

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

October 2024

(covering the academic year 2023-24)



Musical Angels in the Beauchamp Chapel, St Mary's Collegiate Church, Warwick.©

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Director of Graduate Studies: *Dr Aysu Dincer*

Administrator: *Mrs Jayne Sweet*

Research Professor: *Professor Catherine Bates*

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*Dr Esther van Raamsdonk (British Academy Research Fellow)*  
*Dr Xiaona Wang (Leverhulme Early Career Fellow)*  
*Dr Cecilia Sideri (UKRI-Marie Curie Research Fellow)*  
*Dr Vittoria Fallanca (Leverhulme Early Career Fellow)*

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<i>Dr Marta Celati</i>	<i>Dr Chi-Fang Sophia Li</i>
<i>Dr Giacomo Comiati</i>	<i>Dr Giorgio Lizzul</i>
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## 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
FISIERS	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 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 2023–24 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 30 Honorary Research Fellows (see inside front cover). This year we've also co-hosted one visiting academic from the US (Carole Levin, IAS) and one from Spain (Gáldrick de la Torre Ávalos, AHGBI Visiting International Fellow in SMLC). At the beginning of the 2023–24 academic year, Teresa Grant took over from David Lines as Director, while Aysu Dincer continued as DGS for a third year.

The CSR is supported by a designated subject librarian: in 2023-4, Andrew Calvert returned to us in the summer term after secondment and our thanks are due to Rhiannon Taylor for so ably covering this role for most of the academic year. We are most grateful for the support of our finance contacts Nicole Checketts and Leanne Bezuidenhout, and our HR contact Pauline Meere. 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.

### *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. 15).

Links with other Warwick departments are maintained through the interdisciplinary [STVDIO seminar](#) series (coordinated in 2023-24 by Dr Floris Verhaart and Dr Rich Rabone; see p. 25) and through joint seminars and events with Italian Studies, History, and, this year for the first time, with the new [Manuscript and Print Cultures](#) seminar.

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 p. 3, 4 & 19), and the **Center for Renaissance Studies of the Newberry Library**, Chicago (see p. 17). We have also recently agreed the terms of a student mobility partnership with the **Centre d'Études Supérieures de la Renaissance, University of Tours**, which will allow two students to visit the other institution each academic year.

### *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 2023–24 we welcomed **Dr Cecilia Sideri** as AHRC Assistant Professor (Marie Curie-UKRI Guarantee postdoctoral fellowship 2023-2025; mentor: Professor Paul Botley, commenced September 2023) and **Dr Vittoria Fallanca** as a new Leverhulme Early Career Fellow (mentor: Prof. Ingrid de Smet, commenced April 2024; see pp. 41).

### *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.



Our social media profile continues to grow, with our Twitter account currently showing 6,200 followers (5,956 in 2023), whilst our Facebook page currently has 4,200. The CSR website received over 1 million external 'hits' in 2023–24.



## *News for 2023–24*

Changes, updates and new activities:

### *Education*

- the CSR's new taught **MA course** is to be re-accredited over the coming year in concert with the Faculty of Arts relaunch of their PGT provision. The CSR Director has been seconded to the working group whose aim is to support the excellence of existing research-led MA modules while encouraging new cross-departmental models which can make full use of the Faculty's interdisciplinary capabilities.
- 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 2023-4 year, 3 full time students enrolled on the MA; in 2024-25, the cohort will number 2 full time and 3 part time students.
- as part of our [partnership with Johns Hopkins University](#), Bryan Brazeau (Warwick) and Stephen J. Campbell (JHU) led 2024's joint PhD summer school in Venice on the theme of 'Renaissance Europe and the Environmental Humanities: Venice and Beyond'.
- this year, Aysu Dincer, our Director of Graduate Studies, conceived and led the introduction of our new [Inclusive Education Plan](#). The CSR is committed 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 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 new [Meeting OWL](#) and the large screen in the CSR workroom have already facilitated 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.
- Our Inclusive Education Plan also funded our new [Warwick Renaissance Society](#) which invites all Warwick students to join us on funded trips to local attractions relevant to Renaissance research. We had three itineraries in 2023/4: two visits to St Mary's Collegiate church and the Lord Leycester Hospital in Warwick; a visit each to National Trust properties, Coughton Court, Baddesley Clinton and Packwood House. 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. As you can see from the photos on the link above, a good time was had by all!
- Aysu Dincer also negotiated and concluded the **student mobility agreement** with the Centre d'Études Supérieures de la Renaissance, University of Tours. This exchange partnership will allow PGT students from the CSR to study a term in Tours (either Term 1 or Term 3). Our students will have the opportunity to improve their research skills, access additional primary material and establish research networks. We have already received enquiries from the CESR's PGT students about taking a term of study at the CSR.
- Aysu Dincer and Teresa Grant collaborated on a **WIHEA Small Project** called 'Investigating the academic experiences of part-time students in History 2023/24' which was focused on exploring the conditions around the academic experiences of part-time students in History, English and Renaissance Studies and in the Faculty of Arts in general. One of its aims was to identify barriers to accessibility and inclusivity that part-time students' experience, with a view to developing and embedding practices that improve students' academic experiences, as well as enhancing practice and policy within Warwick.

- We held [CSR Study Days](#) in December 2023, where attendees spent the day immersing themselves in the topic, ‘East Meets West: Medieval and Renaissance Encounters’, and in September 2024 on the topic of ‘Propaganda: Refashioning “the self and the other” in times of War, Expansion and Migration’.

#### *Research and Impact*

- the CSR has been awarded competitive **International Partnership Fund** funding to strengthen exchanges between Warwick academics and their counterparts at the Centre d’Études Supérieures de la Renaissance (University of Tours). All parties agree that a closer relationship between these two preeminent Centres for Renaissance Studies could transform the landscape in both education and research, particularly in grant capture and international visibility. The initial tranche of funds will facilitate travel to and workshops in Tours to plan a new flagship Renaissance PhD Summer School in partnership with the CESR, Johns Hopkins, University of York and the Warburg Institute.
- as Director of the CSR, Teresa Grant spearheaded the Faculty-preferred application for an **AHRC Focal Doctoral Award Centre in Material Humanities**, submitted in July 2024. We are lead partner in a consortium with the University of York and the Warburg Institute (UoL), and with many significant non HEI partners in the G(alleries)LibrariesA(rchives)M(useums) sector, including the V&A and National Trust. We expect to hear whether we have been successful in early 2025.
- the CSR (Teresa Grant) and St Mary’s Collegiate Church, Warwick (Tim Clark) initiated a **Knowledge Transfer Partnership Mini-project** collaboration to produce new research findings, to generate press and community interest in the 550<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the consecration of the Beauchamp Chapel in 2025. Dr Claudia Daniotti conducted research into the stained glass in the Beauchamp Chapel and the findings of this research led to the production of a short film about both the artwork and the process of doing the research. The beautiful picture on the cover of this report shows how wonderful these stained glass windows are. We are very grateful for the help of Louisa Evans and Catherine Louch in the business partnerships team on this project.
- work has continued on the new **book series** with Brepols (Warwick Studies in Renaissance Thought and Culture, gen. eds Botley, de Smet and Lines), with the publication of its first title, Dominique Goy-Blanquet’s *From the Domesday Book to Shakespeare’s Globe: The Legal and Political Heritage of Elizabethan Drama* (2023). Several more series publications are in the pipeline.
- a highlight of our research year was Claudia Daniotti’s splendid symposium, held at Warwick as part of her Leverhulme ECF. [‘The Past is a Female Country: Ancient Women and their Reception in Medieval and Early Modern Europe’](#) included a public lecture by Professor Edith Hall (Durham) and a keynote by Professor Carole Levin (Lincoln Nebraska). It was a fitting celebration of Claudia’s energy and commitment to the CSR over her tenure in her ECF, showing her research acumen, organisational skills and capacity to get people together all in one event.

Since I took over as Director from David Lines last year, I have sought to build on his and Ingrid de Smet’s recent legacies. I am so grateful for the work they have done in setting up significant and wide-reaching international partnerships which have consolidated the Centre’s reputation as a pre-eminent interdisciplinary hub for the best research in the Renaissance. It has made taking over as Director a pleasure rather than a chore. When I applied for the post I identified some strategic priorities as the focus of my directorship, so it is instructive for me (at least) to look back on my expression of interest at the end of my first year in post and assess what we have managed to set in motion and what still needs attention.



I think, helped by Aysu Dincer's expertise, we have made particular progress in widening participation, employing our Inclusive Education and WIHEA funds to ensure that our current students can participate in all the Centre offers, as well as trying to understand how barriers to learning can be removed for part-time students present and future. Offering the MA without a compulsory Venice stay has encouraged a wider range of applicants and this will hopefully allow us to continue to grow our PGT cohort numbers in a world where masters funding is now virtually non-existent. Increasingly students are self-funding, and we anticipate that more will need to study part-time. As we refashion our MA programme over the next year, one of the most important objectives is to ensure that we make it fit for purpose for students who have commitments and responsibilities outside the academy, recognising the potential that the study of the Renaissance has to enhance lives more widely, in addition to as a gateway to further study. Our two very successful [Community Study Days](#) in December 2023 and September 2024 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 forge new partnerships locally, nationally and internationally this year. Our partnership with St Mary's Collegiate Church, Warwick, formed only at the start of the academic year has born immediate fruit, mostly because of the extreme industry of their historian, Tim Clark, a new CSR Honorary Research Fellow. We have visited the wonderful church with two parties of students, completed a Mini Knowledge Transfer Partnership with them, and Tim both suggested the theme of and contributed to our most recent study day on [Propaganda](#). At national level, the CSR has led a bid for an AHRC Focal Doctoral Award Centre in Material Humanities, in partnership with York and the Warburg as well as with a wide and impressive range of museum and other cultural heritage organisations. A huge amount of work from many people went into the bid, so we are all crossing our fingers that the AHRC recognises its potential to transform education and training in the material humanities. Our bid was not confined to the Renaissance; rather it was historically wide-ranging from Ancient Greece to the present day, but 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, will see a new chapter of collaboration between the two Renaissance Centres, consolidating existing links and exploring new ones. 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, Ingrid de Smet with FISIER and Natalya Din-Kariuki with both the Newberry and the Folger Libraries as well as with RSA. As David said in last year's report, the willingness of the CSR's members to take ownership of and coordinate so many initiatives on the Centre's behalf is truly heartening.

Over the coming year, I will be hoping to focus on other priorities I had identified but have not yet been able to advance. The first is instituting an alumni circle, to raise the profile of the Centre and to facilitate mentoring of PhDs and ECRs from former members. I am delighted that Margaret Shewring has agreed to lead on this, since she has (I discover) an encyclopaedic knowledge of and amazing memory for alumni to match her enthusiasm for all things Renaissance. The second is trying to reach A-level students interested in Renaissance literature, history, art and culture with a view to encouraging them to identify interdisciplinary study as a possibility for the future. 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. Our research areas are traditionally strong across all aspects of Renaissance culture, but in the coming year we are hoping to consolidate and grow, particularly, Hispanic Studies and Medieval, and to encourage early career fellows

to seek funding to hold grants in the Centre from funders with whom we have not yet engaged. We currently have 4 ECRs on the verge of applying for such grants, supported with astounding care and attention by Research and Impact Services, especially by Jami Rogers and Alan Ashton-Smith.

On Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2025, the CSR and English at Warwick, in partnership with the Society of Renaissance Studies and the Warburg Institute, will host on campus a celebration of the life and work of our friend Professor Peter Mack. His death in October 2023 was a terrible shock to those who loved him—we *so many* who had benefitted over the years from his teaching, support and kindnesses. The huge crowd of friends who came to pay their respects at his memorial event on the 18<sup>th</sup> November told its own story. He is much missed—and I often hear his delighted laugh in my head when faced with some ridiculousness or other. Full details for the celebration event will be sent out in the next month: there will be a plenary given by Professor Brian Cummings (York), a round table on Peter’s academic work, as well as more readings from and discussions of his essays, so much enjoyed at his memorial. Please do put the date in your diary now.

My first year in post has been busy but very enjoyable. Watching our graduate students become confident disseminators of their excellent research has been inspiring, and in meeting and talking to them and to early career colleagues one never fails to learn something both interesting and useful. In too short a span, I have made friends with and said fond farewells to wonderful postdoctoral colleagues: Esther Van Raamsdonk, Claudia Daniotti, Xiaona Wang, Floris Verhaart and (soon) Tom Pert. Thank you all for your contributions over the past few years to making the Centre such a powerhouse (and please become part of our Alumni Circle). David was right to note last year the willingness of all our colleagues to pitch in. This ensures that the Centre for the Study of the Renaissance is not merely notional, but a real collective of like-minded scholars whose commitment to interdisciplinary research in the most fascinating of periods is seemingly unstinting. Thanks are also owed to our Advisory Board whose interest, dedication and advice ensures our continuing success. Finally and gratefully, without the institutional wisdom and knowledge (and many kindnesses) of Aysu Dincer and Jayne Sweet this year would have been very difficult for me; with them, even when we have faced challenges, it has been a joy.

Teresa Grant  
CSR Director  
October 2024

## TEACHING AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES

### *For CSR Students*

#### Taught Postgraduate

The taught MA in the Culture of the European Renaissance ran in 2023–24, with a cohort of 3 students, all of whom chose the mobility period in Venice.

The CSR's new external examiner (appointed in October 2023) is Dr Lisa Sampson, Reader in Early Modern Italian Studies at University College, London. Dr 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 2023-24 the Centre had the following MPhil/PhD students (listed in order of seniority, then alphabetically):

- Dr Iván Parga Ornelas (Warwick Chancellor's International Scholarship), working on the Italian humanist Maffeo Vegio (supervised by David Lines in Italian and Paul Botley in English); started in 2019. **Successfully defended his thesis at a viva on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2023.**
- 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.
- 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.
- Dr Sergei Zotov (Chancellor's International Scholarship), working on 'Alchemical iconography as mediator of knowledge on the example of European manuscripts of 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries' (supervised by Ingrid De Smet in French and Michael Bycroft in History). **Successfully defended his thesis at a viva on 16<sup>th</sup> July 2024.**
- 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.
- 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 (self-funded, 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 and Elena Giusti in Classics), 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.

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, Iiter, 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 ‘Petrarch 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. 16).

## A SELECTION OF CSR PHD STUDENT RESEARCH REPORTS

### Mathilde Alain, 'The Christian kingdom of Ethiopia in the travel diary of Francisco Álvares (1520-1526)'

This year I have devoted most of my time to writing my dissertation, completing the first drafts of three of my four chapters. I also wrote the first draft of the chapter of a book that is the result of a conference I attended last year (Ethiopians Abroad in the Middle Ages), currently under review. I also wrote a book review (in press) of French scholar Amélie Chekroun's latest book, *La conquête de l'Éthiopie. Un jihad au XVIe siècle*, published in 2023, for the French journal *Médiévales*.

- My research trip in June-July 2024 will allow me to make some final observations in archival documents in the Biblioteca Palatina in Parma, to trace any mention of Álvares in L. Beccadelli's correspondence and to compare samples of his handwriting. I will then spend some time at the Arquivo Nacional da Torre do Tombo in Lisbon to study material relating to the Portuguese Embassy in Ethiopia and the Ethiopian presence in Lisbon. Finally, a short stay in the Basque Country to look at the Archives des Pyrénées-Atlantiques will allow me to examine the correspondence between the French explorer Antoine d'Abbadie and Lord Stanley of Alderley concerning his 19th-century translation of Álvares's account, in preparation for an article on the subject.
- Regarding other projects, I am a member of the project called 'ETHIOKONGROME', led by Olivia Adankpo-Labadie, which examines the links between the Christian Ethiopians and the Christian Kongolese in relation to Rome in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. I will be giving a paper for this project in Grenoble next June.
- I have also continued to transcribe the notebooks of the French explorer Antoine d'Abbadie to Ethiopia online twice a month with other scholars of Ethiopian history (project led by Anaïs Wion and Vanessa Desclaux). This has enabled me to give a talk on Antoine d'Abbadie's reading and personal library during his journey and stay in Ethiopia, and to study the influence of earlier travellers, including Francisco Álvares, on his work (see below). I will be writing an article on this topic, with a particular focus on d'Abbadie's reading of Álvares, after my fieldwork in the Basque Country in June.
- In terms of conferences, apart from the two already mentioned, I presented my research at a seminar on African history in Paris in December 2023, with an audience composed of master students, advanced researchers in the field of Ethiopian studies, and people interested in African history in general. I also presented a paper at the Renaissance Society of America in Chicago, in a panel organised by my supervisor Natalya Din-Kariuki on the expressions of selfhood in Renaissance travel writing. This trip to Chicago was partly funded by the HRF in Warwick as well as the CSR.
- Finally, this year I followed an online Gə'əz ('Classical Ethiopic') course taught by Marie-Laure Derat, to familiarise myself with the main language used in sixteenth-century Ethiopian sources. I also took an Italian palaeography course taught by Cecilia Sideri to familiarise myself with Italian handwriting in Italian manuscripts.

#### Publications:

- "Dicono li Ethiopi": Ethiopian contributions to Francisco Álvares's travel account to Ethiopia (c. 1540), *MHRA Working Papers in the Humanities*, 18 (2024), pp. 5-14.
- "Este, dizem, corre ao longo do Nilo". Le Nil dans le récit de Francisco Álvares (1520-1526)', *Annales islamologiques* 57 (2023): 99-126.

**Impact and public engagement:**

- Workshop of the project ETHIOKONGROME: 'Langues, textes, images et sons entre l'Éthiopie, le Kongo et Rome (1480-1630)' (20-21 June 2024, Grenoble), paper title: 'Rome, à l'arrière-plan de l'ambassade portugaise en Éthiopie de 1520-1526? Rôle, documents, méthodologie et l'exemple des lettres éthiopiennes au Pape'
- Renaissance Society of America (22 March 2024, Chicago), paper title: 'Writing, translating, rearranging: the traveller's self and Italian scholars in Álvares' account of Ethiopia (c. 1540)'
- Seminar: 'Monuments et documents de l'Afrique ancienne : recherches en cours en histoire, histoire de l'art et archéologie' (22 December 2023, Paris), talk: 'Étudier et utiliser le récit de voyage de Francisco Álvares en Éthiopie : méthodologie, sources et pistes de recherche (XVIe siècle)'
- Study day: 'Dans les carnets d'un savant-voyageur en Éthiopie : Transcrire et éditer les carnets d'Antoine d'Abbadie (mi-XIXe s.)' (22-23 November 2023, BnF, Paris), paper title: 'D'Álvares à Combes et Tamisier : les lectures d'Antoine d'Abbadie et la constitution d'un savoir savant sur l'Éthiopie'

**Valeria Cesaraccio, 'Education in Sixteenth-Century Italy between Latin and Italian: Teachers, Students and Methods'**

I went to the Bodleian Library in Oxford several times for research reasons. I consulted the first edition of a sixteenth-century Latin textbook: the 'Elocutiones atque clausulae e singulis Marci Tulli Ciceronis epistolis familiaribus selectae vernaculaque lingua expositae' by Italian Latin teacher Girolamo Cafaro (Rome 1564). This book is one of my primary sources and this edition is not available in a digital copy. The book is one of the textbooks I am looking at for my research on the use of letter writing and translation at school. It is also useful for the study of classical authors and ciceronianism in Latin teaching. I also consulted several catalogues of manuscripts, looking for examples of bilingual school collections of letters (in Latin and Italian), copied in the sixteenth century. These manuscripts would be useful as primary sources for my research. I went to the King's College Library in London to see a sixteenth-century Italian-Latin grammar: the 'Regola della lingua toscana et della orthographia volgare et latina' by Girolamo Labella (Venice 1570). This book is based on the lessons that Latin teacher Girolamo Cafaro gave at the 'Accademia Cafarea', which he founded in Venice. The book is one of my primary sources and it is very rare (only one edition, 8 surviving copies all around the world). No digital copy is available. I went to the Warburg Institute Library to see some relevant bibliography for my project, not available in Warwick Library. I found many interesting secondary sources dealing with Renaissance education, Latin teaching, letter writing, commentaries on classical authors. I also consulted several catalogues of manuscripts, looking for bilingual school collections of letters. Moreover, I met other PhD students who do their research at the Institute. I presented at the 'Northern Early Modern Network Conference' at the University of Edinburgh (11th-12th June). My paper title was: '(Self-)Portrayals of Teachers and Students in Sixteenth-century School Exercises and Manuals'. This has been my very first conference. This experience helped me to feel more confident about speaking of my research in front of a public. Moreover, I met other PhD students and heard about their research.

**Publications:**

V. Cesaraccio, 'Retrodatazioni da un manoscritto scolastico di metà Cinquecento', *Studi linguistici italiani*, 49.1 (2023), 16170. DOI: 10.61001/112459; V. Cesaraccio, and others, 'Contributi sparsi. Lemmi singoli', *Archivio per il vocabolario storico italiano*, 6 (2023), 132-52. DOI: 10.30453/144.

### **Eva van Kemenade, 'The Politics of Ritual: Public Festivals in Post-Tridentine Bologna'**

This final PhD year my priority has mainly been writing up the thesis. In terms of outreach, together with fellow CSR PhD Sophie Hartles I have organized a two-panel series at the RSA in Chicago in March, sponsored by the CSR and titled 'Emotions, Senses and Space: Experiencing Performances in the Renaissance City', with a total of six papers and two chairs. My own paper was titled 'Sensory Crowd Politics: The Departure Rituals of Papal Legates in Bologna'. We had a lively discussion and the panels were well received. At the CSR, together with several other PhD's I co-convended the CSR PhD work in progress series, which has proven to be a fruitful and friendly place for PhD's to share conference papers and ideas.

I'm spending this year at the University of Amsterdam in light of my joint PhD between the CSR and this institution. Here I have participated with a paper in the work in progress seminar of the Early Modern Mobilities workgroup. In Amsterdam, I am also setting up a PhD/postdoc workgroup for researchers working on festivals from Antiquity to Modernity. In terms of teaching, I have co-convended and taught the course 'Mining Library Treasures' at the Royal Netherlands Institute in Rome, which focuses on early modern book- and library history.

#### **Impact and public engagement:**

- Together with Sophie Hartles, organized the two-panel series 'Emotions, Senses and Space: Experiencing Performances in the Renaissance City' at the RSA in Chicago, sponsored by the CSR
- Presented the paper 'Sensory Crowd Politics: The Departure Rituals of Papal Legates in Bologna' at the CSR in Chicago
- Presented a paper at the Early Modern Mobilities workgroup of the University of Amsterdam
- Co-convended the CSR PhD WiP sessions
- Currently setting up an early career workgroup at the University of Amsterdam for scholars working on historic festivals

#### **Other:**

- Co-convended and taught the course 'Mining Library Treasures' at the Royal Netherlands Institute in Rome, which focuses on early modern book- and library history.
- Research Fellow at the Royal Netherlands Institute in Rome



### **Clive Letchford, 'Renaissance schoolmasters: pedagogy and innovation in the shadow of tradition in England, 1540-1640'**

In this second year of my part-time study I have given four papers and have been focusing my project in preparing for my upgrade. I also devoted a significant amount of time at the end of 2023 on an unsuccessful application for funding from M4C.

In the first part of the year, I focused on schoolmasters in the seventeenth century, looking at their careers, publications and ideas and how they finessed the approaches and materials of the previous century. I also looked to see what materials produced by pupils were available and identified the four main surviving sources. I visited archives at Winchester College and the British Library to consult the

notebooks of Badger, Twiss and Edward VI (focusing on the latter's Greek 'orations' which have not been published) and also visited the archives of Gloucester Cathedral to see the extent of materials for the school established by Edward in 1541. My project starts with the injunction of 1541 requiring the use of Lily's Grammar, but I came to realise that I needed to consider the complex history of this work to understand its impact on subsequent developments, so I looked at two schools that were at the forefront of pedagogy (Magdalen Oxford and St Paul's London) and wrote a chapter on this as part my upgrade application.

I gave four talks/papers over the year. The first was in October to the PGR work-in-progress series on the tradition of 'dictates' at Winchester College, looking at how the genre changed greatly over a period of fifty years. The second was an update on my JACT paper (see publications) on 4<sup>th</sup> May at Jesus College, Oxford at their 'Workshop on Latin and Greek and Ancient Greek Didactics' (alongside three other distinguished academics in the field of classical language pedagogy), entitled 'Lessons from the Renaissance, or Non-spoken communicative ancient languages pedagogy or Get thee to a nunnery'. On the 9<sup>th</sup> May I delivered a paper to the Warwick English Department seminar on the detailed of learning Latin, entitled 'Renaissance Education and "Making Latines": Pygmies on the Shoulders of Giants' based on descriptions by the teachers Kempe, Brinsley and Hoole. I was very pleased to be one of the three Warwick students offered a place on the ten-day Warwick-Johns Hopkins summer school in Venice on ec0-humanism in Renaissance Venice, which widened my view of my project. I presented a paper on conditions in the schoolroom, entitled 'Plague: a study of effects on the schools of renaissance England' for which I consulted the registers spanning a period of fifty years of Merchant Taylors' school, which are held in the Guildhall Library archives in London. By analysis of the patterns of testing pupils' progress, I was able to show the dramatic effects of plague on the operation of the school and its disruption to the education of the pupils.

In terms of skills, I participated in the Neo-Greek seminars hosted by the Warburg Institute, helped by funding from the CSR, to help read printed and manuscript Greek in the period and taught the Intermediate Renaissance Latin classes for the CSR for two terms.

### Publications

Letchford, C. (2024) 'Teaching Greek: from school to university via fifteenth century Florence', *Journal of Classics Teaching*, pp. 1-5. Doi:10.1017/S2058631024000217.

Reviews in *Journal of Classics Teaching*: *Unus, Duo, Tres. Latine loquamur per scaenas et imagines* (C.) Rico (Autumn 2023); *Pocket GCSE Latin Etymological Lexicon* (C.K.) Mackenzie (Autumn 2023); *Stoic Wisdom: Ancient Lessons for Modern Resilience* (N.) Sherman (Autumn 2023); *Via Latina: De Lingua et Vita Romanorum* (M.L.) Aguilar, (J.) Terrega (February 2024)



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

In the 23/24 academic year, I have continued to focus on studying my corpus of primary sources. I have now seen 94 of the 105 *alba amicorum* selected for this dissertation, located in the Netherlands, Belgium,



England, Germany, and Italy. I have carried out research visits to Pembroke College (Cambridge), the Herzogin Anna Amalia Bibliothek (Weimar), the Germanisches Nationalmuseum (Nuremberg), the Museo Internazionale e Biblioteca della Musica (Bologna), the Archivio di Stato di Firenze (Florence), the Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale (Florence), the Biblioteca e Musei Oliveriani (Pesaro), and the British School at Rome (Rome).

Additionally, I have attended both in-person and online seminars and events, such as the CSR's PhD Work in Progress Seminar Series, the presentation of David Lines' new publication at the University of Bologna, online seminars at the University of London's Institute of Historical Research and the Medici Archive Project, and the Venetian Seminar, an annual conference focused on Venetian culture and history. I have continued to train my language and palaeography skills through practice-based study and have completed part of a dissertation chapter.

In October 2023, M4C's RDF fund covered the costs for a month-long research visit to Italy. In January and February 2024, I carried out research at the Herzogin Anna Amalia Bibliothek after successfully applying for a two-month Weimar Fellowship at the Klassik Stiftung Weimar, which houses the most significant collection of *alba amicorum* worldwide. Whilst there, I was invited to speak in the KSW's biweekly research colloquium (27 February 2024).

Additionally, I have presented my research at the CSR's PhD Work in Progress Seminar Series ('Rare Birds & Fast Friends: Interpreting Illustrations in Early Modern *Alba Amicorum*', 7 December 2023), as well as conferences at the Bibliotheca Hertziana - Max Planck Institute for Art History in Rome (Gernsheim Study Days: Exploring Rome Through Drawing in the 16th Century: 'Dressed in Friendship: Illustrating Rome and Romans in Sixteenth-Century *Alba Amicorum*', 6-8 March 2024) and the Istituto Storico Italo-Germanico - Fondazione Bruno Kessler in Trento (Objects and Spaces of Encounter in Renaissance Italy: 'Trading Friendship: Transalpine Encounters in the *Album Amicorum* of Joachim Weyermann (1606-1613)', 15-17 April 2024). The latter conference was funded by M4C's RDF fund, whilst my visit to Rome was generously funded by CADRE.

**Publications:**

I have been invited to publish the paper I presented at the Fondazione Bruno Kessler as part of a journal special issue (forthcoming).

**Impact and public engagement:**

I am co-organiser of the Centre for the Study of the Renaissance PhD Work in Progress Seminar Series (October 2023-present).



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

From September to October, I was in Venice on a research trip. I mostly used Venetian libraries and archives, though I also did trips to Verona, Padova and Milano. I gathered a great deal of useful material for my dissertation, and I may publish some findings in a separate article. From November to December, I was a Research Fellow at the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute for Neo-Latin Studies in Innsbruck, Austria. During my time there, I synthesised some of the findings from my archival research into a draft of the article mentioned above. I also presented this material in the form of a talk at the end of my fellowship.

From January to now, I have been back in the UK, where I have completed drafts of two chapters of my dissertation. In March, I presented a paper as part of a panel on women and the republic of letters at the Annual Conference of the Renaissance Society of America in Chicago. In April, I taught an Intense Intermediate Level Latin Short Course at the CSR. Over the academic year, I have been co-organising the CSR Work in Progress Postgraduate Seminar.

**Book review:**

2023. Review of Brizio, Elena and Marco Piana (eds). *Idealizing Women in the Italian Renaissance* (2022), *Modern Language Review* 118.4: 629-630



**Sergei Zotov, 'Alchemical Iconography as A Mediator of Knowledge: Visualising Science in European Alchemical Manuscripts, 1400-1700'**

Research travel for visiting Cambridge libraries, May 2024 (SHAC Award)

Research travel to Zurich and Küsnacht, February 2024 (CSR Award)

Conference paper, 'Toads, Feathers, Horseshoes, and The Seven-Footed King: Recent Developments in the Study of The Ripley Scrolls' today at the SHAC meeting 'Uncovering the Secrets of the Universe' in Oxford, 13 January 2024

Talk at the Community Study Day "East Meets West: Medieval and Renaissance Encounters" at Warwick, 13 December 2023

**Publications**

**Book chapters:**

[Smelling Good While Conjuring the Spirits. Use of 'Perfumes' in Medieval and Early Modern Magic Books](#), in Stefan Laube (ed.), *Material, Visual, and Practical Dimensions of Early Modern How-to Books* (Leiden: Brill, 2024), pp. 237–268.

[Sources of Alchemical Cryptography](#), in Michelle Waldispühl and Beáta Megyesi (eds.), Proceedings of the 7th International Conference on Historical Cryptology HistoCrypt 2024 (Tartu: D-Space, 2024), pp. 161–173 (co-authored by Sarah Lang and Megan Piorko).

[Merian's Juggling with Motifs - Juggling with Merian's Motifs. Iconographical Borrowings in and from Merian's Alchemical Works](#), in Berit Wagner and Corinna Gannon (eds.), *Opus magnum. Matthäus Merian d.Ä. und die Bebilderung der Alchemie* (Heidelberg: ART-Books, 2024), pp. 219–233.

[Allegorical Iconography of Alchemical Furnaces in 16th and 17th Century Manuscripts](#), in: Sarah Lang (ed.), *Alchemical Laboratories* (Graz: University Library Publishing, 2023), pp. 285–295.

**Articles:**

Crucified upon Metals and Alphabets: Alchemical Iconography of the Sixteen-Century Illustrated Treatises by Martin Sturtz, *British Journal for the History of Science* (forthcoming in 2024-2025).

**Books:**

[Wax Legs and Iron Eyes. Votive Practices from the Middle Ages to the Present Day](#). Moscow: SLOVO, 2023 (in Russian; co-authored by Mikhail Maizuls, and Dmitry Antonov).

## SKILLS SESSIONS OPEN TO OTHER STUDENTS IN THE UNIVERSITY

### CSR Skills Courses 2023-4

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 BA post-doc Esther Van Raamsdonk and CSR Director Dr Teresa Grant) and Italian (taught by Marie Curie-UKRI Assistant Professor Cecilia Sideri). This year we also pioneered provision in Latin and Ancient Greek. As well as weekly Latin intermediate classes taught by Clive Letchford (CSR PhD student), there were tremendously successful forays into intensive week provision in beginners' (taught by Daria Akhapkina, CSR PhD student) and intermediate (Alex Tadel, CSR PhD student) Latin and beginners' Greek (Manuela Marai, Classics PhD student). This format was especially successful in Latin, demonstrating a real need for such provision, and it has encouraged us to run several such intensive courses again in 2024-5.

### 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* offers a grounding in some fundamental aspects of chronology, geography, and historical use of the 'Renaissance', in addition to an introduction to studying the Renaissance from the point of view of different disciplines, such as literature and art history. Its sequel, *Renaissance Europe II: Movement, Revolution, and Conflict*, examines a series of specific themes, such as (in its first three weeks) the circulation of people and books in the Renaissance, as well as the spaces where people met (e.g., inns). Another unit is given over to 'Revolutions', including the question of whether the Reformation falls into this category. The module finishes with an examination of 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 have adjusted the class timings to avoid clashes with other departments' core modules and are pleased to report that both modules have 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](http://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. CSR PhD candidate Sophie Hartles was the recipient of this award in the 2023-24 round, and her report is below.

Thanks to generous funding from the HRC and Warwick’s Centre for the Study of the Renaissance, I was able to undertake a three-week long research trip to the Newberry Library in Chicago this spring. The main purpose of this research was to consult their collections of sixteenth-century Italian plays in order to contribute to my current research project which examines the theme of the *beffa* in sixteenth-century Venice and Bologna. The *beffa* was a cruel type of joke that was used as a literary motif in many of the comedies and was intended to viciously mock certain comic characters.

In particular, they hold a rare Venetian one-act comedy by an unknown author entitled *Comedia piacevolissima da ridere de un Bravo chiamato Rouinazo* (Special Collections: Vault Case Y 712 .C735) that was brought to my attention during my research at the John Rylands Library in Manchester, which holds a photocopy of this play in their Walter Bullock collection. To the best of my knowledge, this short comedy has never been written about previously. It has only been referenced in a nineteenth-century French catalogue, where the author admits that this was the only comedy he did not see. It is written in Venetian dialect, and I argue that it is a rare, cheaply printed survival of comedies written in the *villanesca* genre that was specific to sixteenth-century Venice. I am grateful to have had the opportunity to see this item in person, as I am currently engaged in the process of writing a journal article about this play and I will be including a transcription as an appendix in my thesis. Therefore, it was essential for me to consult the original to gain a sense of its materiality and size. Additionally, I was also able to consult the other items that this comedy was originally bound with, which enabled me to gain a deeper understanding of its significance to the original collector and the works considered to be related to this comedy.

As I was fortunate to spend three weeks in Chicago, I was able to discover other comic works that I had never seen before, some also written in Venetian dialect. These included an intriguing comedy in five acts, of which the title and author are both unknown (Special Collections: Bonaparte 4745). This play includes numerous themes that are discussed in my PhD thesis and will be of particular use in my chapter on the mockery of the elderly. As a fellow, I was also assigned my own desk space, which permitted me to order books for my personal library. This allowed me to read secondary literature that I could not access in the UK and to make use of the hours, such as early morning and evening, when the manuscript reading room was closed.

During my time at the Newberry, I was also afforded the opportunity to engage in discourse with a number of esteemed scholars, such as Suzanne Karr Schmidt, the Curator of Rare Books and

Manuscripts, and Paul F. Gehl, a retired historian of manuscript and printed textbooks of the Renaissance. The Newberry also hosted a series of events designed to facilitate networking with other fellows, including research seminars and lunchtime work-in-progress meetings. A particular highlight was a workshop hosted by Suzanne, which showcased various manuscripts and rare books held at the Newberry.

Furthermore, the fellowship was scheduled for March 2024 so that I could make the best use of my time in Chicago and participate in the annual Renaissance Society of America conference, a highly regarded three-day international conference that brings together thousands of scholars specialising in the Renaissance period. As part of this, I collaborated with another student of the CSR, Eva van Kemenade, to organize a two-panel series titled *Emotions, Senses, and Space: Experiencing Performances in the Renaissance City*, where I also presented my own research. It was an invaluable experience to organise a panel series at such an esteemed conference. The panels were very well attended, and we organised a lunch with our panel presenters and chairs to discuss these aspects further. This proved to be a highly intellectually stimulating experience, allowing us to make important connections in our field. I was also able to establish new connections with many Renaissance scholars at the conference and strengthen previous relations built at other conferences, which will be important for my future academic prospects. Additionally, the RSA conference held a GIS training workshop, during which I was introduced to the making of digital maps for historical purposes. This is a technique I am interested in using in future research projects.

In summary, the three-week period spent in Chicago proved to be highly productive and valuable, allowing me to conduct research that is crucial for my current PhD project as well as a future publication. The relationships I established at the Newberry and the RSA conference will also prove to be beneficial for any future projects and my overall academic prospects.



Sophie Hartles

## 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, but was suspended in 2020-21. In March-April 2024, Warwick (Classics) PhD candidate Elena Claudi, spent time at JHU; her report is below.



Thanks to the HRC and CRS research fellowship award I had the opportunity to visit Johns Hopkins University between March and April 2024.

I am particularly interested in the reception of Classics, especially of the *Imagines* of Philostratus, an ancient Greek text I am analysing for my PhD thesis. What motivated me to apply for this award was the opportunity to work in an interdisciplinary environment, collaborate with eminent scholars at JHU with similar research interests and consult relevant books from the JHU special collections with the support of the Singleton Center. Not only did I achieve these goals but this experience also exceeded my expectations: I was welcomed with great kindness and received full support from academics, postdocs, administrative staff and students of JHU to conduct my research and explore new perspectives.

I had the opportunity to engage with the Stern Center for the History of the Book in the Renaissance and I was warmly welcomed by Prof. Earle Havens and the PhD fellows of the Center in its wonderful location in the Evergreen Museum and Library surrounded by a splendid garden. I was given a tour and was particularly impressed by the rich collection of rare books and manuscripts in the Center's library. The collaboration with the Stern Center also allowed me to take part in its events during my stay: I attended the presentation of the book by Prof. Walter Stephens *How Writing Made Us Human, 3000 BCE to Now* which was a great chance to discuss the history of the book with members of the Stern Center and PhD students from various departments. Moreover, the talk *The Terrestrial and Celestial Globe Gores of François Demongenot (1552) at JHU* in collaboration with the Department of Conservation and Preservation of the Sheridan Libraries showed interesting discoveries and acquisitions of JHU and the participants could create their facsimile of terrestrial and celestial globes in the stunning location of the Peabody Library. I also attended a roundtable discussion of *Voidopolis* with the author Kat Mustatea, an augmented reality book retelling Dante's *Inferno*. During my research visit, I had the opportunity to give a talk with a rare book show-and-tell at the T&S Society. I found fascinating material in the special collections of the JHU library, especially one of the early editions of the *Imagines* of Philostratus (1522) and the comment and representation of this Greek text by Blaise de Vigenère (1629). The T&S Society talk was a wonderful experience not only for showing the findings of my explorations of the rare books collections at JHU but also for receiving useful feedback and thought-provoking ideas from fellow students in a friendly atmosphere.

During my research period at JHU, I also collaborated with the Department of Classics. Here I had the chance to attend a lab of my tutor, Nandini Pandey, and meet her bright students from different programs and backgrounds who are building an inspiring online educational resource on race and power in antiquity. I felt very lucky to be welcomed by this brilliant community, learn about different ways of engaging with Classics and see how we can actively create a fresh perspective to highlight the relevance of this discipline in modern debates. As well as working with Dr. Pandey, I met other academics of the Department of Classics such as Alan Shapiro, Karen ni Mheallaigh and Matthew Roller. Moreover, the Department promoted various stimulating talks: Emily Wilson talked about her experience of translating the *Iliad* by Homer; Giulia Sissa presented the 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Poultney Lecture and analysed the representation of beautiful bodies in Greek erotic culture.

This research period was extremely productive and important for me in developing my thesis and being involved in the activities and events of the Stern Center and the Department of Classics. Since my first day, I have been fully supported and felt part of the wonderful community of JHU. I am enthusiastic about my experience and I am very grateful to have met such wonderful and inspiring academics, postdocs and students at JHU. I cannot thank them enough for their help in navigating the city of Baltimore and what JHU has to offer. I highly recommend this opportunity: JHU special collections and the Stern Center have extraordinary resources that are fascinating for everyone working in Classical reception, Renaissance, History of the Book and Early-Modern Culture. I made significant progress in my research and my experience as a PhD student has been greatly enhanced: I could find useful and unique texts that I will use for my thesis and laid the foundation for a future project and investigation of Philostratus' reception. This fellowship was fundamental to meeting wonderful people who supported me with great kindness and significantly enriched my experience.

**Elena Claudi**

## FUNDING PROVIDED BY THE CSR

### *Sophia (Chi-Fang) Li Fund*

Thanks to a generous gift from alumna Professor Sophia Li (Distinguished Associate Professor, Department of Foreign Languages and Literature at National Sun Yat-sen University in Taiwan), the Centre was able to offer extra research funding to PhD students. Reports below.

My research investigates the role of alchemical iconography in mediating knowledge and visualizing science in European alchemical manuscripts from the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. I am pleased to report that I submitted my doctoral thesis to the doctoral college on time, on the 30th of April. It was also possible thanks to the award, which I will describe in detail below.

In February, I conducted a research trip to Zurich and Küsnacht, generously sponsored by the Sophia Li CSR Award. Despite, or, rather, thanks to the challenging weather conditions in Switzerland during this period, the trip was highly productive research-wise, and significantly enhanced my thesis and re-shaped some of the arguments.

Thanks to the cooperation of the library staff at Küsnacht, including Medea Hoch, and the assistance of Dr. Carl C. Jung and Andreas Jung, C.G. Jung's grandson, I had the exceptional opportunity to work in C.G. Jung's private library and to access the unique resources. During my visit, I meticulously examined eight illustrated alchemical manuscripts, which constitute the entire Jung's alchemical manuscripts collection. The illuminations from manuscripts no. 3, 5, and 8 were particularly valuable and received detailed analysis in the last chapter of my dissertation. Additionally, I explored several alchemical printed books, rare research literature, and private objects from the C.G. Jung collection, including alchemical drawings and paintings collected and created by Jung himself.

One notable setback was the unavailability of the oldest manuscript of the *Aurora consurgens* (Ms. Rh. 172) at the Zurich Zentralbibliothek, as it was under conservation. However, being at this library, I accessed early drafts of C.G. Jung's works on alchemy, which open up exciting prospects for future research projects for the potential post-doctoral fellowships.

In conclusion, the research trip to Zurich and Küsnacht was invaluable, providing rich materials and insights that substantially contributed to my thesis. I am grateful for the support from the Sophia Li CSR Award and the various individuals who facilitated my research.

Sergei Zotov





The Sophia Li fund has enabled me to travel to libraries to examine manuscripts and early printed books connected with education in early modern England, with day visits to the British Library (three), three days in the University Library Cambridge and a day each at Winchester College and London Guildhall Library. As well as examining books not yet digitised, I have also examined unpublished archive material, notably schoolboy manuscript notes, the Greek exercises of Edward VI and the school admissions register of Merchant Taylors' School from the first half of the seventeenth century. I presented some of my conclusions from study of the latter at a summer school in Venice in June 2024.

Clive Letchford



Thanks to the generous donation of funding from the Sophia Li fund, I was able to conduct my archival research in Italy from 1 January to 15 April 2024. As a predoctoral visiting fellow, I was based at the headquarters of the Medici Archive Project (MAP), a research institution in Florence specializing in early modern Tuscany and Medici grand dukes. To enhance my palaeographical skills, I participated in the Winter Seminars in Palaeography and Archival Studies organized by the MAP in early January. Following that, I started collecting crucial archival documents for my dissertation in the Archivio di Stato di Firenze (ASF) and the Archivio di Stato di Siena (ASS), especially judicial and epistolary records.

During this research trip, I accumulated a total of 71 volumes, comprising approximately 45,457 folios. They include *Mediceo del Principato*, vols. 1923-1941 and 2010-2040 in the ASF, and the *Esecutore e Capitano di Giustizia*, vols. 613-616, 646-659, and 721-730 as well as *Governatore*, vols. 436, 459, 470-471, and 625-627 in the ASS. These primary sources helped me get a clearer understanding of my research framework. After discussions with my supervisor, we agreed to focus on my research on the developments in the state of Siena, a topic which has been neglected by scholars until now. In addition, I used the opportunity to contact scholars from Italy and across the world working at the MAP and in the archives. Now that I am back at Warwick, I am analysing the gathered archival material and preparing for the annual review organized by my department. In addition, I will present my archival work to the MAP committee at the end of May. Based on the findings from my archival research, I will revise my draft and present it at the work-in-progress seminar series held by the Renaissance Centre in early June. I also hope to present it at the annual conference organized by the Renaissance Society of America next year.

In conclusion, I would like to express my gratitude once again to my department and the Sophia Li fund for their invaluable support, which has greatly facilitated the progress of my research. I have photographed all the necessary documents in the ASS, but given the wealth of material, there are still some archival sources that need to be collected, such as *Mediceo del Principato*, vols. 1885-1923 in the ASF and *Cause criminali*, vols. 5513-5545 in the Archivio Arcivescovile di Siena. Therefore, I will continue working on the currently available archival documents and prepare for another necessary research trip to Italy in future to photograph the remaining volumes.

Wanxin Du, May 2024

## 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 2024*

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. Marta Celati, Archie Cornish, Alessio Cotugno, Ania Crowther, Chloe Fairbanks and Professor Paul Prescott, 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:**

**Leola Bruce (History of Art)** for an essay entitled: 'Comparing artistic production in Siena and Padua, do you agree with Millard that the Black Death of 1348 changed painting?' The adjudicators in this category said,

"We enjoyed reading all of these excellent essays, which demonstrate a variety of scholarly and critical skills, as well as the diversity of the research currently being undertaken in Renaissance studies. We decided to award the prize to the essay entitled 'Comparing artistic production in Siena and Padua, do you agree with Millard that the Black Death changed painting?' So many things about this essay are impressive: its command of a network of complex arguments; its own line of argumentation; most of all, its ability to move fluently and with interdisciplinary flair between social history and close reading of artworks. Rather than simply inflect it, the essay takes an established argument head-on, impressively suggesting the ignored influence of the 'second pestilence', and positing ingenious links between social change and the circulation of particular tools. This was a difficult choice to make, but enjoyably so, because all of the essays were of such a high standard."

#### **Final year essay:**

**Lisa Taberner (English and History)** for an essay entitled: 'The role and representation of the forest wilderness in Arthurian Literature'. The adjudicators in this category said,

"This excellent essay draws insightful connections not only between medieval Arthurian literature and the nineteenth century American novel *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court*, but also between literature and broader social and political movements such as

conservationism and the 'strenuous life'. It draws confidently and persuasively upon a wide range of secondary literature across multiple disciplines to support its central argument that sylvan spaces in *A Connecticut Yankee* destabilise rather than confirm traditional notions of masculine chivalry. The essay is clearly signposted throughout, guiding the reader through the nuances of its argument from its clear and assured opening to its closing. The conclusion is particularly noteworthy for its gesture towards potential avenues for future research. Overall, the essay confidently and compellingly yokes chivalric culture to questions of environmentalism and gender politics, offering a fresh perspective on two significant texts in Western literature."

**Final year dissertation:**

**Tala Ahmadi (History)** for a dissertation entitled: 'To what extent did Isabella d'Este's (1474-1539) authority and influence shift as she transitioned from the role of a wife to that of a widow?' The adjudicators in this category said,

"We appreciated this in-depth analysis of an issue not covered in detail in the rich bibliography on Isabella D'Este, making a significant contribution to scholarship. The choice of building the argument by focusing on Isabella's letters, which are extensively used as primary sources in conversation with an impressive breath of secondary reading, was well made, making for an informative and persuasive dissertation. Consideration was given to many aspects of d'Este's intellectual and political endeavours and these were tied together in a coherent and logical manner, drawing out the significant changes in d'Este's sphere of influence as she transitioned from wife to widow and regent. The section concerning the rise and decline of d'Este's musical ambitions was a particular highlight. The work is thoroughly researched and sophisticated in its handling of the source material."

## CSR-BASED SEMINARS AND DISCUSSION GROUPS

### *The STVDIO Seminar Series*

Organized by DR RICH RABONE and DR FLORIS VERHAART

Thanks to generous financial support from the HRC and CSR, the STVDIO seminar has thrived this year, with a lively and varied programme of events delivered to a cordial in-person audience drawn from both the CSR itself and departments across the Faculty of Arts. As in previous years, the organizers sought to compile a programme that reflected the interdisciplinary vibrancy and geographical range of Renaissance Studies, and to bring a selection of prominent external speakers to Warwick, while also providing a forum for showcasing the cutting-edge research that is done within our own Centre.

The first term brought a particular focus on History, bookended by Dr. Edmund Wareham (RHUL), who gave a talk entitled ‘Soror in Christo dilectissima: Change and Exchange in the Correspondence of Nikolaus Ellenbog and his Sister Barbara’, and a book launch for the CSR’s own Leverhulme Early Career Fellow Dr. Tom Pert, whose monograph on *The Palatine Family and the Thirty Years’ War: The Experiences of Exile in Early Modern Europe* was published in 2023 by OUP, and celebrated at STVDIO alongside Prof. Peter Wilson (University of Oxford). In between these events came a musical interlude from Dr. Simon Jackson (University of Cambridge), in the form of a paper on ‘George Herbert and Audiation: Listening to Silent Music’. Epistolary material also provided the introduction to our Term 2 programme, as Warwick’s (and STVDIO’s) Dr. Floris Verhaart led us through [‘The Correspondence of Dominicus Baudius’](#), bringing to the seminar insights into one of the period’s most prolific and wide-ranging letter-writers—as well as his associated editorial challenges. This was followed by a fascinating journey into literary caves and learned grottoes led by Dr. Archie Cornish, in a paper on ‘Antipathetical Places: Antiquarian Caves and Allegorical Wonder’. A focus on England remained for the final event of the term, but this time with a comparative approach, as Prof. Alexander Samson (UCL) examined its reception of and attitude towards early modern Spanish writing in his study of ‘Hispanic Worlds in English Renaissance Culture’.

A packed Summer programme included five events in Term 3, which showcased the global reach of Renaissance Studies. The term began with a fascinating study in classical reception from Dr. Elena Giusti (Warwick), on ‘The Early Modern Re-Invention of Rome’s “African Monstrosities”’, before Dr. Carolina Martínez (University of Buenos Aires/UNSAM) charted STVDIO’s first expedition into transatlantic early modern cartography in her paper on ‘The Defeat of Atabalipa in Three Sixteenth-Century French Maps’. Dr. Sara Miglietti (Warburg Institute) offered a wonderful overview of the phenomenon of self-translation and early conclusions from her ongoing project [‘Writing Bilingually, 1465–1700: Self-Translated Books in Italy and France’](#). Retaining the Italian focus, and indeed turning to one of the period’s most celebrated bilingual writers, Dr. Gáldrick de la Torre Ávalos (University of Girona) marked his visit to Warwick as AHGBI Visiting International Fellow with a study of ‘Sannazaro, Luigi d’Aragona, and the Socio-Political Context of the *Arcadia* (*editio princeps*, 1504)’, to which a response was also offered by Dr. Maria Czepiel (University of Oxford). Like Term 2, the summer again concluded with another intriguing study of early modern England and its relationships with other countries, as Prof. Carole Levin (University of Nebraska-Lincoln and IAS Visiting Fellow at Warwick) spoke on ‘Queen Elizabeth, King James, Russian Tsars, and Four Russian Boys in England’. This time around, the closing of this year also brings a passing of the torch for the seminar’s convenors; we have both enjoyed the chance to tend to STVDIO’s flames, and look forward to seeing the series continue to flourish in new hands with another vibrant programme of events next year. Everyone is welcome!

Rich Rabone, Floris Verhaart, July 2024

## CSR-SUPPORTED CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS, EVENTS

On Saturday 23 September 2023, I represented the Centre at the annual council meeting of the Newberry Library Renaissance Consortium in Chicago. Around forty delegates attended, mostly from North American universities but also from Aberdeen and QMUL in the UK. We began with a guided tour of the exhibition Seeing Race Before Race, a stunning collection of paintings, books, illustrations, and maps drawn from the Library's extensive collection, which explored the roots of race from the Middle Ages to 1800. The exhibition was curated by Noémie Ndiaye (University of Chicago), together with Lia Markey and other members of the Newberry Library team. After an introduction by the Interim President, Gail Kern Paster, the council meeting began with a discussion of programming related to the topic of the exhibition and its accompanying [book project](#). Presentations by various members of the Newberry then reported on the Library's numerous seminars, workshops, and outreach programmes, including the Processing the Pandemic project designed and produced in collaboration with CSR's Bryan Brazeau.

Particular highlights of the meeting included the Newberry's promotion of [The World in Books: 1100-1800](#), specifically geared to undergraduates and designed to attract students to the pleasures of archival work at an early stage of their careers. The Newberry is also working to extend its palaeography training and to incorporate language training that is not available at most universities (e.g., in Asian languages, Arabic, Dutch, etc). Particularly welcome was news that the Newberry has greatly simplified its way of disbursing funds, moving to a newly streamlined [stipend system](#) so that grant payees no longer need to submit receipts or budget proposals to the Newberry. At the end of the meeting, when delegates were invited to share news and information, great interest was shown in the joint CSR/Johns Hopkins Summer School in Venice to which I drew their attention. The meeting was a highly collegial event (the more so for being the first in-person meeting since the pandemic) and a wonderful opportunity to see and network with colleagues, friends, and enthusiasts for all things Renaissance.

**Catherine Bates**

## 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 2024:** Court Cultures: Texts and Contexts, Trinity College, University of Dublin  
18–19 June 2024.

Following a Covid-imposed hiatus, the 2024 meeting of the ICLS (British and Irish Branch) was hosted by the Trinity Centre for Medieval and Renaissance Studies and the French Department, Trinity College Dublin. Papers addressed many aspects of court culture within an international framework and across a broad range of disciplines which interconnect with literature. Underpinning the conference were the perennial questions: what is the place of the court in the construction of courtly culture? What is the relationship between the court writer and his/her subject? How do written texts relate to other forms of premodern culture? And how do we transmit, respond to and refashion courtly texts today? Quite apart from advancing scholarship in the field, the conference was a welcome opportunity for scholars of courtly literature to develop their collaborative research networks.

### 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 International Congress, the International Society's publication series, [Encomia](#), and will also be used to announce and publicize the Branch's new essay competition.
- 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 before 2012 are no longer available.
- Translations. At the 2022 AGM, it was suggested that we investigate providing translations of website content into Irish and Welsh in order better to reflect our identity as the British Branch. Some of the existing webpages include Welsh as sequential translations, rather than as separate pages.

### Membership

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

## FISIER

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

The CSR continues as a member of FISIER. Prof. Ingrid De Smet (French) now acts as the Centre's representative, serves on the Organization's Executive Committee and attends the online AGMs. The Organization offers contacts with institutes (universities, libraries and museums) and societies in Europe (especially France, Italy, Switzerland, Belgium) but also in the US, Canada, and elsewhere. Our new partners, the CESR at Tours, are also part of the federation.

FISIER continued the [online seminar](#) during the academic year 2023-24. The Federation encourages its member societies and research centres to be in touch with suggestions, ideas, and proposals. FISIER will be running a large colloquium in June 2025 in Paris, for which the deadline for full panels will be early December 2024. Ideally these should be organised with another member association, so interested parties should contact [renaissance@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:renaissance@warwick.ac.uk) if they would like to propose a CSR-sponsored panel.

## *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 2024 annual meeting took place in Chicago, and members of the CSR (which organized several panels for the conference) were again present.



This photo shows PhD students Maialen Maugars, Mathilde Alain, Sophie Hartles, Alex Tadel, Eva van Kemenade and Christian Martens enjoying the biggest Renaissance conference in the world at RSA Chicago 2024.

### *Society for European Festivals Research (SEFR)*

The Society for European Festivals Research (SEFR) remains grateful to the Centre for the Study of the Renaissance for hosting its website as well as for the Centre's support.

#### **Treasures in Full: Renaissance Festivals (bl.ac.uk)**

I am sorry to report that this website, developed by Warwick's Centre for the Study of the Renaissance in collaboration with the British Library, with financial support from the AHRB's 'Resource Enhancement' initiative was one of the sites targeted by hackers as part of a wider attack on the British Library. I am currently working on what I hope will serve as a temporary online guide, situated on the SEFR website, to help researchers of Renaissance and Early Modern festival books in the absence of this fully searchable resource in which more than 250 festival books from the BL's collections were made freely available online.

#### **Publications: European Festival Studies Series, 1450–1700**

It has been a busy year for the EFS Series as it has resumed its activities following delays in archival research still affected by the legacy of the COVID pandemic. The series, in association with the Society for European Festivals Research, includes both essay collections and monographs. It seeks to analyse the characteristics of individual festivals, as well as to explore generic themes, as it draws on a wealth of documentary evidence, alongside the visual and performative resources of galleries and museums, to study the historical, literary, performance and material culture of these extravagant occasions of state.

The series general editors Dr Margaret Shewring (University of Warwick, UK), Professor Emeritus Richard Cooper (University of Oxford, UK), and Professor Emeritus Marie-Claude Canova-Green (Goldsmiths, University of London, UK) have been working to move the series forwards during 2023-2024. They are pleased to report that two volumes are close to publication and are expected before the end of this calendar year: Margaret M. McGowan, *Harmonium Mundi: Spectacle and the Quest for Peace in the Sixteenth Century* and Leila Zammar, *Opera, Scenography, and Power: Festival Entertainments at the Barberini Court of Rome, 1628–1656*

**Other volumes currently being edited include:** Margaret M. McGowan and Melanie Zefferino (eds), *The Role of Courtly Spectacle in the Politics of the House of Savoy (1450-1750)*; Bram van Leuveren, Marc W. S. Jaffé and Alexander Robinson (eds), *Marginalised Voices and figures in French Festival Culture*; Ivo Raband and Sabrina Lind (eds), *Step by Step: Visualising and Asserting Power in Early Modern Joyous Entries and Festivities in the Netherlands, 1500-1750*; R. L. M. Morris (ed.), *Crossing Boundaries: Festival and Diplomatic Encounters in the Early Modern World*; Mary Young, *Florentine Water Festivals 1608-1619: The Arno River as a Stage for Medici Propaganda* and Iain Fenlon, *Noisy Cities: The Festive Soundscape of Early Modern Italy*.

A new proposal for an edited collection is currently with the EFS Series editorial board. Developed by Marie-Claude-Canova Green, *Spectacular Orientalism: Festivals and Public Performances in Early Modern Europe, Asia and the Far East*, builds on the two conferences hosted online by Goldsmiths', London in collaboration with SEFR in June 2022 and June 2023 and include revisions of papers presented as well as additional invited contributions.

**Margaret Shewring**  
**July 2024**



## *Society for Neo-Latin Studies*

In 2023/24 the Society for Neo-Latin Studies (SNLS) organized a range of events and continued its regular activities.

The SNLS Annual Lecture and AGM 2023 took place on 17 November 2023 at Swedenborg House in London; it was a nice event in a great setting. In advance of the AGM there was the chance to join the event 'Rhyme, But No Reason? Latin and English Fun in the Early Modern Period', organized in the context of this year's 'Being Human' Festival, in Senate House Library. The SNLS Annual Lecture 2023 was given by Paul White (University of Leeds) and entitled 'Elegy's Past, and Futures'. The minutes of the AGM have been circulated separately and are now available on the [SNLS website](#), as are the President's quarterly Newsletters to members.

In 2023/24 SNLS continued to run its mentoring scheme for junior academics and to award the SNLS Ann Moss Early Career Essay Prize (awarded in 2023 to the CSR's new Leverhulme ECR, Maria Czepiel for her essay 'Jewish Scholarship in the Lyric Poetry of Benito Arias Montano (ca. 1525-1598)'). To interest students in Neo-Latin at an earlier stage in their careers, a prize for undergraduate students is now also offered.

The 'Early Modern Latin in London' Walking Tours have continued with great success. The tour is now available as a free, publicly accessible online trail where users can follow along at home or follow the trail physically. It can be accessed here: <https://www.layersoflondon.org/map/trails/early-modern-latin-in-the-city-of-london>. Rebecca Menmuir and Caroline Spearing had obtained generous Heritage Lottery Funding for a project entitled 'What Makes a Londoner?', in partnership with the Church of St. Bartholomew the Great. Originating in SNLS public engagement/early career events, the project has been staging several events for members of the local community on Early Modern Londoners and their engagement with their fast-paced and turbulent world. They culminated in a free concert of early modern music at St Bart's on Wednesday, 18 September 2024: this concert featured a programme of a fantastic wide range of short musical pieces and readings from the early modern period, performed expertly by the choir of St Bart's in a beautiful setting, and it was well attended. There will be an event 'Being Bruno: A Historical London Walk and Talk', following Giordano Bruno's route around the Strand from his Ash Wednesday Supper, as part of the Being Human Festival in November (in which SNLS has participated in the past as well): many thanks to Gavandra Hodge and Rebecca Menmuir for arranging this!

Thanks to the webmaster (now Alex Tadel, who has taken over from Iván Parga Ornelas) at Warwick, the Society's website is updated regularly, featuring information for members, outward-facing material, such as the teaching anthology and the podcast series (further expanded this year with new contributions), as well as announcements of events, calls for papers, job opportunities etc.

In the coming academic year SNLS will continue its regular activities and events (now both online and in-person). The SNLS Annual Lecture and AGM 2024 will be a celebratory event in Cambridge on 15 November, marking the twentieth anniversary of SNLS. There will be a tour of the Wren Library of Trinity College, then time for lunch, and a roundtable discussion on aspects Neo-Latin studies (instead of the standard Annual Lecture) in the early afternoon, followed by the AGM. Further details as well as a full programme for the day, the agenda for the meeting and registration details will be available in October 2024.

## 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 CATHERINE BATES (Centre for the Study of the Renaissance)

#### Research interests:

Sixteenth century; English literature; poetry; poetics; courtly forms; lyric; epic; romance; poetic language; poetic form; aesthetics; Thomas Wyatt; Edmund Spenser; Philip Sidney; William Shakespeare.

#### Research activities:

- Secured a publishing contract from OUP for *Literary Criticism of the English Renaissance*, a multi-volume edition of primary texts on the literary criticism, theory, and poetics of the period 1475–1675. This is a major collaborative editorial project (of which I am PI) with Gavin Alexander (Cambridge), Vladimir Brljak (Durham), Sarah Knight (Leicester), and Micha Lazarus (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem). We are currently preparing an application to the AHRC Standard Research Grant scheme to fund the project (£1.5m over five years), and plan to submit this bid in September 2024.
- Submitted final copy of *The Oxford Handbook of Philip Sidney* (50 essays, 420,000 words) to OUP. The volume is currently in production and will be published on 24 December 2024.
- Wrote and submitted chapter 11 on ‘Wit’ (11,000 words) and chapter 25 on ‘Philip Sidney: Poems’ (10,500 words) for the *A Companion to Renaissance Literature*, ed. Catherine Bates (London: Routledge, contracted).
- Maintained ongoing editorial work on *A Companion to Renaissance Literature* (52 essays, total 420,000 words): 40 of the 52 essays (77%) are now submitted; publication is expected in 2026.
- Secured a publishing contract from Palgrave Macmillan for *New Developments in Shakespeare and Psychoanalysis*, ed. James W. Stone and Catherine Bates, and maintained ongoing editorial work on the volume with my co-editor. 8 of the 11 essays (73%) are now submitted. Publication is scheduled for 2025.
- Compiled a comprehensive record in chronological order of Freud’s quotations from, allusions to, and mentions of Shakespeare throughout his working life (24,000 words) to be included in the above volume.
- Contracted to write ‘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), 5,600 words, to be submitted in 2025.
- Commissioned to write ‘Landmarks in Criticism: Psychoanalytic theory – Interpreting Hamlet’, *The English Review*, 36.1 (2025), 2000 words.
- Invited to give a lecture on ‘Colonialism, hunting, and the figure of the Wild Man’ to a conference on The Cultural History of Hunting in Halle (Germany), November 2024.

#### **Publications (out and in the pipeline):**

- 'Englishing the Sonnet', in *Routledge Resources Online: The Renaissance World*, ed. Kristen Poole (London: Taylor and Francis, 2023). <https://doi.org/10.4324/9780367347093-RERW121-1>
- 'Hunting/Prey', in *Shakespeare/Nature*, ed. Charlotte Scott, part of the Arden Shakespeare Intersections series (London: Bloomsbury, 2024), pp.227-46.
- 'The Symbolic and the Imaginary in *Venus and Adonis*' (12,000 words), winner of the 2023 Julius Silberger Award for interdisciplinary work in psychoanalysis by the Boston Psychoanalytic Society and Institute. The essay will be published in the Winter issue of *American Imago*, 81.4 (2024). A longer version (16,500 words) will be published in *New Developments in Shakespeare and Psychoanalysis*, ed. James W. Stone and Catherine Bates (Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2025).
- "'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, 2024/25).

#### **Impact and public engagement:**

- In January 2024, *The Cambridge Companion to Literature and Psychoanalysis*, ed. Vera Camden (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2022) was awarded the annual Book Prize by the American Psychoanalytic Association for the book that best promotes the integration of the academic and clinical worlds of psychoanalysis. The volume includes my essay on 'Recognitions: Shakespeare, Freud, and the story of psychoanalysis', pp.41-53.
- Presented a paper on 'The Symbolic and the Imaginary in *Venus and Adonis*' at the American Psychoanalytic Association panel of the annual MLA conference in Philadelphia, January, 2024.
- Presented a paper on 'The Symbolic and the Imaginary in *Venus and Adonis*' to the Boston Psychoanalytic Society and Institute, Newton Centre, Massachusetts, April 2024.
- Contributed to invited symposia of the Renaissance Project on 1 December 2023 and 2 February 2024. The ongoing project (of which I am a member) is dedicated to promoting and advancing the overlap between formalist and historicist readings of Renaissance texts. *The Routledge Companion to Renaissance Literature* which I am editing is my major contribution to the Project.

#### **Other:**

- Elected Fellow of The English Association.
- External Examiner for a PhD at the University of Aberdeen.
- Manuscript reviews for *Spenser Studies* and Amsterdam University Press.
- Book review submitted to *Renaissance Quarterly*.
- Professorial reviews for Fordham University (New York) and Pomona College (Claremont, CA), both successful.

## 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). 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 have remained almost entirely unstudied for eighty years.

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. This project uses the letters of Badius to show how and why these printed letter-collections were manipulated by their earliest editors. These early editors carefully selected, excerpted and edited a subset of the available letters in accordance with principles they chose not to articulate. Badius' 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 Badius project has located over 200 manuscript sources for the correspondence, and this new material has been used to repair the censorship and study its motives. The new edition, containing 463 letters is now largely complete, and will be published in Geneva in three volumes in 2025. It draws attention to patterns of suppression in this correspondence, a task incompletely or only accidentally achieved by other modern critical editions of letter-collections. It identifies what early editors chose not to print, and asks why they chose not to print it.

My work on the letters of Johannes Woverius of Hamburg (d. 1613; 400 letters), now at an advanced stage, will be delayed while energy and attention are diverted to my new project on Woverius' old friend Badius.

### Publications:

Paul Botley, 'Isaac Casaubon and King James I against Pierre Du Moulin: Conversion and collaboration in three new manuscript sources', *Lias* 2024 (forthcoming). This article traces Casaubon's confessional struggles in Paris in 1610. It publishes three new sources: [1] marginalia by Casaubon which were critical of his pastor Pierre Du Moulin, [2] a Latin tract by Casaubon outlining problems with Du Moulin's published work, and [3] a French letter of 1611 from King James to Du Moulin which incorporated Casaubon's arguments.

A paper delivered in Athens in 2023, 'Early Greek-Latin dictionaries and the printing press', is to appear in *Incunabula in Greek Libraries: Recording, Documentation, Historical Context*, Athens, Aikaterini Laskaridis Foundation, 2024

## Dr BRYAN BRAZEAU (School for Cross-Faculty Studies)

### Research interests:

Poetics, Christian Epic, Interiority, History of Emotions, Neo-Latin literature, Dante, Women's Writing, History of the Novel, Early Modern Literary Theory, Ecocriticism, Digital Humanities, Global Renaissance, Liberal Education, Problem-Based Learning

### Research activities:

As I am on a teaching-focussed contract, which does not officially include research, most of my work has focussed on teaching modules that involve a variety of sources (including Renaissance sources) in Liberal Arts such as IP120: Beauty (weeks on Dante's *Vita Nuova*, and on Renaissance portraiture and Petrarchism); IP121: Truth and Misinformation (weeks on Aristotelian Reception, Galileo, Francis Bacon, and David Hume); IP304: Underworlds (with weeks on Homer, Virgil, and Dante); IP305: Paradises (weeks on Columbus, Ariosto, Tasso, and Marinella); IP315: A Sustainable Serenissima (which discusses in part early modern eco-history), and IP317: Venice Resistance and Representation (sessions on Lucrezia Marinella and Venetian feminism)—the latter two were taught as part of the WIISP summer programme in Venice). I also co-led the Warwick-John Hopkins PhD Summer School held at the Istituto Veneto in Venice, which welcomed 16 PhD students from Johns Hopkins, Warwick, Harvard, Yale, NYU, Berkeley, and U. Illinois Urbana-Champaign. I also attended the Renaissance Society of America in Chicago, where I delivered a paper entitled “*Non credute e non credibil cose*: Torquato Tasso and the Nightmare of Modernity.” I also co-led a panel at the Midlands Conference of Critical Thought on “Apocalypse, Crisis, and Constructing our Endings” with Dr. Romain Chenet (Warwick GSD).

I am currently working on two book projects, one on Lucrezia Marinella's Christian Epics and one on Torquato Tasso's reconceptualization of poetry and literature. I continue to serve as one an editor for *Italian Studies*, and as one of the editors for the Brill series *Sources in Early Poetics*. In AY 23-24, I was named as supervisor/mentor on a successful application for a Leverhulme Early Career Fellowship by Dr. Katherine Travers (*Fantasies of Empire in Medieval Italy*), who will be joining the university in May 2025 for three years.

### Publications:

“And If Venice is Sinking: A Case Study of Material Pedagogy Using Place- and Problem-Based Learning on ‘A Sustainable Serenissima’” ARCHIPub (special issue: Venice Materials) no. 001/003, Fondazione Cini. <https://www.archive-venice.org/publications/>

### Impact and public engagement:

I am chair of the Warwick Institute for Engagement's Internationalisation learning circle, and have been leading on a project regarding engagement on the global stage with a range of Warwick's international partners.



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

### Research interests:

Italian literature and culture (18-20C); Dante reception; Comparative Romanticism(s); Theory

### Research activities:

I completed two monographs, one edited lexicon, and a number of articles (please see below) and set the grounds for the project *Dante and the Ouija Board* (I've just submitted an application for a Leverhulme Research Grant).

### Publications:

#### Monographs

- *Manzoni gotico. Tre itinerari illegali ne 'I promessi sposi'* (Pisa: ETS, 2024), 135pp. [accepted, in press]
- *Spettri familiari. Letteratura e metapsichica nel secondo Novecento italiano* (Milan: Unicopli, 2024), 239pp.

#### Edited volumes

- *Lessico leopardiano: la paura*, ed. Fabio Camilletti and Giulia Scialanga (Rome: Sapienza Università Editrice, 2024) [accepted, in press]

#### Journal articles (peer-reviewed)

- 'Sergio Citti's *Mortacci* (1989): Death, *Orrore popolare*, and the Survival of Paganism', *Anabases*, 2025 [in press]
- 'Fantasmi in pieno sole. Carlo Fruttero e la via italiana alla *ghost story*', *Polythesis*, 5 (2023), pp. 85-96
- 'Il medium di Buzzati. Spiritismo e meccaniche della paura nel reportage *In cerca dell'Italia misteriosa*', *The Italianist*, 43, 1 (2023), pp. 64-81
- 'Milano, centro magico del mondo', *Transalpina. Études italiennes*, 26 (2023), pp. 75-89

#### Book chapters

- 'Incubi, Succubi, and the Archaeology of Vampirism: exploring the imaginary libraries of J.S. Le Fanu's *Carmilla* (1872) and C.T. Dreyer's *Vampyr* (1932)', in *Nightmare/s in the Long Nineteenth Century*, ed. Fanny Clemente and Greta Colombani (London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2025) [under peer-review]
- 'La *Commedia infernale* di Bob Dylan', in *Covid Dante. La "Commedia", il contagio, la Guerra e altri trauma ipercontemporanei*, ed. Stefano Lazzarin (Manziana: Vecchiarelli, 2024) [in press]

### Impact and public engagement:

Book launches (*Spettri familiari*) in Arona (NO), Milan, Bologna, and Alessandria



### Prof. em. BERNARD CAPP (History)

#### Research interests:

Early modern English history, 16th-18th centuries, including family and gender; civil war radicalism; popular literature and culture; slavery

#### Research activities:

Article on children and the courts, 1674-1750, forthcoming in *Continuity and Change* (late 2024); article on the life experiences of the blind (forthcoming in *The Seventeenth Century*, late 2024 or 2025); essay on the Van Herring pamphlets, an extended political allegory linked to the Popish Plot alarm, completed and to be published in a volume on the wreck of the Gloucester, ed. Clare Jowitt, linked to

the Gloucester exhibition at Norwich; essay on James Frese, Anglo-Russian merchant and radical law campaigner, completed and to be published in a volume commemorating the half-centenary of Christopher Hill's *World Turned Upside Down* (?2025). Conference paper on Richard Gough's Myddle, Parish History conference, Warwick.

### **Publications**

Article: Disentangling Eben-ezer: William Okeley and his Barbary Captivity Narrative (*Humanities*, 13:3, 2024)

### **Impact and public engagement**

Podcast on the Fifth Monarchists, for the US-based Everyday Anarchism interview for BBC Wales website feature (on masculinity and emotion)  
report on monograph MS on the Maghreb for OUP, and for an article for a Swiss journal.



## **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

I am carrying out my research at the University of Pisa, *Dipartimento di Filologia, Letteratura e Linguistica*, as Professor in Medieval and Humanist Literature. I have worked on the project *Lo "specchio" della storia: il principe e il tiranno nella letteratura del Rinascimento, tra teoria politica e storiografia*, which has been founded by the Italian Ministry of University and Research in the Programme 'Rita Levi Montalcini'.

### **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:**

- *Printing and Politics in Italian Humanism: Manuscript and Stop-press Corrections in the Editio Princeps of Poliziano's Coniurationis commentarium*, in *Printing and Misprinting: A Companion to Mistakes and In-House Corrections in Renaissance Europe (1450-1650)*, a cura di Geri Della Rocca de Candal, Anthony Grafton, Paolo Sachet, Oxford, Oxford University Press, 2023, pp. 112-129 (ISBN: 978-0-19-886304-5).
- *Conflict and Reconciliation in Italian Renaissance Conspiracies: Literary Sources and Political Perspectives*, in *Management and Resolution of Conflict and Rivalries in Renaissance Europe*, a cura di Jill Krave, David Lines, Marc Laureys, Göttingen, Brill | V&R unipress and Bonn University Press, 2023, pp. 11-36 (ISBN 978-3-8471-0628-9).
- *Condemning Political Dissent and Anti-Princely Views in Fifteenth-century Milanese Literature*, in *True Warriors? Negotiating Dissent in the Intellectual Debate (C. 1100–1700)*, a cura di Fabio Della Schiava, Wim Decock, Wouter Druwé, Wim Francois, 'LECTIO. Studies in the Transmission of Texts & Ideas', vol. 15, Turnhout, Brepols, 2023, pp. 177-214 (ISBN 978-2-503-60763-4).

- *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*, a cura di Marta Celati e Maria Pavlova, Oxford, Peter Lang, 2024 (ISBN 978-1-80079-591-4) [in press].
- *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*, a cura di Marta Celati e Maria Pavlova, Oxford, Peter Lang, 2024 (ISBN 978-1-80079-591-4) [in press].
- *L'ultimo Poliziano politico: lettere e orazioni, tra rievocazione letteraria, scrittura diplomatica e autocitazione*, «Parole rubate», 29 (2024), [in press]
- *La felicitas nella definizione umanistica del potere principesco: Filelfo Francesco e l'Oratio parentalis de divi Francisci Sphortiae Mediolanensium ducis felicitate*, «Bollettino di italianistica», 21 (2024), [in press].

#### **Impact and public engagement: Conference papers and panel organization:**

- Organization of the panel *The Reuse of the Past(s) in Italian Early Renaissance Literature: Models, Approaches, Perspectives*, Conference of the "Society for Renaissance Studies", *Difficult Pasts*, Liverpool, 19-22 July 2023.
- Paper: *The Revival of Ancient Past(s) and the Renaissance Image of Papal Power: Literary Sources on Nicholas V's pontificate*, Conference of the "Society for Renaissance Studies", *Difficult Pasts*, Liverpool, 19-22 July 2023.
- Paper: *Il principe e lo stato: la teoria politica della teoria del potere monarchico nel 'De maiestate' di Giuniano Maio*. International Conference: "Al crocevia del Mediterraneo. La Monarchia umanistica aragonese nel contesto ideologico e culturale del Rinascimento", Napoli, Università L'Orientale, 22-24 November 2023.
- Book presentation: Marta Celati, *Conspiracy Literature in Early Renaissance Italy: Historiography and Princely Ideology*, Conference of the "International Machiavelli Society", Roma, Campidoglio - Università Roma Tre, 13-16 December 2023.
- Seminar: *Giovanni Filippo De Lignamine e l'edizione della 'Vita et laudes Ferdinandi regis' (1472): l'umanista-tipografo tra Roma e Napoli*. Seminario di Filologia "Giuliano Tanturli", Università di Firenze, 29 January 2024.
- Paper: *Happiness and Unhappiness: The Reversed Political in Poggio Bracciolini's De infelicitate principum*, AATI International Conference, Università per Stranieri di Perugia, 21-22 June 2024.

#### **Other: Teaching:**

I have taught the following two modules (80 hours) in the II semester (February-May 2024) of the academic year 2022-2023 at the University of Pisa:

- Medieval and Humanist Philology: "Humanist historiography, between literary narrative and political models" (for the Post-graduate courses of "Italianistica", Department of "Filologia Letteratura e Linguistica")
- Medieval and Humanist Philology: "Humanist political thought between literature and art" (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 this period under review (Sept. 2023 – June 2024), I have been working at the Department of Modern Literatures and Cultures of the La Sapienza University in Rome, as a postdoctoral research fellow for the project ‘Latin translations of Italian poetry (1300-1700)’, led by Prof. Francesco Luciola.

The project aims to offer the first systematic survey and comprehensive analysis of the Latin translations of Italian literary texts preserved in both manuscripts and printed books of poetry, which were produced between the 15th and the 18th centuries. Through an in-depth study of this material, the project aims to understand the role that these Neo-Latin translations played in spreading knowledge of Italian works and authors across the whole European continent and in developing a shared European culture. While collaborating to this research project, I was involved in the creation of a catalogue of data about Neo-Latin translations of Italian literary texts produced between the Middle Ages and the Modern era.

One of the academic outcomes of the project was a conference, which I co-organised with Prof. Francesco Luciola. This event – “TransLATINg. Testi letterari italiani in traduzione Latina” – took place in Rome at La Sapienza University, on 18-19 Jan. 2024, and involved ten speakers.

During the current academic year, I also taught a class, “Italian Literature in the Middle Ages” at the Department for Linguistic and Literary Studies of the University of Padua (Italy). This class is an undergraduate module, for which I had full responsibility.

During the period under review, I delivered the following papers:

- ‘Petrarca in latino’, Rome, Sapienza University, Conference ‘TransLATINg. Testi letterari italiani in traduzione latina’ (18-19 Jan. 2024);
- ‘Translations and Adaptations of Petrarch’s Poems in Girolamo Cicala’s *Carmina* (1649)’, Berlin, Freie University, Conference ‘Petrarchism: Competing Models for Early Modern Community Building (1400–1700)’ (9-10 Nov. 2023);
- ‘Dutch-Portuguese conflicts in colonial Brazil through the lens of Franciscus Plante’s *Mauritias* (1647)’, Rome, Sapienza University, Conference ‘Clashes, Contacts and Contaminations. How the Portuguese and the Dutch Met (in) the World’ (10 Oct. 2023);
- ‘Strutture interne e linee tematiche nelle odi di Fulvio Testi’, Padua, Università degli Studi di Padova, Conference ‘L’ode in Italia: libri, forme, tradizioni da Filelfo a Testi’ (26-27 Sep. 2023).

### Publications:

#### Journal Article:

- “Non sarà in tutto il don vile e selvaggio”. Poesia d’encomio per nascite e guarigioni alla corte dei Farnese’, *Annali della Scuola Normale Superiore, Classe di Lettere e Filosofia*, 16.1 (2024), 54-78

#### Book Chapters:

- “La nascita del sentimento amoroso di Petrarca al vaglio degli esegeti rinascimentale: l’innamoramento tra necessità, scelta, colpa e “translatione del mancamento”, in “*Nel dolce tempo de la prima etade*”: *Petrarchismo e affetti fra Quattro e Cinquecento*, ed. by Bernhard Huss ad Nicolas Longinotti (Florence,

Cesati, 2023), pp. 87-105

- ‘Architetture compositive e fonti classiche nelle Odi di Bernardo Tasso’, in *Bernardo Tasso gentiluomo del Rinascimento*, ed. by Massimo Castellozzi, Giovanni Ferroni, and Franco Tomasi (Geneva: Droz, 2023), pp. 347-375

Book review:

- Giovanni della Casa, *Poesie italiane e latine. Capitoli, Rime piacevoli, Rime, Carmina*, a cura di Marco Leone, Quinto Marini, Matteo Navone e Massimo Scorsone (Florence: Società editrice Fiorentina, 2022) in *La Rassegna della Letteratura Italiana*, 127.1 (Jul.-Dec. 2023), pp. 314-315



### Dr JONATHAN DAVIES (History)

**Research interests:**

The folklore of Europe (including the British Isles) from prehistory to the present. Violence in early modern Europe (including the British Isles), especially its literary representations.

**Research activities:**

I am currently researching and writing an article on insults in early modern Italy. My project focuses on two of the longest and most detailed discussions of insults written during the early modern period: Camillo Baldi's *Delle mentite e offese di parole* (Bologna, 1623) and his *Delle considerationi e dubitationi sopra la materia delle mentite e offese di parole, Libri due* (Venice, 1634). Using the form of the novella, Baldi discusses in detail over a hundred scenarios with urban and rural settings across the Italian states. His aim is to establish whether insults have been made physically and/or verbally. His books became the standard works on insults and they were referenced in works on duelling (the *scienza cavalleresca*) across Europe until the eighteenth century. However, despite their richness, they have been ignored almost entirely by modern scholarship. This project analyses the subjects which Baldi raises. It identifies patterns in the topics discussed. It sets the works in the contexts of both contemporary society and the *scienza cavalleresca*. To do this, it applies recent methodologies in the study of insults such as class, gender, and linguistic analysis.

**Publications:**

“Il governo delle università in Toscana dalle repubbliche al principato” in Carla Frova and Stefania Zucchini, eds, *La tradizione degli studia comunali nelle città di età moderna* (Florence: Leo S. Olschki, 2023), 1-



### Professor INGRID DE SMET (French)

**Research interests:**

sixteenth- and seventeenth-century intellectual culture; Renaissance and Early Modern France, the Low Countries, Italy; Neo-Latin Studies

**Research activities:**

In 2023-24, my research continued to revolve around two strands: ‘Outwitting Nature: Humans, Nature

and Technology' and 'Humanists and their Books'. Following on from a three-month stay at Villa I Tatti as Robert Lehmann Visiting Professor (April-June 2023), I benefited from study leave for two terms in 2023-24, to continue work on my monograph project on locks, keys and seals as instruments of secrecy. I presented three conference papers and a keynote lecture (Festvortrag), all on different topics, as detailed below. I continued working on a multi-authored volume on Neo-Latin occasional poetry (with Prof. Marc Laureys, Bonn); and started collaborating with the *Bibliothèque nationale du Luxembourg*. I continued to provide research leadership by co-supervising 7 research students (1 of whom successfully passed their viva); mentoring a Leverhulme Early Career Fellowship and supporting a further application (not successful); peer reviewing for publishers (OUP, Bloomsbury) and national and international research funding organisations.

#### **Papers given:**

- 'Angling for Style. Simon Ford's *Piscatio*' (invited speaker at the Oxford-Aarhus Workshop on 'Reference, Reception, and Early Modern Latin Developments', Corpus Christi College, Oxford, 25 September 2023);
- 'Pondlife: Three Neo-Latin Authors on Fishponds (Janus Dubravius, Jacques Vanière, and François-Xavier Champion' (part of a session on 'Water and Humans in Early Modern Europe: Explaining, Transforming, and Managing Nature', which I co-organised with Dr Ovanes Akopyan [Ca' Foscari University] at the RSA Annual Meeting in Chicago, March 2024);
- 'Entre savoir et savoir-faire: *La Chasse royale de Charles IX*' (paper given as a substitute speaker at 'Revisiting the Death of Charles IX and its Aftermath: Continuity and Change in French Politics, Society, and Culture, c.1574-1584', a workshop organised by Christian Martens [CSR] and me at the Maison Française d'Oxford, 15 May 2024, with the support of the Swiss National Foundation for Science and a keynote address by Mark Greengrass [Sheffield]);
- 'Ac tu, bibliotheca, iam valet': Concepts of Libraries and Book-Collecting in Neo-Latin Poetry from the Renaissance to the late Seventeenth Century' (Festvortrag at the workshop on 'Lesende Dichter, Dichtende Leser: Bücher in Neulateinischen Gedichten' (organised by Dr Irina Tautschnig [Bonn] and Assoc. Prof. Christoph Pieper [Leiden], in honour of Prof. Marc Laureys, 27 June 2024 [postponed from January 2024]) – to be repeated as a STVDIO seminar, 8 October 2024.

#### **Publications:**

- 'Translating Neo-Latin Texts for Contemporary Audiences: Some Methodological Reflections', in '*Quicquid laborum suscipiebat, amore studiorum suscipiebat*': A Collection of Neo-Latin Essays Dedicated to the Memory of Dr Jeannine De Landtsheer (1954-2021), ed. by Dirk Sacré, Aline Smeesters, Toon Van Houdt, and Kristi Viiding = special issue of *Humanistica Lovaniensia*, 71.2 (2023), 451-86

#### **Impact and public engagement:**

I collaborate with the Bibliothèque nationale du Luxembourg (BnL) on VLLUX (Verfasserlexikon der Luxemburger Autoren 1500-1814), a project commissioning bio-biographical articles on authors from, or with strong ties to, the pre-modern Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg. The project team consists of Dr. Claude D. Conter (literary historian [Germanistik], and Head of the BnL), Prof. Dr. Luc Deitz (Universität Trier / curator of rare books and manuscripts, BnL), myself, Prof. Dr. Michael Embach (Universität Trier / Stadtbibliothek Trier) and Prof. Dr Marc Laureys (Centre Ernst Robert Curtius, Universität Bonn), as well as Dr Tom Zhago (research assistant and project coordinator, BnL). Work is under way for 2 of the 3 projected volumes; publication is being negotiated with De Gruyter. I am the only female member on the team, and so far only one female author has emerged, Anna Pallantia, associated with the Flemish humanist Charles Utenhove the Younger, who lived in France, England,

and later as a religious exile in Cologne and other locations in Germany. As I'm already familiar with Utenhove's network, I have let myself be persuaded to write the entry on Pallantia; I have also made her the topic of my proposed paper for the two IANLS panels on female Neo-Latin writers I have successfully submitted for IANLS Aix 2025.



**Professor REBECCA EARLE (History)**

I have been working on a new project about the circulation of art from colonial Spanish America around early modern Europe, looking particularly at the role of military conflict, and capture at sea, in the movement of art. An earlier instalment on this larger project will appear in *The Art Bulletin* in June 2024 (Rebecca Earle and Susan Deans-Smith, "Spanish" Casta Paintings in Nineteenth-Century Britain', *Art Bulletin*, June 2024).



**Dr CHLOE FAIRBANKS (Honorary Research Fellow, CSR)**

**Research interests:**

Early modern literature, transculturality, ecocriticism, food history, women's writing

**Research activities:**

In the period September 2023-June 2024 I published a peer-reviewed article (DOI: 10.1080/14688417.2023.2274410) on *Henry V* which contributes a new ecocritical frame to early modern governmental policies, challenging the dominant critical paradigm of monarchs as good husbandmen. I have also had an article accepted with no revisions by *Food & History*. The article surveys early modern diet and global trade offers fresh insight into how dramatists navigated the complex tensions inherent in transcultural culinary encounters. I have recently begun researching my third article, which will focus on the instability of Englishness in Shakespeare's *Merry Wives of Windsor* and *Henry V*. In addition, I have produced a CFP for an edited collection entitled *Reading the Practical in Early Modern Literature* with a colleague at Sheffield. Aimed at Liverpool University Press, the volume seeks to recentre practical writing as a valuable form of writing, rather than simply as useful context for canonical authors. The book proposal for my first monograph, *Earth, Realm, England: National Identity and the Land in Shakespeare's English Histories*, has been approved by the series editors for OUP's Literary Geographies series. The monograph offers the first in-depth ecocritical study of Shakespeare's history plays, shedding new light on their portrayal of Englishness by positioning the land as a key force in early modern discourses of national identity. My ecocritical approach reveals that Shakespeare's histories interrogate Englishness through their juxtaposition of popular concerns with elite civil wars, two topics that are increasingly relevant today in the face of rising nationalism and the climate crisis. My project for the remainder of this summer is to finish editing and submit the manuscript for this as well as completing the above article. I have also applied for further research funding. Although ultimately unsuccessful at the final stage, my Leverhulme proposal for a project on transcultural encounters in early modern writing made it through the internal round at three of the four universities I applied to, and I have been encouraged by Coventry, whom I took it forward with, to apply through them again next year. I am also developing a public-facing collaborative project between Oxford and the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust as part of the Trust's 'The Women Who Made Shakespeare' initiative. The project, which is currently

under consideration for a DiSc development grant at Oxford, will add nuance to and illuminate Anne Hathaway Shakespeare's story in a multi-sensory, tangible way that moves beyond tropes of early modern women as wives and homemakers and illuminates Anne as a savvy businesswoman and significant player in the local community.

**Publications:**

'Minced in a charger for a Gallimaufrey': reconciling the local and the global in Shakespeare's 'Falstaff plays (Forthcoming in *Food & History*) and 2) "'Maister of the earth'? Reassessing the Monarch as Husbandman Metaphor in Shakespeare's Histories' (*Green Letters: Studies in Ecocriticism*, 2023)

**Impact and public engagement:**

In addition to the collaboration with the birthplace, I have begun planning my contribution to Warwick's Community Study Day, for which I will lead a session on 'Transcultural encounters on the early modern stage'. There is also the possibility of a project with Tess Grant and Tom Pert on *The Shoemaker's Holiday*, in collaboration with The Rose Theatre in London.



**Dr VITTORIA FALLANCA (Leverhulme Early Career Fellow, CSR)**

**Research interests:**

The 'Counter-Love' tradition; Philosophies of Love and Desire; Lyric poetry; Montaigne; Design; History of Art and Aesthetics.

**Research activities:**

- Completed my research monograph on Montaigne (*The Design of Montaigne's "Essais"*), submitted to Oxford University Press following readers' reports, June 2024.
- In the process of completing an edited volume (*Elemental Objects*) solicited by BREPOLs Publishing, with a final deadline 15 August 2024. I am co-editor and have contributed one article, on the French ceramicist Bernard Palissy.
- A special issue I have curated has been accepted by journal *SubStance*, entitled 'Early Modernity on the Edge: A Pre-History of Precarity', composed of 9 articles, due in October 2024. I am the editor of the issue, and will contribute an introduction and one article, on the concept of 'Genre Flailing' in Montaigne and contemporary academia.
- Paper proposal accepted for a panel at the Renaissance Society of America 2025 conference in Boston, entitled 'Angry Gods and Rival Lovers: The French Anterotic Tradition'.
- In the process of drafting an article, to be submitted to the journal *Paragraph*, on the practice of misreading and misappropriation. This is a comparative transhistorical piece, comparing contemporary poet Ann Carson's reading of Montaigne and the (mis)interpretations of the Anteros myth by French sixteenth-century lyric poets.

## Dr STELLA FLETCHER (Honorary Research Fellow, CSR)

### Research interests:

Cardinals, Bishops, Abbots

### Research activities:

None relevant to the Renaissance period. Circumstances have obliged me to resort to local history, including that of Benedictines in Warrington.

### Impact and public engagement

Lecture, 'How Botticellian! Uses and abuses of the Renaissance in the nineteenth century', Warrington Literary and Philosophical Society, 5 February 2024

### Other

Commission by Great Sankey Parish Council to produce material for six heritage boards.



## Dr ELIZABETH GOLDRING FRHistS (Honorary Reader, CSR)

### Research interests:

Tudor-Stuart painting and court culture

**Research activities:** I completed a draft MS of my book on Hans Holbein the Younger (provisionally entitled *Holbein: Lives, Works, Worlds*), which has now been peer-reviewed and accepted for publication by Yale/the Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art.

### Publications:

#### Articles/essays:

- (with Emma Rutherford) 'A newly discovered cabinet miniature by Nicholas Hilliard,' *The Burlington Magazine*, April 2024, pp.34-41.
- 'At Kenwood House: William Larkin', *The London Review of Books* (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:

- Review of Vanessa Wilkie's *A Woman of Influence: The Spectacular Rise of Alice Spencer in Tudor England* (Atria, 2023) for *The Spectator*, 1 July 2023.
- Reviews of the exhibitions *Holbein and the Renaissance in the North* (Städel Museum, Frankfurt) and *Holbein at the Tudor Court* (Queen's Gallery, London) for *The Burlington Magazine*, February 2024.
- Review of Christina J. Faraday's *Tudor Liveliness: Vivid Art in Post-Reformation England* (Yale, 2023) for *The Burlington Magazine*, March 2024
- Review of Susan Doran's *From Tudor to Stuart* (OUP, 2024) for *The Spectator*, 1 June 2024.
  - Review of Charlotte Bolland's *Six Lives: The Stories of Henry VIII's Queens* (NPG, 2024) for *The Spectator*, 15 June 2024.
- Review of Stephen Alford's *All his Spies: The Secret World of Robert Cecil* (Allen Lane, 2024) for *Literary Review* (July 2024)

## Impact and public engagement:

### Invited lectures:

I presented a paper on Holbein and Henry VIII and participated in a roundtable discussion on new directions in the study of Tudor art as part of the 'Tudors Now!' public outreach programme at the NPG (5.vii.23). I presented a paper on Holbein and Sir Thomas More at Crosby Moran Hall for a Tudor art evening organised by the NPG (18.vii.23). Together with Dr Kate Heard, curator of *Holbein at the Tudor Court*, I participated in a Public Conversation on Holbein at the Queen's Gallery (30.xi.23).

### Television, radio, etc:

I was interviewed about Holbein and Henry VIII on location in the NPG's Tudor Gallery for the Sky Arts television documentary *Stories from the National Portrait Gallery* (released 11.vii.23). I was interviewed live about the wedding of Henry VIII and Catherine Howard for *Times Radio's* 'On This Day in History' (28.vii.23). Together with Dr Kate Heard, I recorded a podcast about Holbein, on location in the Queen's Gallery, for *Not Just the Tudors* (released 6.xii.23). Together with Emma Rutherford, I recorded two podcasts about our recent discovery of a cabinet miniature of Lady Arbella Stuart by Nicholas Hilliard, one for *Not Just the Tudors* (released 5.vi.24), the other for *Talking Tudors* (released 26.vii.24).

### Profiles in the national media:

My discovery (with Emma Rutherford) of a cabinet miniature of Lady Arbella Stuart by Nicholas Hilliard has been profiled in *The Times* (27.v.24), on [www.bbc.co.uk](http://www.bbc.co.uk) (5.vi.24), and in *Country Life* (23.vii.24).

### **Other:**

I have served as a reader for several leading academic presses and journals, including OUP, *The Art Bulletin*, *The Burlington Magazine*, and *Word and Image*. 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-); and as an Ambassador for the Lord Leycester Hospital, Warwick (2018-). In November 2023, I was elected a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries. In June 2024, I was elected to a six-year term on the Athenaeum's Works of Art Committee.



## **Dr TERESA GRANT (English and Comparative Literary Studies)**

### **Research interests:**

Early modern drama; Shakespeare's contemporaries; James Shirley; animal studies

### **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; as PI on my deferred-for-covid BA Mid-Career Fellowship on the Printing and Publishing of James Shirley's Works 1629-1659; and an essay on mice in children's books pre-1800 for the *Cambridge History of Children's Literature* (ed. Giddens, Jaques and Joy). I also accepted a commission to edit *The Fair Maid of the West* for *The Collected Works of Thomas Heywood*, ed. Barry Gaines and Grace Ioppolo (Oxford UP, 2022-).

**Publications:**

**Book:** *Apes and Monkeys on the Early Modern Stage* (Early Modern Literature in History; Palgrave, 2024), 332 pages.

**Impact and Public Engagement:**

PI of Mini-project KTP with St Mary's Collegiate Church, Warwick. Research conducted on the windows of the Beauchamp Chapel by Dr Claudia Daniotti and a short film made to disseminate the findings.

**Dr LAWRENCE GREEN (Honorary Research Fellow, CSR)****Research interests:**

Early Modern Literature; Shakespeare; Elizabethan Historical and Cultural Context.

**Research activities:**

I lead two public open access (public engagement) courses in Shakespeare Studies based in Warwick town and in Stratford-upon-Avon. Arising from courses in Stratford previously supported by the Centre for Lifelong Learning at Warwick University, these typically correspond to the 3-term University year with a different play studied each term.

My research this year has been largely confined to the delivery of Shakespeare's plays *Othello* (10 weeks), *Much Ado About Nothing* (10 weeks) and *Pericles: Prince of Tyre* (6 weeks).

Teaching is now routinely taught simultaneously on both a face-to-face basis and via Zoom in order to allow maximum participation.

**Other:**

I also give occasional lectures to local literary and cultural societies. The most recent was for the Shipston and District Literary Society on Wed. 27th March: '“They have their entrances and their exits”: Comings and Goings in Shakespeare'.

**Publications:**

I am still in the process of researching a proposal to the Renaissance English Text Society leading to the publication of a modern edition of a unique British Library MS: BL, MS Cotton, Vespasian, E.viii, fols. 169r-178r .

The poem was composed by William Camden (1551-1623) as a New Year's Gift (1st January, 1579) to Queen Elizabeth I and is generally known as his 'Partheniades'.

A new published edition of the text is both valuable and necessary, in part because it was inadvertently omitted by the General Editors from *John Nichols's The Progresses and Public Processions of Queen Elizabeth I: A New Edition of the Early Modern Sources* (Oxford University Press, 2014).

Teaching commitments have not yet allowed completion of the application and in any case a decision on the proposal would not be expected until February 2025.



## 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:

During my three months as an Honorary Research Fellow at CSR I have made progress on two spin-off projects relating directly to the epic poem that was the subject of my PhD: Antoine de Garissoles' *Adolphid* (Montauban, 1649). First, I am 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. Secondly, I have developed an article draft on Protestant martyrology which is partly based on this epic. The martyrology material will be presented at a conference in Aarhus in Denmark in September.

Alongside my work on the epic, I am starting over with fresh source material. This includes a number of Latin texts mostly authored by Antoine de Garissoles which I am only in the early stages of processing:

- A collection of academic dissertations and a letter in verse addressed to Christina of Sweden. During these three months, I have started to transcribe, edit and translate these texts, which I expect will lead to the publication of several shorter editions.
- 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- and seminar attendance:** “Carmina nunc mutanda”: confessionalizing tendencies in Neo-Latin and Greek poetry of the Reformation period’, 23-24 May 2024, at the Warburg Institute (I did not present a paper). I have also been attending two online/hybrid seminar series: one run by the Centre for Early Modern Studies at the University of Aberdeen and one by the Warwick History Department's Postdoc Club.



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

### Research interests:

Translation in early modern Britain, women translators in early modern Britain, Neo-Latin writings and translations

### Research activities:

- \*Continuation of Canadian government funded research project: “Trajectories of Translation in Early Modern Britain (1641-1660). Co-Investigator.
- \*Completion of the electronic catalogue, “Cultural Crosscurrents Catalogue of Printed Translations in Stuart and Commonwealth Britain (1641-1660).” Co-editor.
- \*Preparation of articles on Neo-Latin translations and the poet, Elizabeth Jane Weston.

### Publications:

- \*Guest co-edited double volume, *Philological Quarterly* 102 (2-3), 2023, on indirect translation in early modern Europe.
- \*Marie-Alice Belle and Brenda M. Hosington. “Indirect Translation in Early Modern Britain: Languages, Mediations, Contexts”, *Philological Quarterly* 102 (2-3), 2023.
- \*“English Women Catholic Translators” in *The Palgrave Encyclopedia of Early Modern Women’s Writing in English*, eds. Patricia Pender and Rosalind Smith, 2024. 14pp.
- \*“Two Seventeenth-Century English Women Translators of French Prose Fiction: Susan Du Verger and Judith Man” in *The Palgrave Encyclopedia of Early Modern Women’s Writing in English*, eds. Patricia Pender and Rosalind Smith, 2024. 9pp.

### Impact and public engagement:

- \*Università di Roma, Sapienza. May 3-17, 2024. “English Women Writers of the Renaissance, 1500-1660”; “Elizabeth I: A Life in Translations”; “Translation as a Socio-Cultural Bond between Italy and England”; “Italian Texts in English Dress”.
- \*Università degli Studi di Padova. May 9-10, 2024. “The Role of Translation in Forging Religious Bonds between Italy and England and thus Contributing to an English Sense of Identity”. Conference entitled “Politics of Worship pre- and post-Reformation”.
- \*“From Caxton to Corneille: Cataloguing British Translations 1473-1640”, Renaissance Society of America Annual Conference, Chicago, March 20-24, 2024.
- “Translation, Identity, and Elizabeth Jane Weston’s pose as Ovidian Exile”. June 12-21, 2024.
- Canadian Society for Renaissance Studies.



## 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:

A year of study leave allowed me to focus on my current project ‘[Messages to Posterity: Tower Capsules in the German Lands since the Late Middle Ages](#)’. With funding from the Gerda Henkel Foundation, I work towards a first comparative and long-term survey of the custom to deposit chronicles and objects in spheres located at the highest point of prominent buildings. Following library visits in London, Oxford and Berlin, I zoomed in on three regional case studies in the German lands (conducting archival research and field studies in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Vorarlberg and the Canton of Zürich), presented papers at Frankfurt a.M., Lublin & Warwick and drafted an article on how this particular form of trans-generational communication relies on concealing rather than displaying information.

Alongside, I took up a short-term fellowship at Frankfurt's Goethe University in November 2023 and researched two commissioned essays, one dedicated to spaces of wine consumption in early modern Europe and the other to how inns and taverns served as hubs of socio-political interaction in Central Europe (the latter for an exhibition catalogue to mark the quincentenary of the German Peasants' War).

#### **Publications:**

Beat Kümin, '[Beyond the Town Hall: Sites of Political Representation in Early Modern Europe](#)', in: Cédric Bréaz, Thomas Lau, Hans-Joachim Schmidt and Siegfried Weichlein (eds), *Patterns in the History of Polycentric Governance in European Cities: From Antiquity to the 21st Century* (Berlin: De Gruyter, 2024), 153-67 [open access]

#### **Impact and public engagement:**

The tower capsule project has attracted considerable media interest in Austria, Germany and Switzerland, resulting in a string of press / radio / TV features over the last few months. Illustrative examples include:

- G.Kleinhubbert, '[Das Geheimnis der Kirchturmkugeln](#)', *Der Spiegel* 5 (27/1/24)
- J. Ölz-Barnay, '[Geheime Botschaften in Turmkugeln](#)', *Vorarlberg Heute* (ORF TV, 3/4/24)
- '[Turmkugeleinlagen auf den Turmspitzen](#)', *Radio SWR2 Matinee* (10/12/23)

In May 2024, I co-hosted '[Parish Memory](#)', the Twenty-Second Warwick Symposium on Parish Research with My-Parish Fellow Miia Kuha (Jyväskylä/Finland) as a hybrid event with participants from 8 countries.



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

#### **Research interests:**

History of Renaissance philosophy, institutions, Classical reception (Aristotle, etc.), history of the book

#### **Research activities:**

In 2023–24 I have been on research leave and have spent May-June 2024 as Visiting Professor at I Tatti (Harvard's Center for Italian Renaissance Studies in Florence), while for a week in March 2024 I held a Fellowship in Italian Manuscript Studies jointly sponsored by the Schoenberg Institute for Manuscript Studies and the Center for Italian Studies, University of Pennsylvania.

During this period I have been working on the following main projects:

- an edition of statutes and other documents relevant to the University of Bologna, c. 1370–1730
- a repertory of teachers of arts and medicine in Italian universities for the period 1340–1650
- a study of the engagement with Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics* on the part of the Greek emigre Johannes Argyropoulos and his student Donato Acciaiuoli in fifteenth-century Florence

I have given a keynote lecture at a conference in Salamanca (June 2024) as well as invited papers at the Institute for Historical Research (London), University of Oxford, University of Pennsylvania, University of Milan, Bologna (Academy of Sciences), and I Tatti (Florence).

**Publications:**

- *Management and Resolution of Conflict and Rivalries in Renaissance Europe*, ed. by David A. Lines, Marc Laureys, and Jill Krayer (Göttingen–Bonn: V&R unipress and Bonn University Press, 2023), 313 pages
- ‘Managing Academic Rivalries at the University of Bologna’, in *Management and Resolution of Conflict and Rivalries in Renaissance Europe*, ed. by Jill Krayer, David A. Lines, and Marc Laureys (Göttingen–Bonn: V&R unipress and Bonn University Press, 2023), pp. 139–59.
- ‘Carlo Ghisilieri e la circolazione del libro nella Bologna del Quattrocento’, *Italia medioevale e umanistica*, 63 (2022), 259–79. (published in 2023)

**Professor PETER MARSHALL (History)****Research interests:**

Cultural and religious history; early modern Britain; Reformation

**Research activities:**

Much of the earlier part of the year has been taken up with preparing for publication my book on early modern Orkney. Alongside this, I have undertaken various research-related activities in my capacity as President (for 2023-4) of the Ecclesiastical History Society. These included revising for publication a version of my presidential address from the 2023 EHS conference, and acting as a co-editor for the volume of *Studies in Church History* dedicated to the theme (‘Margins and Peripheries’) of my term of office. I have also begun the research for my next project: a biographical study of Thomas More.

**Publications:**

**Books:** *Storm’s Edge: Life, Death and Magic in the Islands of Orkney* (London, 2024)

**Articles and Essays:** ‘Kirchenordnungen in England im 16. Jahrhundert’, in M. Beyer, M. Hauger and V. Leppin (eds), *Ausstrahlung und Widerschein: Wahrnehmung und Wirkung der Wittenberger Universität im Europa des 16. Jahrhunderts* (Leipzig, 2023), 413-32; ‘The Break with Rome and the Early Reformation’, in J. Kelly and J. McCafferty (eds), *The Oxford History of British and Irish Catholicism, Volume I* (Oxford, 2023), 12-30.

**Other Works:** ‘Catholicism at the Storm’s Edge’, *The Tablet* (20 April 2024), 6-7; ‘A World of its Own’, *BBC History Magazine* (9 May, 2024), 84-5; ‘The Northern Isles at the Southern Edge’, *History Today*, 74 (May 2024), 66-77.

**Reviews:** D. Ekserdjian, *Albrecht Dürer: Art and Autobiography* and U. Rublack, *Dürer’s Lost Masterpiece: Art and Society at the Dawn of a Global World*, in *Literary Review*, Aug. 2023, 5-6; A. Albinia, *The Britannias: An Island Quest*, in *Literary Review*, Nov. 2023, 41-2; A. Drummond, *The Dreadful History and Judgement of God on Thomas Müntzer: The Life and Times of an Early German Revolutionary*, in *Literary Review*, Mar. 2024, 15-16

**Impact and public engagement:**

In connection with the publication of *Storm’s Edge*, I have been interviewed by The Scottish Books Trust, *The Sunday Post*, *The Orcadian*, BBC Radio Orkney and *Scotland Magazine*, and given public talks at Waterstones in Aberdeen and at a launch event organised by the Orkney Heritage Society. The *Orcadian*

Bookshop in Kirkwall organized a book-signing, and I have signed further copies at Broom's Bookshop (Stromness) and Sam Reade's (Grasmere). Meanwhile, I have continued with engagement activities linked to other research interests. These include two extended interviews, for Suzannah Lipscomb's *Not Just the Tudors* podcast, on ghosts and angels, and for Russell Hogg's *Subject to Change* podcast, on my *Mother Leakey and the Bishop*, described by the host as 'the best history book I have ever read'. I was invited to contribute a blog post for Yale UP, on my award-winning *Heretics and Believers*, to mark the Press's fiftieth anniversary, and I also joined an online meeting of the Historical Association Book Club (Cambridge) to discuss the work. I gave a public lecture, drawing on my on-going research on Thomas More, at the London Charterhouse, and a talk for undergraduates, reflecting on my career, at the annual Historians' Dinner at University College, Oxford. I have spoken to sixth-formers at Huddersfield New College and at Latymer Upper in Hammersmith, an event attended by students from several neighbouring state schools.



### Dr DELIA MOLDOVAN (Honorary Research Fellow, CSR)

#### Research interests:

Renaissance and Early Modern Italy; illustrated calendars; olive tree and oil; visual and material culture; intellectual culture; book history; history of science and technology; food history; transmission of classical knowledge; popular tradition; patronage; politico-economic history and environmental thought.

#### Research activities:

In the period June 2023 – June 2024, I was a Melville J Kahn Fellow at Villa I Tatti, The Harvard Center for Italian Renaissance Studies in Florence, where I conducted research on the visual and cultural history of the olive tree and oil in sixteenth-century Tuscany.

I've become interested in the value of olive trees for environmental studies. In recent times, human-driven aridity and altered seasonal patterns have questioned the future of the olive in the Mediterranean—the same territories that, according to historian Fernand Braudel, this tree helped define. This prompted me to consider what are the major social, historical, and cultural implications of the current olive and oil industry crises in the Mediterranean. In this sense, Tuscany represents an interesting case study because the olive tree is intrinsically connected to the construction of the 'Tuscan' identity, while highly sensitive to the climatic fluctuations that affected this land already during the Early Modern period.

I have also worked on a different, but in many ways connected aspect, namely the symbiotic relationship between olive trees and grapevines, a topos encountered in both classical and post-classical works. I have done so through Andrea Alciato's emblem book, first published in 1531 in Augsburg. This allowed me to showcase how emblems, with their uniquely intertwined multimedia literacy, were able to participate and give visual expression to contemporaneous discussions in dietetics, *materia medica*, and natural history, about the complex relationships governing the vegetal world.

- I've presented 3 papers at international conferences. 'Johannes Stradanus (1523-1605). A Flemish Artist in Florence in the Age of Exploration', organised by Alessandra Baroni and Gert Jan van der Sman, NIKI, Florence (23-24 Nov. 2023); 'The Environmental Humanities: Problems and Opportunities for Renaissance Studies and Beyond', organised by Enrico Zucchi, University of

- Padova (11 Jun. 2024); Renaissance Society of America, Chicago (21 Mar. 2024).
- I have revised and copy-edited my article: “Olevum olivarum”: Stradano’s Engraving and the New Art of Olive-Oil Making in Sixteenth-Century Tuscany,’ *Renaissance Quarterly*, 77.2 (2024).
  - I have been revising my monograph ‘Illustrating the Year: The Iconography of the Calendar and its Cultural Impact in Early Modern Northern Italy’ for publication with Brepols in 2025.
  - With Samir Boumediene, I am co-writing an essay on the representation of energy in the *Nova Reperta*, to be published in a monograph on Giovanni Stradano with Brill, Leiden in the series NIKI Studies in Netherlandish-Italian Art History.
  - I have secured a Maria Skłodowska Curie EUTOPIA-SIF COFUND Postdoctoral Fellowship for my project ‘OLEUM’, Olive Cultivation and Environment in Tuscany in the Early Modern Period, hosted by the CSR, University of Warwick, with two secondment periods at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel and the Società Toscana dell’Orticultura in Florence (1 Sep. 2024 - 31 Aug. 2026).

**Publications:**

“Olevum olivarum”: Stradano’s Engraving and the New Art of Olive-Oil Making in Sixteenth-Century Tuscany,’ *Renaissance Quarterly*, 77.2 (2024). [14,500 words].

**Other:**

I have completed the Palaeography Seminar at the Medici Archive Project, Florence (3-8 June 2024).



**Dr GLORIA MOORMAN (Honorary Research Fellow, CSR)**

**Research interests:**

Book and art history; visual culture; cartography; antiquarianism and the history of archaeology; Italian Studies.

**Research activities:**

During the period under review, I continued work as postdoctoral fellow on the AHRC-project ‘Envisioning Dante: Seeing and Reading the Early Printed Page, c. 1472-c. 1630,’ which is based at Oxford and Manchester and led by Guyda Armstrong and Simon Gilson. My activities consisted of individual research on Dante’s global reception in the visual culture of the 16<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> centuries, considered from combined cartographic and colonial perspectives, and I also continued collaborative work with the Visual Geometry Group (VGG) in Oxford. The latter consisted of the application of machine learning technologies (AI software) to trace paratextual patterns in the almost complete corpus of early printed editions of Dante’s *Divina Commedia* held at the John Rylands Library in Manchester. For the ERC-project *TextDiveGlobal (Textuality and Diversity: A Literary History of Europe and its Global Connections, 1545-1661)*, led by Warren Boutcher (Queen Mary University of London), I submitted a first, revised book chapter (c. 10,000 words) on the making of Eurocentric worldviews in printed books issued in 17<sup>th</sup>-century Amsterdam.

In collaboration with colleagues Rose Byfleet (Monash University) and Rebecca Bowen (Oxford), I participated in the inaugural study day of the new research network on *Cultures of Air in the Premodern World*, held on 17 November 2023 at the **Monash Centre for Medieval and Renaissance Studies** at Palazzo Vaj in Prato, Italy. It is my firm hope to see the network thrive in the future, perhaps through collaboration with the CSR at Warwick.

During the period under review I also received a first research award (Mellon Foundation Fellowship) for my new project on ‘Catacombs, Sacred Archaeology, and the Early Printed Book: The Global Ownership of Discovery (c. 1578-1700).’ This will allow me to formally start work on this project – in the making since roughly 2017 – at the Newberry Library, Chicago, from January to May 2025. The project looks at the historical appropriation of the Jewish, Christian, and pagan catacombs (subterranean cemeteries) of the former Roman Empire: by studying their representation over time, my second book project aims to further our understanding of the global reception of cultural interconnectivity in the Mediterranean, newly revealed through the lens of book ownership.

#### ***Selection of recent conference participation***

- ‘New Worlds after the Ancients: Dante and the Cartography of Afterlife and the Americas,’ at the *Society for Italian Studies Conference*, 19 June 2024, Royal Holloway University of London.
- ‘Colonialism and the Colours of the Chigi Atlas: Some New Light on Art and Books as Diplomatic Tools (c. 1660s-1690s),’ at *Dialogues across the Alps? New perspectives on exchanges between the Low Countries and the Italian peninsula in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries*. KU Leuven, 14 June 2024.
- Chair at the *Venetian Seminar*, co-convened by Alex Bamji, Filippo De Vivo, and Mary Laven. University of Manchester, 17 May 2024.
- ‘Dante, Cartography, and the Americas: Visualizing New Worlds in Print,’ at *Renaissance Society of America Annual Conference*, Chicago, 22 March 2024.

#### **Publications:**

- *The Dutch Republic and the Lure of Monarchy* (Brepols, 2023), which I co-edited with Alessandro Metlica (Università degli Studi di Padova) and Joris Oddens (Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences), was recently reviewed in *The Burlington Magazine*, 166: 1456 (2024): ‘An indispensable addition to the literature on early modern monarchy and colonialism.’

#### Book review

- Kees Zandvliet, *De wereld van de familie Blaeu* (Zutphen: Walburg Pers, 2022), *Early Modern Low Countries* (EMLC), 8:1 (2024).

#### Scholarly contribution to artists’ book

- ‘Publishing the Future, Then and Now,’ in *Future Book(s): Sharing Ideas on Books and Art Publishing* (Amsterdam: Valiz, 2023), eds Simone Wegman, Pia Pol, and Astrid Vorstermans.

#### Forthcoming (submitted after revision):

- ‘Amsterdam, 1662: The Blaeu Atlas and the Making of Eurocentric Worldviews (1640s–1670s),’ book chapter (c. 10,000 words) for *Textuality and Diversity: A Literary History of Europe and its Global Connections* (Oxford: OUP), ed. Warren Boutcher.

#### **Impact and public engagement:**

In close collaboration with colleagues Rens Tacoma (Universiteit Leiden) and Wendelien van Welie (Universiteit van Amsterdam), I acted as guest-lecturer on the BA Course ‘Constantine and Rome’ at the Royal Netherlands Institute in Rome (KNIR). This gave me the opportunity to directly integrate my new project on ‘Catacombs, Sacred Archaeology, and the Early Printed Book (c. 1578-1700)’ into teaching.

This year, the course for the first time included a Special Collections study session during which students

engaged with early printed books and maps from the KNIR Library on 29 June 2024. Later that afternoon, all participants visited paleo-Christian catacombs along the Via Salaria in Rome, 'rediscovered' and excavated in 1578 - yet publicized very differently to say, the Domus Aurea. Together, students and lecturers continued to reflect on the ownership of 'discovery,' be it by means of *ex libris* or through the subterranean inscriptions left by (early) modern archaeologists.

On 27 January 2024, the 10<sup>th</sup> Elsevier Prize was awarded to Celine Oldenhage (Universiteit Utrecht) for her MA thesis on Protestant commemorative burial during the 17<sup>th</sup> century. As first laureate (2014), at this occasion I was interviewed about past and future steps in my "career". I spoke about plans for catacomb research and the use of AI software, and I stressed that my PhD at the CSR, supervised by David Lines and Ingrid De Smet, has been crucial to my professional (and personal) development.



### **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; print culture; 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 special focus on queer YA fiction.

I am in the final stages of a small, institutionally supported project on the use of prayer during the reign of Elizabeth I that will be published in an edited collection in Palgrave Macmillan's 'Queenship and Power' series, probably in 2026. I also continue to serve as the Managing Editor of *The London Journal*.

I am chair of series editors for 'Monarchy, History, and Culture', a new series published by Amsterdam University Press. The series seeks to publish studies on monarchy, both individual and comparative, from the ancient world to the French Revolution, and is seeking submissions for monographs, edited collections, and translations.

#### **Publications:**

In addition to my monograph, *Elizabeth I and the Old Testament: Biblical Analogies and Providential Rule* (Arc Humanities Press, 2023), I have written chapters for edited collections on early Stuart dramatic representations of Elizabeth I and on queering Elizabeth's gender in modern films and television shows.

I have also written a chapter on reincarnation in the *Avatar: The Last Airbender* universe, and am co-editing a special issue of *The London Journal* called 'London's Past Today'.

#### **Impact and public engagement:**

I was a guest on the Royal Studies Network podcast to discuss my AUP book series (mentioned above), and was an guest for an episode about Jane Seymour on the 'Not Just the Tudors' podcast, which was released to coincide with the National Portrait Gallery's *Six Lives: The Stories of Henry VIII's Queens*



exhibition.

In addition to speaking about Deborah the Judge in early modern England at the ‘The Past is a Female Country: Ancient Women and their Reception in Medieval and Early Modern Europe’ conference at Warwick, I gave a well-attended public lecture at UCNL on American singer Taylor Swift’s feminist intertextuality in her lyrics.



### **Dr TOM PERT (Leverhulme Early Career Fellow, CSR)**

#### **Research interests:**

Early Modern Britain and Europe; Refugees; Thirty Years’ War (1618-1648).

#### **Research activities:**

Between September 2023 and June 2024, I have been largely focused on the research and writing of my monograph *The Refugee Experience during the Thirty Years’ War: Desperate Flights and Disrupted Lives* which is under contract with Bloomsbury Academic. This has involved considerable research into the memoirs and published eyewitness accounts of the conflict, as well as liaising with archives of my key case study cities of Ulm, Leipzig and Mainz. My research has also led me to look at visual depictions of refugees during the conflict, including items held at the British Museum and the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

The article I published in *War & Society* this year is a product of the research I have been conducting during this period, and will form part of one of the chapters in my monograph which addresses the wider significance of the presence and absence of refugees on the course and conduct of the Thirty Years’ War. I am currently writing a chapter examining all cited causes of refugee flights during the conflict, and assessing how factors such as age, gender, wealth, and status/occupation could influence an individual’s decision to flee their homes or to remain.

#### **Publications:**

- Thomas Pert, ‘If you make the people run away, you will starve’: the military significance of refugees during the Thirty Years’ War (1618-1648), *War & Society*, 43/3 (2024): 237-252.
- Book Review: *England and the Thirty Years’ War* by Adam Marks in *Journal of British Studies* (2024). Published online ahead of print: doi:10.1017/jbr.2024.65.

#### **Impact and public engagement:**

Between September 2023 and June 2024 I engaged in a number of impact and public engagement activities. In September 2023 I presented papers on the topic of refugees during the Thirty Years’ War at the ‘War and Society in Early Modern Europe’ conference at the University of Oxford, the German History Society annual conference, and the Centre for Renaissance and Reformation Studies conference. I also presented a paper to the History of War seminar at All Souls College, Oxford, in February 2024, and I was one of the participants in the ‘Challenging Concepts in Refugee Studies’ workshop held at the University of Gothenburg in May 2024.

I engaged in outreach activities such as giving a paper to the Bishop Tachbrook Local History Society in November 2023 and giving a talk on the military and social records of the English Civil War at the Lord Leicester Hospital in Warwick in February 2024.

I also organised the ‘Histories of Refugees and Forced Migration Workshop: War, Climate, and Natural Disasters’ event held at Warwick in March 2024 together with the EMECC and GHCC.

**Other:**

In this period I also completed the requirements to become a FHEA and I was also elected as a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society (FRHistS).



**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

**Research activities:**

I have published 2 articles and 1 book chapter in an edited collection, I also have 2 book chapters in other edited collections under review. In addition, I have organised an impact event with the Lord Leicester Hospital in Warwickshire aimed at their volunteer community. I have also developed a Collaborative Doctoral Award with Warwick Record Office on Warwickshire Identities. I have also supervised 5 PhD theses, and secured another 3 PhD students beginning October 2024.

**Publications:**

- ‘The Quaker Reception of John Locke and the Eighteenth-Century Debate Over Women’s Preaching’, *English Historical Review* (in press and proofs returned, anticipated publication June 2024).
- ‘Motherhood and Domestic Authority in British and Colonial Quakerism, c.1650–1775’, *Journal of Early Modern History*, Special Issue: ‘Globalising Protestantism 1500–1800’, edited by Patrick Seamus McGhee and Kat Hill, vol. 28: issue 1-2 (2024), 118-143: doi: <https://doi.org/10.1163/15700658-bja10079> ;
- ‘Friends without Friends: Exile and Excommunication from Early Quakerism, c.1660-1800’, in Adrianna Bakos and Linda Levy Peck (eds), *Women in Exile in Early Modern Europe and the Americas* (ISBN 978152617539) (Manchester University Press, 2024).

**Impact and public engagement**

I participated in the Future Leaders in Impact Programme (FLIP) and in January-March 2024 Coordinated and delivered six research workshops: ‘The Hidden Histories of Ordinary Men and Women in Tudor and Stuart Britain’ with the Lord Leicester and Warwickshire Records Office to equip volunteers with skills to research the early history of the Hospital's early brethren and masters. 2. May 2024 Interviewed for a Podcast ‘Born From Conflict: Quakers in the UK and North America’, for the History From the Old Brick Church Podcast.; 2024, co-authored a World Health Organisation behavioural and cultural insight policy paper on ‘The History of Loneliness: What We Know So Far’.

## **Dr ESTHER VAN RAAMSDONK (BA Postdoctoral Fellow, CSR)**

### **Research interests:**

Anglo-Dutch Relations, Biblical Translation

### **Research activities:**

Having entered the final stages of my British Academy Project, my work has focussed on completing my second monograph entitled *The State Bibles: The Politics of Anglo-Dutch Translation and Adaptation*. This is now under contract with OUP in their British Academy series. A number of key publications came out, including a special issue of a journal I have been working on, exploring digital methods on large scale data. This will be published in June of this year in the *Huntington Quarterly*. In terms of teaching, I have taught, together with Tess, a very successful English palaeography course. And I have been on maternity leave, creating a beautiful little boy.

### **Publications:**

With Yann Ryan, Ruth Ahnert, and Philip Beeley, *Network Analysis and the Early Modern Archive*, *Huntington Library Quarterly*, 86.2 (June 2024); 'The Politics of Production: English, Danish, and Dutch Bibles', in *The Literary Heritage of Anglo-Dutch Relations, c. 1050-c. 1600*, ed. by Elisabeth van Houts, Ad Putter, Moreed Arbabzadah, and Sjoerd Levelt (Oxford: British Academy Conference Proceedings/OUP, 2024): 267-290.

### **Impact and public engagement**

I have been on the BBC Free Thinking programme talking about Anglo-Dutch Connections: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m001wj1b>; at the moment, I am also consulting English Heritage on some Anglo-Dutch engineers from the seventeenth century.



## **Professor PENNY ROBERTS (History)**

### **Research interests:**

Sixteenth-century France, especially its religious wars; peace-making and violence; religious minorities and their networks; urban histories

### **Research activities:**

Conference papers: 'What a prince carries in his stockings: intimacy and death in sixteenth-century France', for the annual Society for the Study of French History conference, University of Manchester; 'Hiding the materiality of letters: the carriage and concealment of secret correspondence in sixteenth-century France', for a workshop on 'New Directions in the Materiality of Letter-Writing: from Antiquity to the Present Day', University College, Dublin; 'In the shadow of his mother and his brother? A reassessment of Charles IX's reign c.1568-74', for a workshop at the Maison Française, Oxford; 'Revisiting the Death of Charles IX and its Aftermath: Continuity and Change in French Politics, Society, and Culture, c. 1574-1584'; 'Tennis balls and toads: carrying correspondence and other material things', Sixteenth Century Studies conference, Baltimore USA

**Publications:**

'Epilogue: Violence and Order, Present and Past', for a special issue of *Global Intellectual History*, 8 (2023)

**Impact and public engagement:**

Contributor to Times Radio on the Saint Bartholomew's Day massacres

**Other:** President of the Society for the Study of French History

**Dr ROSA SALZBERG (CSR Honorary Research Fellow)****Research interests:**

History of migration and mobility, urban history, history of communication

**Research activities:**

I have been continuing my research on early modern Venice as a centre of migration, mobility and hospitality for an ongoing book project. I have also started work on editing a book entitled "Mobile Lives: Itinerant and Street Trades in Global Historical Perspective" collecting the papers from a conference I organized at Trento in June 2024, which I hope to submit for publication next year. I am also going to be co-editing a special issue on poverty and mobility in Europe 1500-1900 based on a workshop that will be held later this year.

**Publications:**

La città di carta: stampa effimera e cultura urbana nella Venezia del Rinascimento, Roma: Officina Libraria, 2023; "Towards a social history of home and migration" in Boccagni, P. (ed.), *Handbook on Home and Migration*, Cheltenham: Edward Elgar, 2023, p. 77-89.

**Impact and public engagement:**

I wrote the itinerary "City of Refuge" for the smartphone app Hidden Venice which came out last month: <https://historycityapps.org/apps/>

**Other:**

I was invited as Raymond Van Uytven visiting professor of urban history at the University of Antwerp in May 2024

**Dr MARGARET SHEWRING (Emeritus Reader in Theatre and Performance Studies & Honorary Research Fellow, CSR)****Research interests:**

Renaissance and Early Modern performances and performance spaces; festival culture and its social, economic, political and creative implications in an increasingly global perspective; celebrations, communities and performances in Coventry (late Medieval to Stuart periods). Twenty-first century theatre architecture and other performance spaces.

**Research activities:**

I have continued to develop collaborations across universities, libraries, galleries and museums through the Society for European Festivals Research (SEFR) and the 'European Festival Studies Series, 1450–1700', published by Brepols, for which I am a co-general-editor. I have been invited to contribute a section on 'Theatres' to Oxford University Press–Oxford Bibliographies Online, *Architecture, Planning and Preservation* (ongoing).

**Publications:**

Margaret Shewring, 'Confections of delight: culinary inventions, conviviality, and the fashion for banquets in sixteenth-century Europe', in Emma Herdman, Lucy Rayfield and Valerie Worth-Stylianou (eds), *The Culture of Celebration in the Renaissance: Essays in Honour of Richard Cooper* (Cambridge: Legenda, at press), pp. 91-107.

Margaret Shewring (ed.), *Theatre Buildings: a Design Guide*. New Edition (Abingdon and New York: Routledge in collaboration with the Association of British Theatre Technicians, March 2024).

**Impact and public engagement:**

I have also continued to collaborate with various organisations in Coventry (including Medieval Coventry and Historic Coventry) as I work with Mark Webb (University of Leicester) on *Celebrations, Communities and Performances: festival occasions in Coventry and the surrounding region from the fifteenth to the seventeenth centuries and their legacy*, an essay collection emerging from, but not limited to, papers given at the conference that we hosted in the Drapers' Hall at the end of the city's year as UK City of Culture (April 2022).

**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 (15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> century)

**Research activities:**

I worked intensively on my ongoing project, *Vernacular Culture and Greek Texts: from Florence to Europe*. I travelled to several libraries (Oxford, London, Florence, Verona, Venice, Rome, Milan, Turin) in order to make codicological and palaeographical descriptions of the manuscripts involved in my project. The collected data will be stored in a database built through Omeka, that is being developed with Godwin Yeboah in the Digital Humanities at Warwick. I had a two-months secondment at the University of Verona, which gave me the opportunity to travel to Italian libraries more easily. Along with the collection of material data through manuscript inspection, I have started the textual analysis of a selection of vernacular translations, and namely: the *Cyropaedia* translated by Jacopo Bracciolini; Lucian's *Calumnia* translated by Bartolomeo Fonizio; the *Ipparcus* by the pseudo-Plato translated by an anonymous author.

**Publications:**

- C. SIDERI, *Correzioni, ritocchi e 'marginalia' d'autore nella tradizione: nuove schede minime per Poggio Bracciolini*, «Studi Medievali», 65/1 (2024), pp. 191-223.
- C. SIDERI, *La tradizione manoscritta dei volgarizzamenti di testi greci a Firenze nel secondo Quattrocento: percorsi, tessere e spunti di ricerca*, in *Percorsi di filologia*. Atti delle giornate di studio (Bari, 28-30

settembre 2022), a cura di M. Berisso, S. Brambilla, C. Corfiati, A. Decaria, D. Gionta, A. Mazzucchi, C. Vela, Roma, Società dei Filologi della Letteratura Italiana, 2024 [in press]

- C. SIDERI, *Due segnalazioni per Biagio Buonaccorsi copista*, «Medioevo e Rinascimento», 38 (2024) [peer-reviewed, forthcoming]
- C. SIDERI, *Storie di libri tra Firenze e Rimini: una nuova proposta per Roberto Valturio (“De re militari”), con una nota per Poggio Bracciolini (“De miseria humanae conditionis”)*, «Rinascimento», 64 (2024), [peer-reviewed, forthcoming]
- C. SIDERI, *Vernacular Translations of Greek Texts in xvth Century Florence. Xenophon’s Cyropaedia Translated by Iacopo Bracciolini and its Manuscript Tradition: a Case Studies*, in *Nouvelles traductions et receptions indirectes de la Grèce ancienne (textes et images, 1300-1560)*, ed. par C. Gaullier-Bougassas, Turnhout, Brepols, 2024 [peer-reviewed, forthcoming]

#### **Impact and public engagement:**

I successfully submitted a proposal for organising a workshop aimed at high-school students: it will be held next year in two Italian high schools. I am currently working to organise an exhibition of manuscripts at the Biblioteca Medicea Laurenziana in Florence next year (an agreement has already been made with the director of the library Dr. Francesca Gallori). Together with other members of the CSR (Vittoria Fallanca, Thomas Pert, Floris Verhaart) I was filmed in a video made by the Research Communications and Research and Impact teams, to communicate the CRS’s research activities to a wider audience.

#### **Other:**

I co-organised an international conference, *For Cristoforo Landino: Towards the Sixth Centenary of His Birth*, 15-16 December 2023, Innsbruck, Palais Claudiana. I am currently co-organising a second one, *Guarino Veronese e la scuola. Insegnare e imparare fra Medioevo e Umanesimo*, University of Verona, 17-18 October 2024 (in which I involved another member of the CSR, Clive Letchford). I organised a panel at the Society for Italian Studies biennial conference (London, 19-21 June 2024). I gave papers at seven conferences (in the UK, France, Germany, and Italy). I obtained a grant to organise two “Trilateral Conferences” at the Villa Vigoni - Centro per il dialogo europeo (the grant is sponsored by the Villa Vigoni itself, the German DFG and the French FMSH). The first conference will be in December 2024, the second in July 2025.



### **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 was invited to deliver the paper ‘What’s in a Caption? The Problem of the ‘Workshop’ Painting’, at the International Conference ‘Artists’ Workshop Practice in the Renaissance’, held at the Dutch University Institute for Art History (NIKI) in Florence, 20-21 September 2023. Later in the summer I turned this into an essay for the proceeding of the conference, edited by Lydia Goodson and Michelle O’Malley, to be published with Brill (expected 2025). This symposium stemmed from the research group

'The Working Renaissance', whose aim is to promote research on artistic workshops in the Renaissance, of which I have been a member since its inception in 2021.

I was invited to contribute an essay for the exhibition catalogue *Rinascimento in bianco e nero. L'arte dell'incisione a Venezia (1494-1615)*. The show was held simultaneously in two different venues: the Museo del Settecento Veneziano at Ca' Rezzonico, Venice (8 March- 3 June 2024), and the Museo Civico of Bassano del Grappa (2 March-23 June 2024). It addressed the art of printmaking in Renaissance Venice from a wide-ranging perspective, displaying an unprecedented number of prints of the highest quality by the most important artists who worked in this medium between the late fifteenth and early seventeenth century. The catalogue is the first publication that examines the production of artistic prints in Renaissance Venice as a whole, and stands out as an invaluable research tool for students in this field.

I have carried on collaboration with colleagues from the Department of History of Art at Ca' Foscari University Venice and University of Ljubljana. We submitted (January 2024) an application for the Eutopia scheme 'Connected Communities', titled 'Remake, Reuse, Repurpose: Sustainable Practices in Material Culture and Conservation Studies'.

My research on Jacopo Tintoretto's *Portrait of Giovanni Grimani* has laid the foundation for the exhibition 'I ritratti di Giovanni Grimani' on view at the Museo Nazionale di Palazzo Grimani in Venice (17 April- 8 September 2024), revolving around the painting. The Museo Grimani, a national museum based in the palace owned in the sixteenth century by the sitter depicted in the painting, is considering the acquisition of the painting.

I was invited to deliver a talk on 'Active studios in the Veneto, Italy around 1600', at the Study Group 'The Decius Mus series by Peter Paul Rubens', organised by the Liechtenstein Collection, Vienna, 7-8 June 2024, in preparation for their 2027 exhibition on Rubens's *Decius Mus* series.

I co-organised with Sabine Engel (Gemäldegalerie Berlin) the International Symposium "La Maraviglia del Mondo': Leandro Bassano 1557-1622', sponsored by Fritz Thyssen Stiftung für Wissenschaftsförderung, hosted by the Centro Tedesco di Studi Veneziani and the Fondazione Giorgio Cini, Venice, 3-5 July 2024. I presented the paper 'Al servizio del cesaropapismo veneziano: *La consegna del cero* nella sala del Maggior Consiglio'. This was the first-ever symposium entirely devoted to the artist Leandro Bassano, one of Jacopo Bassano's sons, whose work is still neglected despite his successful and prolific career as a painter.

My article 'Reconsidering the *concorso* for the *Paradiso* in the Palazzo Ducale, Venice', which I submitted in summer 2023, was accepted for publication in the *Römisches Jahrbuch der Bibliotheca Hertziana*, Vol. 47 (2024), expected for September/October 2024.

### **Publications:**

Essays submitted and published in the period under review:

- 'Jacopo Tintoretto's Portrait study of Patriarch Giovanni Grimani', in Daniele Ferrara and Valeria Finocchi (eds.), *I ritratti di Giovanni Grimani*, exh. cat., Venice, Museo di Palazzo Grimani (Venice: Marsilio, 2024): 73-105
- "Titianus inventor': la bottega e la grafica dalla maturità alla tarda età del maestro", in Giovanni Maria Fara and David Landau (eds.), *Rinascimento in bianco e nero. L'arte dell'incisione a Venezia (1494-1615)*, exh. cat., Venice, Ca' Rezzonico; Bassano del Grappa, Museo Civico (Scripta, 2024): 279-290

Previously submitted essay, published in the period under review:

- 'The Meeting of Sebastiano Ziani and Alexander III in the Great Council Hall: Staging, Viewing, and Understanding the Body Politic in Late Sixteenth-Century Venice', in Giovanni Florio and Alessandro Metlica (eds.), *Contending Representations II: Entangled Republican Spaces in Early Modern Venice* (Turnhout: Brepols, 2024): 44-65 (Open access: <https://www.brepols.net/products/IS-9782503605197-1>)
- 'An Artist's Address Book: Notes on Venice's Artistic Geography', in Kristin Love Huffman (ed.), *A View of Venice: Portrait of a Renaissance City* (Duke University Press, 2024): 62-74 (<https://www.dukeupress.edu/a-view-of-venice>)
- 'Invention: Introduction', in Maria Aresin and Thomas Dalla Costa (eds.), *Venetian Disegno: New Frontiers circa 1420 to 1620* (London: Ad Ilissvm, 2023): 131-134 (<https://www.paulholberton.com/product-page/venetian-disegno-new-frontiers>)

Previously submitted book and exhibition reviews, published in the period under review:

- 'Bosch e un altro Rinascimento. Palazzo Milano, 9 novembre 2022-12 marzo 2023', *Studi Tizianeschi* 13 (2024): 122-126
- 'Charles Hope, Titian: Sources and Documents', *The Burlington Magazine* 166, no. 1450 (January 2024): 96-97

#### **Impact and public engagement:**

I continued my informal collaboration with Save Venice Inc. to inform donors about on-going restoration projects and promote funding campaigns. For them, I delivered an online lecture ('Liberty and Nobility in Palazzo Ducale: Visual Propaganda in the Room of the Four Doors', 9 April 2024) on the Sala delle Quattro Porte in the Palazzo Ducale, whose restoration has started in the early for students in the field months of 2024.

I delivered a public lecture at the Museo Civico in Belluno, titled 'Nella bottega di Tiziano: 'variazioni sul tema' nella pittura sacra' (22 March 2024), as part of series of lectures around the theme of the exhibition 'Una vaghissima Madonna in trono': Francesco Vecellio e la pala per la Pieve di Sedico (16 December 2023-1 April 2024).

The following exhibition and book reviews, submitted during the previous academic year, have been published in the period under review:

- 'Bosch e un altro Rinascimento. Palazzo Milano, 9 novembre 2022-12 marzo 2023', *Studi Tizianeschi* 13 (2024): 122-126
- 'Charles Hope, Titian: Sources and Documents', *The Burlington Magazine* 166, no. 1450 (January 2024): 96-97



**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  l  ne Vu Thanh, Bretagne Sud) a special journal issue on Accounting in missionary territory to appear in the journal *Itinerario*

I have presented the following papers:

- “The St. Saviour Monastery in Jerusalem and its Participation in Local Economic Networks (17th Century)”, paper presented within the panel “Franciscans in the Early Modern Ottoman World” at the ‘[Early Modern Ottoman Studies \(EMOS\), Conference II – Institutions, Networks, and Economic Change in the Early Modern Ottoman World](#)’, Sabanc   University, Istanbul, 28/06/2024;
- with H  l  ne Vu Thanh, “[Autour des livres de comptes en contexte missionnaire \(Palestine, Japon\)](#)”, paper presented at the seminar of the EHESS Pros  lytismes, Paris, 03/05/2024
- ‘No Global? The Global Expansion of Catholicism and the Custody of the Holy Land through Franciscan Account Books (Seventeenth Century)’, paper presented at the international conference [Accounting Practices and Religious Orders in Missionary Territories](#), Roma Tre University – Istituto Svizzero, Rome, 24-25/01/2024

### Publications:

- Felicita Tramontana, ‘Facilitating, Controlling and Excluding from Movement: Religious Orders, Organizational Networks and Mobility Infrastructure in the Early Modern Mediterranean’, *Social History* 48. 4 (2023), 397-425, <https://doi.org/10.1080/03071022.2023.2246800>. OPEN ACCESS at: [urly.it/3xazq](http://urly.it/3xazq)

### Other:

- Felicita Tramontana, ‘[HOLYLAB: a global economic organization in the early modern age. The Franciscan custody of the Holy Land through its accounting records](#)’, interview on the ERC project in the FBK Magazine, 13 March 2024
- Felicita Tramontana, ‘A Global Economic Organization in the Early Modern Period: The Custody of the Holy Land through its Account Books (1600-1800) – HOLYLAB’, *Revue Mabillon* 34 (2023), 276-87, <https://doi.org/10.1484/J.RM.5.141743>



### Dr SARA TREVISAN (Honorary Research Fellow, CSR)

#### Research interests:

Bibliography, early European books and manuscripts, palaeography, forgery investigation, Arabic books and manuscripts, book bindings

#### Research activities:

As an antiquarian bookseller at Sokol Books Ltd, I spend most of my time researching early modern rare books and manuscripts. The really interesting, quite unique discovery I made this year was a manuscript notebook identified as the only recorded substantial sample of the scholarly work of the Transylvanian

alchemist Johannes Banfihunyades (1576-1646). He is peculiar in that he spent 30 years living in London, even marrying an English lady, between the 1610s and 1640s. He was a collaborator of Sir Kenelm Digby, Arthur Dee and Elias Ashmole in their alchemical studies, and even lectured in chemistry at Gresham College. The astrological notebook that landed on my desk - completely miscatalogued by the auction house that sold it twice, and never previously recognised for what it was - was written mostly in Hungarian, with bits in English and Latin; it included a few horoscopes for English individuals, one being Dorothy Colton, whom I later discovered was Banfihunyades' wife. A comparison between our manuscript and a few lines Banfihunyades jotted down in a bible now at the Bodleian confirmed it was his work. I could not publish this finding, except on our website (<https://sokol.co.uk/stock/banfihunyades-johannes/>) in that the Hungarian historian I eventually consulted to receive a final opinion on the attribution requested to write something on it. I have recently started expanding my knowledge to the realm of Arabic books and manuscripts. I am attending a course at the Virginia Rare Book School this summer on this subject. I have also been studying Arabic since January 2023, and using this knowledge in my bibliographical research, with an increasing interest in the study and printing of Arabic in the early modern period.

### **Impact and public engagement**

My research on royal genealogies, which was the basis of my book for the British Library, was referenced in a podcast by Prof. Ryan McDermott (Uni of Pittsburgh) <https://genealogiesofmodernity.org/podcast-season-ii-ep-iii>



### **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. Alexandre is antiquarian book specialist, he was curator at the Erasmus Museum in Brussels and at the Geneva Library. Director of the Library Network and of the development of cultural establishments, Ardenne Métropole, Charleville-Mézières(F), present.

#### **Research activities:**

My current research projects are threefold:

##### Humanism

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).

##### 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

##### 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'm working on the second, which will appear in March 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 (2017-2022)*, Milan, 5 Continents, 2023, 380 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 2024.

#### **Articles**

- “Print and Humanism: Portrait of Erasmus as a Paper Oracle”, in *A Companion to Erasmus*, ed. Eric M. MacPhail, Leiden (The Renaissance Society of America, 20), 2023, p. 145-161. “The 1571 Index Expurgatorius: Erasmus Emasculated or Sublimated?”, in *Banning Books: The Antwerp Indexes of Plantin, 1569-1571*, ed. Benito Rial Costas (Facultad de Ciencias de la Documentación, Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Turnhout Brepols, *Nugae humanisticae*, 2024 (be published in autumn 2024), pp. 210-245.
- “Le visiteur à l’oeuvre. Livres et lieux de mémoire”, *A libro aperto*, Colloquium “A libro aperto: le esposizioni bibliografiche tra passato e futuro” organised by the CRELEB of the Università Cattolica and the Biblioteca Trivulziana in Milan, 22-24 September 2021, Florence, Leo S. Olschki, 2024.
- « À livre ouvert. Réflexions sur la muséographie des expositions de livres et les espaces immersifs. », in *Penser l’œuvre d’art de la création à la restauration*, Mélanges offerts à Catheline Périer-D’Ieteren à l’occasion de son quatre-vingtième anniversaire, Bruxelles, Editions Editechnart (Annales d’Histoire de l’art et archéologie, cahier d’études 12), 2024, pp. 422-429.

#### **Impact and public engagement:**

##### Lectures

- Madrid, IX International congress of SEMYR (Sociedad de estudios Medievales y Renascentistas) Key note: Alexandre Vanautgaerden, “The real portrait of Erasmus: in oil or ink?” 6/9
- Brussels, Writing in the middle of presses, Lectures on “Erasmus and the book”, Brussels, Museum of the House of Erasmus, org. Université de Liège and CNRS, 11 April 2024.
- Cologne, University of Cologne, Institut für Digital Humanities, 19/1 Museums: from the signature building to the content provider platform. Organisers : Prof. Dr. Øyvind Eide, Prof. Dr. Eleftheria Paliou.
- Colloquium in Digital Cultural Heritage.

##### Seminar

Cologne, University of Cologne, Institut für Digital Humanities, 19/1

Maps, algorithms & legal phrases.

Organisers : Prof. Dr. Øyvind Eide.

Modellierung und digitale Karten.

**Dr SARAH WOOD (English and Comparative Literary Studies)**

**Research interests:**

Medieval

**Publications:**

'Leaute and the dreamer: A mis-punctuated dialogue in Piers Plowman C.12.22-40α'. *Notes and Queries*, 70 (2023), 141-45; "'Fire without flint": Piers Plowman Z.6.71-72, 74', *Medium Aevum*, 92 (2024 for 2023), 374-85





Compiled by

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

September 2024

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