Political Practice, or: The History of Philosophy as Dissent", 1-15
 - "'The Tale of Many, But None of Mine': Dionysius Andreas Freher's Alternative Portrait of Jacob Böhme"; 16-42
2. (with James Vigus) "'Wonderfully Did this Gifted Seer Fly Before his Age': Samuel Taylor Coleridge, Jacob Böhme, and *Naturphilosophie*", in *Matter and Life in Coleridge, Schelling, and Other Dynamical Idealists*, ed. by Peter Cheyne (Dordrecht: Springer, 2025), 21-45
3. "The Philosopher in the Cage: Philosophy and Animality in Leon Battista Alberti", *Bruniana&Campanelliana* 31.1 (2025), 213-226
4. "Telesio on Natural Paradoxes: A Metaphysics from Marginal Cases", *Diogenes* 65 (2024), 405-42

Other:

Since May 2025, I am the PI of the **ERC Consolidator Grant** NEWWORLD – *Renewing the World: A Philosophical History of Early Modern Ecology*.

Dr AIDAN NORRIE (Honorary Research Fellow, CSR)

Research interests:

Early modern history; early modern literature; Elizabeth I; biblical typology; monarchy; women's writing; seventeenth-century women's poetry; early-modernism; children's literature

Research activities:

My current role is teaching and admin only, so my time for research is limited. I continue to work on Elizabeth I and biblical typology, and seventeenth-century women's poetry, although because of my teaching I am also branching out to work on children's literature, with a focus on queer YA fiction. I also continue to serve as the Managing Editor of *The London Journal*.

I have recently completed essays on Elizabeth I and Shakespeare biofiction, queer lives in Netflix's *The Dragon Prince*, and prayers for Elizabeth I, all of which will hopefully be published by this time next year.

Publications:

I have recently sent off the final manuscript of a collection I co-edited with Professor Matthew Steggle (Bristol) on edges in early modern English drama, which included my chapter on dramatic representations of Elizabeth I in the Jacobean and Caroline periods. I also co-edited a special issue of *The London Journal* with Professor Robert Shoemaker (Sheffield) called 'London's Past Today', which celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of the *Journal*. During this period, *Theology in Avatar: The Last Airbender: Essays on Eastern Influences and Western Perspectives* (McFarland) was published, which included my chapter on Platonic reincarnation, "I know you can do it, Aang, for you have done it before": Reincarnation in the *Avatar* Universe'.

Impact and public engagement:

I presented a paper on biblical resonances in the poetry of Jane Cavendish and Hester Pulter at the 2025 Society for Renaissance Studies conference in Bristol. This was the first 'public outing', as it were, of my new book project, which is on seventeenth-century women poets and the Bible.

Dr NAOMI PULLIN (History)

Research interests:

Religious and gender history in the early modern British Atlantic, with particular interests in the early Quaker community; the roles of women in Protestant dissent; and sociability, friendship and enmity in the 17th and 18th centuries

Research activities:

I have been researching and writing my second monograph, *A Social History of Solitude in Early Modern Britain*, and submitted sample chapters to the Cambridge University Press series *Studies in Early Modern British History*. I have received positive comments from the editors and plan to complete the full manuscript in 2026.

I have been awarded a number of grants: In the Autumn of 2025 I will be the Ann Bodley Ball Visiting Fellowship in Women's History at the Bodleian Library, Oxford. I am also the PI for an AHRC Research, Development and Engagement Fellowship project led by Dr Holloway worth £132,304.85, 'After Love: Romantic Heartbreak, Emotions and Embodiment in Britain c.1750-1900', which runs from 2025-2027. I am also the named PI of the AHRC-UKRI International Fellowships, worth £6775 to facilitate PhD research at the Huntington Library in California on the project "'Vagabond Quakers" and the Legal Experience of Dissent in the Printed and Legal Records of Britain and its North American Colonies, 1650-1750'.

I have submitted an application for a British Academy Mid-Career Fellowship 'A Social History of Solitude in Early Modern Britain' and a Marie Curie Postdoctoral Fellowship on Queer Labour in the Renaissance.

I have successfully recruited a PhD candidate for a UKRI-funded 4-year Collaborative Doctoral Award ‘Warwickshire Identities: Early Modern Archival Perspectives’ with Warwick Record Office. I am currently supervising 7 Doctoral Candidates at various stages of their studies. In this period, I was awarded the 2025 Warwick Research Award in the category ‘Excellent Supervision’.

In this period, I have been the Director of the Early Modern and Eighteenth-Century Centre at Warwick, which has enabled me to support internationally prominent scholars to visit Warwick between 2023 and 2025 (see Collegiality and Leadership Below). In this role, I have successfully secured institutional and external funding from the IAS, HRC Visiting Speaker Fund, and Past & Present Society (external).

My other research activities include:

- Delivering invited research papers at the Newberry Library Eighteenth-Century Studies Seminar, Chicago (September 2024); the Stanford Blokker Research Workshop, Stanford University (October 2024); and the Feminist Enlightenment and Politics Conference, Monte Verità, Switzerland (June 2025).
- Member of the GIS Sociabilités/Sociability Scientific Council and part of the governing body – this is an international scientific interest group which involves 17 academic and non-academic institutions across Europe, Canada and the US. It implements a research programme on Sociability in the Long Eighteenth Century, and includes historians, philosophers, art historians, linguists, sociologists and digital humanities scholars.
- Peer review book manuscripts for Cambridge University Press and Palgrave Macmillan and Anthem Press.
- Member of the editorial board of *Women’s History Review*.
- Acting advisor and consultant for the ‘Quaker Team’ of ‘Mapping Multifaith London’, funded by a bilateral Hubert Curien (2022-24) award for the British Council and Campus Franc, which brings together a group of PhD students, Early Career scholars and IT engineers to create the firm digital map of a European city’s dissenting and nonconformist heritage.
- Chair of the 2024 Roger F. Pooley Early Career Essay Prize Committee for the International John Bunyan Society.

Publications:

A Social History of Solitude in Early Modern Britain (under contract negotiations with Cambridge University Press, following positive reader responses to the book proposal and sample material).

‘The Hermits of Seventeenth-Century England’, in Tim Reinke-Williams and Angela McShane (eds.), *From the Margins to the Centre in Seventeenth-Century England: Essays in Honour of Bernard Capp* (ISBN 9781837651665) (Boydell Press, 2025), 20-42.

Impact and public engagement:

I have also secured funding to facilitate a programme of events with volunteers at the Lord Leycester Hospital and Warwickshire County Record Office members of the public, on a training programme focused on early modern research skills, to enable volunteers to construct biographies of the Lord Leycester’s Early Brethren to feature in their exhibition spaces. I have secured funding from the University’s Collaboration and Co-Production Fund to lead an exhibition with one of my PhD students in June 2026 at the Lord Leycester on Robert Dudley and the Hospital’s first Master Thomas Cartwright. I also oversaw and secured funding for a workshop hosted at the University of Warwick in January 2025 focused on early modern Midlands history and the heritage sector, involving members of the Lord Leycester (including its board of governors Dr Philip Sidney, Master Dr Heidi Meyer, and former veterans who now live as the institution), Warwickshire Local History Society, Warwickshire County Record Office, and leading academics in the history of early modern Warwickshire. The event was the first of its kind for the History Department and opened up some important conversations about military identity and the heritage sector.

I was Highly Commended at the Warwick Award for Public and Community Engagement in the category ‘Engagement and Involvement’ for my work with the volunteers at the Lord Leycester.

I have also been involved in supporting the impact activities of other colleagues at the University of Warwick by delivering talks at the University’s Interchange events aimed at researchers based in the Arts

& Social Sciences. Here, I have delivered sessions on ‘Getting Started with Impact’ to discuss my impact journey and experience.

I am committed to other forms of outreach work. This has included:

- 2024, co-authored a World Health Organisation behavioural and cultural insight policy paper on [‘The History of Loneliness: What We Know So Far’](#).
- Reviewing three textbooks for Hodder & Stoughton on the Tudors and Stuarts – two for the AQA A-Level History provision and one for the Pearson Edexcel GCSE in History.
- I am currently the acting supervisor of a student-led project ‘Rewind’, producing a documentary about different sites in Coventry and Warwickshire. I was also interviewed by the students for the documentary about my work with the Lord Leycester Hospital.
- I am supervising and co-designed a URSS project with a public engagement focused called: ‘From Archives to Airways: Translating History for Public Audiences’, which aims to assess the current state of public history through a series of interviews with those working in public history organisations (e.g. History Hit).

Other:

Beyond the History department, I also sit on the University-wide Gender Taskforce, which champions and oversees the advancement, implementation and further development of gender equality at institutional level. I have acted in this capacity since 2022. In this role I have been involved in the updated Gender Statement of Intent published in 2024 to broaden the remit of the taskforce and to champion positive changes at the University.

Through my work for the Gender Taskforce, I have led a working group on childcare funding for postgraduate students, which responds to an unacknowledged gap in government childcare support for postgraduate students.

Dr ROSA SALZBERG (CSR Honorary Research Fellow)

Research interests:

History of migration, mobility, Venice, urban culture, communication

Research activities:

In this period I have been continuing work on my monograph, tentatively titled *Venice’s Floating World: Migration, Mobility and Hospitality in an Early Modern City*, which I hope to complete next year. This looks at early modern Venice as a centre of mobility and transit, and the urban infrastructure that supported this, especially inns and lodging houses. A final chapter also examines how all of this movement fared in a crisis of context: during the massive plague epidemic of the mid 1570s.

I have also completed two editing projects that place my own research on mobility and migration in long-term historical perspective: a book based on a conference I organized last year (*Mobile Lives: Itinerant and Street Trades in Historical Perspective*, forthcoming in 2026 with De Gruyter and Oldenbourg, co-edited with Massimo Rospoche; I also wrote the introduction) and a special issue of the *Annali dell’istituto storico italo-germanico di Trento*, based on a workshop I co-organized last year (*Mobility and Poverty in Europe between the Early Modern Period and the Early Twentieth Century. Networks, Infrastructures, Control*, co-edited with Sandra Toffolo and Francesca Brunet, forthcoming 2025; I also wrote an article and co-wrote the Introduction). I was also involved in organizing a workshop on Venetian urban history ‘from below’ that took place in Venice in March. The same international network involved in that event will meet again next year to work on a co-authored book (*Common Places/Luoghi Comuni*) to be published by Wetlands Press in English and Italian, for which I will write several chapters.

In July I gave the keynote lecture at the international workshop “Transient Communities and Spaces of Mobility: Theories, Methods, and Themes in Early Modern Mobilities History” at the Hanse-Wissenschaftskolleg in Delmenhorst, Germany. We are in discussion to establish a research network to

develop the themes discussed at the workshop.

Publications:

"Stranieri e locali a Venezia" in Alfano, G., Tomasi, F. (edited by), *Il Rinascimento in Italia, vol. 1.: Storia, cultura, società*, Roma: Carocci, 2025, p. 303-318

Aside from the forthcoming publications mentioned above I also completed a chapter that is shortly to be published:

'The Meaning (and Mechanics) of Movement. History and the Mobility Turn' in G. D'Ottavio - M. Rospocher - S. Toffolo (eds.), *Turning Points: 'Turns' in Recent Historiography*.

Impact and public engagement:

The free smartphone app Hidden Venice (<https://historycityapps.org/apps/>) including an itinerary I wrote based on my research ("City of Refuge") was published mid last year and continues to be downloaded. It has just been shortlisted for the Heritage in Motion prize run by the European Museum Academy and the results will be announced soon.

I was also recently interviewed for the *Flavor of Italy* podcast, discussing my research on migration in early modern Venice (<https://www.podscan.fm/podcasts/flavor-of-italy-podcast/episodes/migration-during-renaissance-venice-how-a-lagoon-city-became-a-crossroads-of-cultures>).

Dr CECILIA SIDERI (UKRI-Marie Curie Research Fellow, CSR)

Research interests:

Vernacular translations of Greek texts (15th-19th century); the Humanist Tradition of Classics; Classical reception; Italian Palaeography (15th-16th century)

Research activities:

I worked intensively on my project (*Vernacular Culture and Greek Texts: from Florence to Europe*), in order to conclude it. I travelled to several libraries (Oxford, London, Florence, Verona, Venice, Rome, Milan, Turin) to make codicological and palaeographical descriptions of the manuscripts involved in my project. The collected data have been stored in a database built through Omeka software, developed with Godwin Yeboah (IT in Digital Humanities at Warwick). I have studied the text of three vernacular translations of Lucian's *Calunnia* and I am planning to publish a monograph on this topic. I had a three-months secondment at the University of Verona, which gave me the opportunity to travel to Italian libraries more easily.

Publications:

- C. SIDERI, *La Calunnia di Luciano in volgare*, monograph in preparation.
- C. SIDERI, "Lecture e scritte di Bartolomeo Fonzio: nuovi percorsi", *Italia Medioevale e Umanistica*, accepted, forthcoming in autumn 2025.
- C. SIDERI, "Nota su Niccolò Fonzio copista", currently being peer-reviewed for *Aevum*.
- C. SIDERI, "Tradurre e (auto)commentare per Ercole d'Este: Bartolomeo Fonzio, Giovanni Tortelli e il MS Berlin, Kupferstichkabinett, 78 C 26", *Mittellateinisches Jahrbuch* (2025), accepted, forthcoming in autumn 2025.
- C. Sideri, "Traduire (et trahir) le mythe d'Isis à la Renaissance", *Bien dire et bien apprendre*, 40 (2025), accepted, forthcoming in autumn 2025.
- C. Sideri, "Bartolomeo Sorio lessicografo ed editore di volgarizzamenti (con un affondo sull'Esopo volgare)", in *La ricezione sette-e ottocentesca di testi medievali italiani in prosa*. Proceedings of the international conference held in Erlangen, 15 June 2023, ed. M. Bürgel, C. Rivoletti, Ravenna, Longo, 2024, 81-101.

Impact and public engagement:

I held three school workshops for Italian high-school students (liceo classico), on the topic of "Learning Greek in Renaissance Italy". I co-organised an exhibition of manuscripts and early prints related to the humanist Guarino Veronese; the exhibition was organised at the Biblioteca Civica of Verona, to celebrate

the 650th anniversary of Guarino's birth.

Other:

I co-organised two international conferences at Villa Vigoni - Centro per il dialogo europeo, related to my project: *Vulgarizzamenti italiani, francesi e tedeschi di opere greche nei secoli XV e XVI* (Villa Vigoni, 9-12 December 2024 and 8-12 July 2025). I also co-organised a third conference, *Guarino Veronese e la scuola. Insegnare e imparare fra Medioevo e Umanesimo*, University of Verona, 17-18 October 2024 (another member of the CSR, Clive Letchford, was involved). I was the convenor of the STVDIO seminar series at the CSR (with Maria Czepiel). I gave papers at six conferences/seminars (in the UK, France, Italy). I taught the course of Italian Palaeography at the CSR. I was awarded a FIS - Fondo Italiano per la Scienza Starting grant (title: *Mapping knowledge through notabilia, in manuscripts and early prints*); thanks to this grant, I was offered a tenure track position at the University of Verona, which will start in October 2025.

Dr ANASTASIA STYLIANOU (Honorary Research Fellow, CSR)

Research interests:

Early modern religious, social and cultural history. The history of migration and transculturalism. Bibliographical history . Local history Research activities relevant to the period under review (350-500 words) *I continued to work on my monograph *The Invisible Greeks: English Encounters with the Greek East, 1450-1700*, which is under contract with Routledge for September 2026. I also drafted my chapter 'Conflict, Migration, and Identity in the Autobiographical Writings of Christophoros Angelos and Nikandros Noukios, 1545-1620' for the edited volume Warren Boutcher (ed.), *Europe in the World: A Literary History, 1529-1683* (Oxford University Press); I presented a pre-circulated draft of the chapter and a short presentation on it at Warren's TextDiveGlobal workshop (Valladolid, September 2025). I have been invited to submit chapters to two more edited volumes, and have begun preliminary research for these.

Publications:

- Book: Anastasia Stylianou and Fergus Eskola-Oakes, *The Victoria History of Herefordshire: Cradley* (London: University of London Press, 2025). [I was the lead author, responsible for 80% of the volume, covering the early modern and modern periods.]
- Article: "'We are at the furthest part of the inhabited world': Venetian Greeks and the English Reformations', *Studies in Church History* 61 (2025), 360-383.

Impact and public engagement:

Display and talk on 'The Bodleian Library and British Contacts with the Greek Orthodox World during the Early Modern Period', Bodleian Library Research Coffee Mornings, February 2025: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=msYsMo8fKzk>

Other:

In March 2025, on behalf of the Renaissance Centre, I designed and delivered an online intensive, skills-based course on early modern English palaeography for postgraduate students in the U.K. and abroad.

Dr GIORGIO TAGLIAFERRO (Associate Professor, History of Art)

Research interests:

Renaissance/Early Modern European art; Venice; painting; arts and power; art and spectatorship; artists' workshops; drawing and the creative process; art theory and criticism.

Research activities:

I participated in a successful application for Eutopia Connected Communities. The project, titled 'Reverse Engineering and Digital Imaging: from Cultural Heritage to Material Culture', is run together with the Università Ca' Foscari Venezia (leader) and the University of Ljubljana. It will entail both research and teaching activities to be held during the academic year 2025/26.

Conference paper delivered:

- 'Liberty, Nobility, and the Unity of the Dominion: The Decoration of the Four Doors Room', Renaissance Society of America, Boston, 20-22 March (session 'The Serenissima as a Work of Art I: Public Space', organised by Patricia Fortini Brown and Sarah Blake McHam, sponsored by Save Venice Inc.)

Conference panel convened:

- 'Damaged, Decaying, Destroyed', co-organised with Lorenzo Buonanno and Christopher Nygren partly sponsored by the Centre for the Study of the Renaissance at the University of Warwick, Renaissance Society of America, Boston, 20-22 March

Conference panel chaired:

- 'Circulating Design in Early Modern Europe: Interrogating Cultural Practice and Method', roundtable by Lydia Goodson and Bill Sherman, sponsored by the Warburg Institute, Renaissance Society of America, Boston, 20-22 March

Publications:

Essay submitted and accepted:

- 'What's in a Caption? The Problem of the 'Workshop' Painting', in Lydia Goodson and Michelle O'Malley (eds.), *Artists' Workshop Practice in the Renaissance* (Brill, 2026).

Impact and public engagement:

I have been regularly consulted in relation to the restoration campaign in the Four Door Rooms in the Doge's Palace, providing conservators with advice about the approach to the treatment of important mural paintings by Jacopo Tintoretto. More generally, my current research on the Doge's Palace decorations has substantially informed the historical contextualisation underpinning the campaign.

I continued my informal collaboration with Save Venice Inc. to inform donors about on-going restoration projects and promote funding campaigns. In particular, I gave on-site presentations in the restoration sites of the Four Door Rooms (see above) and of the Church of San Giorgio Maggiore, where two important paintings by Jacopo Tintoretto are undergoing restoration. I also participated as a speaker at a public event commemorating art historian David Rosand and celebrating the tenth anniversary of the Rosand Library & Study Center, Save Venice's current premises in Venice ('Celebrating a Decade of the Rosand Library & Study Center and the Legacy of David Rosand', 18 June).

Public talk delivered:

- 'Veronese and the New Imperial Image of Venice', Museo del Prado, Madrid, 2 July (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EXEB3viNtg>)

Other:

I continued to advance my book project on the painting cycles of the Doge's Palace and on state self-representation in late sixteenth-century Venice. The manuscript of a monograph on the cycle of the Great Council and Scrutiny Halls is near completion, while another monograph on the representation of Venetian sovereignty is at an advanced stage.

Dr FELICITA TRAMONTANA (Honorary Research Fellow, CSR)

Research interests:

Mediterranean History; Ottoman History; Early Modern History; History of Migration; Franciscan Studies.

Research activities:

I am PI of an ERC-funded project HOLYLAB ([Grant Agreement ID 101001857](https://grant-agreement-id-101001857)) <https://holylab-erc.uniroma3.it/> and of a project funded by the Italian ministry of research MISGLOB <https://holylab-erc.uniroma3.it/misglob/>

I am currently editing:

- with Christian Windler, Bern, and H el ene Vu Thanh, Bretagne Sud a special journal issue on Accounting in missionary territory to appear in the journal *Itinerario*
- with Megan Armstrong, Toronto, and Karen Melvin (Beates College, US) a special journal issue on the commissariats of the Custody of the Holy Land to appear in the journal *Journal of Early Modern History*

I have presented the following papers:

- Felicita Tramontana, “Communicating the Parish: Information Flows between Syro-Palestinian Parishes and Rome in the 17th Century”, paper presented at the 23rd Warwick Symposium on Parish Research on *Parish Communication*, University of Warwick, 17/05/2025
- Felicita Tramontana, “Controlling at a Distance: Franciscan Accounting in Jerusalem in the Early Global Era”, paper presented at the STVDIO Seminars of the Centre for the Study of the Renaissance, University of Warwick, 13/05/2025
- Felicita Tramontana, Antonio Iodice, and Jos e Araned a, “Holy Cash Flows. La circolazione di denaro spagnolo verso la Terra Santa (1650-1700)”, paper presented within the panel *Verso Levante: circolazione e negozio delle pezze da otto dall’America al Mediterraneo Orientale* at the conference *Il commercio dell’argento spagnolo nel Mediterraneo in et  moderna: la finanza italiana e la catena globale dei metalli preziosi (secoli XVI-XVII)*, CNR – Ecole Fran aise, Rome, 09-10/01/2025
- Felicita Tramontana, “Franciscan Account Books as a Source for the Study of Early Modern Mobility”, paper presented at the workshop *Digital Humanities and Mobility Studies: An ERC Perspective*, Padua, 03/10/2024

Publications:

With Andrew Spicer, “Local Religion in Global Perspective: Early Modern Encounters in Asia and the Middle East” to be published in Beat K umin & Arnd Reitemeier (eds.), *A Companion to Premodern Parish Studies*, Brill (series: Brill's Companions to the Christian Traditions) (Forthcoming, 2025)

Impact and public engagement:

With Antonio Iodice, ‘Porta le elemosine ai frati, ma attento ai pirati!’, playtest of the board game *Custodia*, inspired by the ERC project HOLYLAB, at the European Researchers’ Night at Roma Tre University, 27 September 2024

Dr KATE TRAVERS (Leverhulme Research Fellow, Liberal Arts and CSR)

I joined Warwick on May 1 as a Leverhulme ECR Fellow (affiliated with both the CSR and Liberal Arts). I arrived after holding a Postdoctoral Fellowship at St Hugh’s College Oxford. My research at Warwick will advance my ongoing project “Fantasies of Empire in Medieval Italy”.

Project Description: This project investigates how the mobilities, conflicts, and interconnectedness of

the global Middle Ages informed Italy's medieval verse. It does so by investigating the tensions inherent in medieval notions of empire. During what we know as the Middle Ages in Europe, notions of empire and imperial power rested on intellectual traditions that differentiated the kinds of expansionism practised by merchant traders and city-state maritime republics, from the fantasy of the providential imperial power of Rome. In reality, however, these writers and their predecessors, lived their lives shaped by expansionist projects of various kinds that leveraged the rhetoric of empire to legitimize their aims. The project analyses the multifaceted uses of the rhetoric of empire in Italy's thirteenth- and fourteenth-century poetry. Troubadour verse produced for leading figures of the Fourth Crusade, when the Italian aristocracy took territories in Greece, becomes a tool to legitimize expansionism; the fantasy of empire is a salve for political division in Dante; in Petrarch, it becomes a metaphor that encapsulates the inevitability of submission to the power of death and the triumph of heavenly eternity.

Research Activities

Talks

"Medievalisms and Suffrage: Reading Noblewomen in Italy's Troubadour Texts", Oxford, Old Occitan Studies Day 2025.

"Lyric Geographies: Imagining Place in the Poetry of Medieval Italy", University of Oxford, Italian Research Seminar.

Service

Assistant Editor, *gender/sexuality/Italy*

As an independent, opensource journal, summer is our busiest time at *g/s/i*, involving reviewing, copyediting, and proofing articles. I have also developed a new way for the journal to track and monitor its articles in production as they are uploaded to our website.

Modern Languages Association LCC Forum Committee Member

This academic year, I have begun my term as a committee member. This involves organizing future panels at the MLA Conference.

Future plans

Book draft, "*Speaking from the Page: Gender in the Medieval Italian Songbook*" to Legenda Press. (Proposal already successfully approved, manuscript requested).

Articles

"Pain, Touch, and Reading in Old Occitan Lyric: Folquet de Marselha".

Based on 2025 MLA paper. Planned submission to journal *Tenso*.

"The Face in the Tower: Reading Petrarch in the Early Fifteenth Century".

Based on research in Bodleian's special collections. This will form the basis of a talk at the IHR in February. Planned submission to *Italian Studies*.

Deadline January 2026 for submission to Special Edition of *Exemplaria*, "Constellating Comparisons". Abstract accepted by journal editors. Article requested.

Professor ALEXANDRE VANAUTGAERDEN (Honorary reader, CSR)

Research interests:

Humanism, Neo-Latin Studies especially Erasmus, libraries and history of the book; the transformation of physical areas in heritage spaces (museums, libraries, archives) consequent to the development of digital humanities.

Research activities:

My current research projects are threefold:

1) Humanism

- I have written a book in Spanish (350 pages), « Tipografía y humanismo », on the transformation of the printing world in the early 16th century. The book is complete and will be published in 2026 by Ampersand in Buenos Aires with a foreword by Ann Blair.
- I have completed editing the book *The book and its secrets. Studies in memory of Jean-François Gilmont (1934-2020)*, with Edoardo Barbieri (Milan), Chiara Lastraioli (CESR, Tours), Luca Rivali (Università cattolica, Milan), Turnhout, Brepols, to be published in autumn 2025.
- I am finalising the editing of the book *'Banning Books: The Antwerp Indexes of Plantin, 1569-1571'* with Benito Rial Costas (Complutense University of Madrid), Turnhout, Brepols, to be published in 2026.
- I worked on the reissue and update of the book *'Adagios del poder y de la guerra y Teoría del adagio'* with Ramon Puig della Bellacasa, for the publisher Alianz editorial in the El libro de bolsillo collection. Publication scheduled for 2026.
- I am preparing the critical edition of the Latin text of the Dominican friar John Henten, who was a prominent agent of the censoring of Erasmus. I am also looking at the modes of reading Erasmus' work, evaluating the impact of censorship (namely by Arias Montano's Index expurgatorius, Antwerp 1571).

2) Heritage and Digital humanities

My research sits at the intersection of book history, museography, digital humanities and library science, I investigate the transformation of physical spaces in heritage spaces (museums, libraries, archives) following the development of digital humanities

3) Contemporary art and Heritage

Lastly, I have developed numerous projects aiming at bridging the gap between contemporary art and cultural heritage. One of them is recently the editing of the notebooks of the French artist Fabienne Verdier (born in 1962), which will be made available at the exhibition at the Musée Unterlinden in Colmar (France) around Grünewald's Issenheim Altarpiece (1512-1516). The publication is planned in three volumes. The first volume was published in 2023, and I have completed the second, which will appear in October 2025. Since November 2022, I have been in charge of a library network and the development of cultural establishments in France (Ardenne Métropole). These libraries hold two valuable collections in Charleville-Mézières and Sedan, including the collection of the Sedan Protestant Academy, a significant collection of medieval manuscripts, and the Arthur Rimbaud collection.

Publications:

Book:

Fabienne Verdier, *Echo, Carnets d'ateliers (2009-2017)*, ed. with Valerie Hayert, Milan, 5 Continents, 2025, 480 p.

Conference proceedings:

- *The book and its secrets. Studies in memory of Jean-François Gilmont (1934-2020)*, ed. Edoardo Barbieri, Chiara Lastraioli, Luca Rivali, Alexandre Vanautgaerden, Turnhout, Brepols, be published in autumn 2025.
- *Banning Books: The Antwerp Indexes of Plantin, 1569-1571*, ed. Benito Rial Costas (Facultad de Ciencias de la Documentación, Universidad Complutense de Madrid) and Alexandre Vanautgaerden, Turnhout Brepols, *Nugae humanisticae*, 2025.

Other: Seminar - Charleville-Mézières, Médiathèque Voyelles, Layout and typesetting of medieval manuscripts and early printed books, January-February 2025.

Dr TIM WADE (Leverhulme Research Fellow, CSR)

Research interests:

Renaissance humanism; book history and readership; letter networks; English interaction with mainland Europe.

Research activities:

I joined the CSR in April 2025, after fellowships in Glasgow and the Harry Ransom Center in Austin. In my first month at Warwick I put the finishing touches to my book manuscript, 'Readers of Erasmus: Humanism and the Reformation in Early Tudor England' and submitted it for consideration at Cambridge University Press. I also began assembling my project database of English humanist writers published abroad and planning the first of my research trips to Belgium and the Netherlands (for Sept 2025). In May I spoke at the 'Religion in the British Isles, 1450-1700' seminar at the University of Oxford. My paper concerned a new set of John Bale's reading notes. In June I conducted some research in Cambridge into the English Hebrew scholar, William Tait, in preparation for speaking at the Society for Renaissance Studies conference in July. In June I also submitted a short article to Notes & Queries which identifies a new book from the library of the English playwright, Nicholas Udall, and his annotations within it on controversial religious matters. Finally, I was asked to submit a piece for a special edition of the Jahrbuch für Europäische Geschichte/European History Yearbook on 'Reading and Writing Letters in the global Renaissance' which will appear in 2026. Other pieces written and accepted before April will appear in The Library and English Historical Review at some stage.

Dr XIAONA WANG (Honorary Research Fellow, CSR)

Research interests:

Early Modern Science and Philosophy; Renaissance Occult Sciences; Science and Religion; Francis Bacon; John Wallis; Isaac Newton; Global Newtonianism in the Eighteenth Century; Eurasian History of Early Modern Science.

Research activities:

Xiaona Wang, previously our Leverhulme Research Fellow (2020-4), secured a Lisa Jardine Grant from the Royal Society held in the CSR. This scheme is designed to offer the opportunity for early career scholars to exploit history of science collections, including the Royal Society's own, in support of their research in the field of intellectual history. Of her time in London in the summer of 2025, Xiaona reports:

"During the Lisa Jardine Grant, I conducted two months of intensive archival research at the Library of the Royal Society and the British Library. My project, "Academic Politics Across Paris and the Royal Society of London," focused on tracing the intellectual and institutional exchanges between these two centres of learning. This research was invaluable, allowing me to examine key manuscripts and correspondence that have significantly advanced my understanding of the transnational networks and rivalries that shaped early modern science. The grant provided essential support, for which I am very grateful."

Dr CHRISTIANIA WHITEHEAD (Honorary Research Fellow, CSR)

Research interests:

Medieval religious and mystical literature

Research activities:

Continued research for the Swiss National Science Foundation-funded 4-year team research project: 'Reconfiguring the Apophatic Tradition in Late Medieval England'.

- Organisation of project conference at Lausanne, 10-13 September 2025. 50 participants: 42 papers delivered in parallel sessions, + 4 keynote speakers from the universities of Harvard, Catholic University Leuven, Poitiers and Kent.

- Delivery of paper at above conference: 'Introducing *De adhaerendo Dei*'.

- General Series Editor for *The Medieval Translator* collection and monograph series (Brepols)

- Member of SAMEMES Board (Swiss Association of Medieval and Early Modern Studies)

- conference paper: 'St Oswald of Northumbria's Head at Zug', SAMEMES conference, University of Basel, September 2024

- conference paper: 'Walking on Clouds: the Meteorological Imaginary in Medieval Negative Theology and Contemporary Eco-Theology', Eco-Emotions AIR conference, University of Oslo, November 2024

- invited respondent: essay workshop for forthcoming edited volume on St Birgitta of Sweden and other continental holy women in late medieval England. University of Bergen, May 2025.

Publications:

C. Whitehead, 'The *Cloud*-author and Hendrik Herp: Aspiratory Prayer in MS Douce 262', *The Medieval Mystical Tradition in England 9*, ed. E. A. Jones (Boydell & Brewer, 2025), pp. 165-80. Open Access.

Other:

Participation in spring teaching semester at Venice International University, Feb-June 2025.



Compiled by

Professor Teresa Grant, CSR Director,
and **Jayne Sweet**, CSR Administrator

October 2025

Centre for the Study of the Renaissance
Office 2.38, Faculty of Arts Building
University of Warwick
Tel: 024 7652 4587
Email: renaissance@warwick.ac.uk
Web: www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/arts/ren/

WARWICK