Academic Profiles of Conference Speakers

1. Cavazza, Marta, Associate Professor of the History of Science in the Facoltà di Scienze della Formazione (University of Bologna) Professor Cavazza’s research interests encompass seventeenth- and eighteenth-century Italian scientific institutions, in particular those based in Bologna, with special attention to their relations with the main European cultural centers of the age, namely the Royal Society of London and the Academy of Sciences in Paris. She also focuses on the presence of women in eighteenth-century Italian scientific institutions and the Enlightenment debate on gender, culture and society. Most of Cavazza’s published works on these topics center on Laura Bassi (1711-1778), the first woman university professor at Bologna, thanks in large part to the patronage of Benedict XIV. She is currently involved in the organization of the rich program of events for the celebration of the third centenary of Bassi’s birth.


2. Collins, Jeffrey, Prof. of Art History, Bard Graduate Center

Fellowships include Andrew W. Mellon; John Marshall Phillips; Fulbright; Rome Prize, American Academy in Rome; Gladys Krieble Delmas Grant; American Philosophical Society Sabbatical Fellowship. He specialize in 17th- and 18th-century Europe. He is researching a book on obelisks in the western imagination, and has recently been writing about a contemporary Mexican surrealist painter. But his research still focuses on 18th-century Rome, a surprisingly understudied field where he feels he can make a contribution: “On the one hand Rome remained a bastion of the old regime, but in other
ways the popes were in the vanguard with progressive and enlightened projects such as founding art museums that inspired the rest of Europe. The Papacy, of course, has changed dramatically since then and I wanted to help clarify its history.” His first book was a broad survey of papally-sponsored architecture, urbanism, painting, graphic and applied arts on the eve of the French Revolution. His new book zeroes in on the cultures of archeology and museology by following the fortunes of a group of ancient sculptures rediscovered in the 1770s and enshrined in the Hall of the Muses at the new Vatican museum. It’s an integrated study that takes material things as evidence of institutions and ideas.


3. Donato, Maria Pia, Associate Professor of Early Modern History at the University of Cagliari.

Professor Donato is the co-director of the Professions de santé et pratiques médicales research programm of the École française de Rome. She is the author of Accademie romane. Una storia sociale, 1671–1824, Naples, 2000, and, with D. Armando and M. Cattaneo, Una ‘rivoluzione’ difficile: La Repubblica Romana del 1798–1799, Rome and Pisa, 2000, as well as numerous essays on the political, social and cultural history of early modern Rome, the censorship of natural philosophy and the history of medicine. Her latest publications include ‘Les doutes de l’Inquisiteur. Philosophie naturelle, censure et théologie à l’époque moderne’, Annales E.S.S., 64, 2009; Conflicting Duties. Science, medicine and Religion in Rome 1550-1750, which she edited with J. Kraye for the Warburg Institute (London 2009), Morti improvviise. Medicina e religione nel Settecento (Rome 2010), and “Il normale, il patologico e la sezione cadaverica in età moderna”, Quaderni Storici, 136, 2011, pp. 75-98. She recently authored the entries Benedetto XIV (with E. Irace) and Scienze della natura in the Dizionario storico dell’Inquisizione, eds A. Prosperi, J. Tedeschi, V. Lavenia, Pisa 2010. She is currently working on an Atlas of Italy during the Revolutionary and Napoleonic Age and on a volume on medicine and religion from the Middle Ages to the nineteenth century.
4. Fattori, Maria Teresa, Assistant Professor of Modern History

Professor Fattori teaches "Modern History" at the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia (in the Faculty of Scienze della Formazione) and she is currently a member of the research staff of the "Fondazione per le Scienze Religiose Giovanni XXIII" of Bologna under the direction of Alberto Melloni. She earned her Ph.D. from the University of Pisa. She is a historian of Renaissance/Early Modern Italy, and her major research interests center on Italian culture and the role of the papacy in the Italian system during the XVI-XVIII centuries. Professor Fattori’s most recent books are: Le fatiche di Benedetto XIV. Origine ed evoluzione dei trattati di Prospero Lambertini, 1676-1758 (Ed. Storia e letterature, Roma 2011); with Paolo Prodi the edition of Le lettere di Benedetto XIV al marchese Paolo Magnani, 1743-1748 (Italia Sacra, Herder, Rome 2010). Professor Fattori is currently at work on a monograph dedicated to the De Synodo dioecesana of Benedict XIV, as a case study of Catholic reform in the eighteenth century. Select publications also include "Politiche sacramentali tra Vecchio e Nuovi Mondi, secoli XVI-XVIII" in Cristianesimo nella storia 31 (2010) 2; Clemente VIII e il Sacro Collegio, 1592-1605. Meccanismi istituzionali e accentramento di governo (Papste und Paspttum Bd. 33, Anton Hiersemann, Stuttgart, 2004).

5. Findlen, Paula, Ubaldo Pierotti Professor of Italian History

Professor Findlen teaches in the History Department at Stanford University where she has chaired the department and co-directed the Center for Medieval and Early Modern Studies; Program in the History and Philosophy of Science and Technology; and the Science, Technology, and Society Program. She is a historian of early science and medicine, and a historian of Renaissance/Early Modern Italy. Her research has focused on the history of museums, collecting, and material culture; natural history; and the relations between gender and knowledge. Findlen has been the recipient of numerous awards, including a Guggenheim, NEH, and American Council of Learned Societies fellowships, and invited fellowships at the Center for Advanced Studies in the Behavioral Sciences and the Getty Research Institute. Her (long-delayed) study of the Bolognese professor and physicist Laura Bassi will be completed in 2011-12. She is also finalizing another book entitled A Fragmentary Past: The Making of Museums in Late Renaissance Italy.

Select publications include (with Wendy Wassyng Roworth, and Catherine M. Sama, eds.,) Italy’s Eighteenth Century: Gender and Culture in the Age of the Grand Tour (Stanford: Stanford "Modern History"Press, 2008); (with Rebecca Messbarger, eds. and trans.) Maria Gaetana Agnesi et. al., The Contest for Knowledge: Debates about Women’s Education in Eighteenth-Century Italy (Chicago"Modern History"University of Chicago Press, 2005); (ed.) Athanasius Kircher: The Last Man Who Knew Everything (New York: Routledge, 2003); (with Pamela H. Smith, eds.,) Merchants and Marvels: Commerce, Science, and Art in Early Modern Europe (New York: Routledge, 2002); and Possessing Nature: Museums, Collecting, and Scientific Culture in Early
Modern Italy (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1994).

6. Finocchiaro, Maurice, Distinguished Professor of Philosophy (Emeritus), University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Professor Finocchiaro is a graduate of MIT (B.S., 1964) and UC Berkeley (Ph.D., 1969); specializes in, and tries to combine, logic and critical thinking, history and philosophy of science, and 20th century Italian social and political philosophy; and has received major grants, fellowships, and awards from the Guggenheim Foundation, National Science Foundation, National Endowment for the Humanities, American Council of Learned Societies, and the International Society for the Study of Argumentation. He is currently working on the Routledge Guidebook to Galileo’s Dialogue.


7. Heilbron, John, formerly Professor of History and The Vice Chancellor, University of California, Berkeley, now Honorary Fellow of Worcester College, Oxford.

Professor Heilbron’s work most relevant to the time of Benedict XIV includes studies of Francesco Bianchini, Jean-André Deluc, and the natural philosophy of the Age of Reason. His most recent articles along these lines are, respectively, “Bianchini and natural philosophy,” in Luca Ciancio and Gian Paolo Romagnani, eds., Unità del sapere molteplicità dei saperi: Francesco Bianchini (1662–1729) tra natura, storia e religione (2010); contributions to J.L.Heilbron and René Sigrist, eds., Jean-André Deluc. Historian of earth and Man (2011); and “Natural philosophy,” in Peter Harrison et al., eds., Wrestling with nature (2011). Pertinent book-length works include Electricity in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. A study of early-modern physics (1979, 1999), Weighing imponderables and other quantitative science around 1800 (1993), and The sun in the church. Cathedrals as solar observatories (1999). After an extended visit to the seventeenth century, which produced a biography of Galileo (2010), Heilbron has returned to the eighteenth and the career of Roger Boscovich, a Jesuit mathematician and poet favored by Benedict.
8. Johns, Christopher M.S., Co-Chair of Conference, Norman and Roselea Goldberg Professor of History of Art, Vanderbilt University

His work attempts to explain the public motivations for commissioning works of art in early modern Europe and to understand their role in political discourse. He has published extensively on the topic, ranging from the Stuart court of Charles I and Anthony van Dyck in the Baroque era to Antonio Canova's dealings with the Bonaparte family in the early nineteenth century. He has recently completed a book-length manuscript titled The Visual Culture of Catholic Enlightenment: Papal Art in Eighteenth-Century Rome (in submission to Penn State Press). This book examines works of art and material culture that embody an emerging Catholic ideology of social service and utility rather than the mystical traditions and more authoritarian traditions of the immediate past. Ranging from urbanism, museology, print culture and altarpiece production to liturgical vestments, reliquaries and porcelain, he sheds light on the role art played in the construction of Christian ideology as the Catholic Church attempted to engage an increasingly secular European culture on its own terms in the middle decades of the eighteenth century. He is presently completing a book to be titled "China and the Church: Chinoiserie in Global Context." He is a Fellow and Former Resident of the American Academy in Rome and has received fellowships from the Center for Advanced Study in Visual Art at the National Gallery in Washington, the Fulbright Foundation, the American Council of Learned Societies, Downing College at the University of Cambridge, the Folger Shakespeare Library and the Zentralinstitut für Kunstgeschichte in Munich.


10. Kirk, Stephanie, Assistant Professor of Spanish, Washington University

Stephanie Kirk earned her Ph.D. in Spanish and Portuguese from New York University. Her main teaching and research interests include the literature and culture of colonial Latin America and the early modern Atlantic world, with a focus on gender studies and religion. Her book, *Convent Life in Colonial Mexico: A Tale of Two Communities* was published by Florida UP in 2007. Professor Kirk is currently at work on her second monograph, *Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz and the Gender Politics of Culture in Colonial Mexico* (under contract with Ashgate Publishing), which examines Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz’s engagement with masculine institutional and ecclesiastical power in her explorations of the cultural and intellectual spheres of Mexico and the wider Iberian Atlantic world. Reading through the lens of Sor Juana’s life and work, the book analyzes the importance of the library, the printing press, the anatomy theater, Latinate culture, and spirituality to cultural life in seventeenth-century Mexico. Professor Kirk has published numerous articles and essays and is the editor of *Estudios coloniales en el siglo XXI: Nuevos itinerarios*, to be published in 2011 by the Instituto Internacional de Literatura Iberoamericana at the University of Pittsburgh. The collection, which features the work of leading scholars in colonial Latin American studies, is dedicated to exploring new issues and approaches in the field in light of recent theoretical debates and new interdisciplinary methodologies.

11. Kleutghen, Kristina, Assistant Professor of Art History, Washington University

Kristina Kleutghen earned her Ph.D. in the History of Art and Architecture from Harvard University in 2010. Her research focuses on early modern and modern Chinese art produced in response to European contact, particularly at the High Qing (1661-1799) court during China’s long eighteenth century. Her articles have appeared in *Orientations, Modern Art Asia*, and edited volumes, and in 2012 will appear in *Archives of Asian Art* and the *Palace Museum Journal*. She is currently on the cusp of completing her first book, *Imperial Illusions: Crossing Pictorial Boundaries in Eighteenth-Century China*, which rediscovers the monumental illusionistic paintings produced collaboratively by Chinese and European court painters for the Emperor Qianlong (r. 1736-1795), late imperial China’s most powerful ruler. These massive paintings, mounted on palace walls and still hidden inside the Forbidden City, not only illustrate the emperor’s most private interests and concerns, but also reflect the empire-wide period engagement with theatricality, illusionism, visuality, epistemology, and evolving pictorial aesthetics.
12. Mazzotti, Massimo, Associate Professor of History, UC–Berkeley

Professor Mazzotti teaches history of science at the University of California at Berkley, where he is also the director of the Office for History of Science and Technology (OHST). He has been a Dibner Fellow at MIT, a Ken May Fellow at the University of Toronto, and has taught in Italy and the United Kingdom. His research centers on the social and cultural history of science and technology in enlightened Europe, especially southern Europe and the Italian states. Recent and current research projects have focused on the history of mathematics, the mechanization of production technologies, the intersection of religious and scientific practices, and the role of the Catholic Church in post-Galilean science. His research is informed by broader concerns about the relation between social and cognitive order, and he is actively engaged in science studies debates. His work has appeared in international journals such as Isis, Technology and Culture, the British Journal for the History of Science, and Actes de la Recherche en Sciences Sociales. He is author of The World of Maria Gaetana Agnesi, Mathematician of God (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2007), and editor of Knowledge as Social Order: Rethinking the Sociology of Barry Barnes (Ashgate 2008), and—with Giuliano Pancaldi—of Impure Cultures: Interfacing Science, Technology, and Humanities (University of Bologna 2010).

13. Messbarger, Rebecca, Conference Organizer, Associate Professor of Italian, Washington University

Rebecca Messbarger earned her Ph.D. from the University of Chicago. She is the recipient of fellowships from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the American Philosophical Society. She is Director of Undergraduate Studies in Italian, founder and co-convener of the Eighteenth-Century Interdisciplinary Salon, and member of the Executive Board of the Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies. Her major research interests center on Italian Enlightenment culture, in particular the place and purpose of women in civic, academic and social life, and the intersection of art and science in the production of anatomical wax models during the age. She is the author of The Century of Women: The Representation of Women in Eighteenth-Century Italian Public Discourse; with Paula Findlen she edited and translated The Contest for Knowledge: Debates Over Women’s Learning in Enlightenment Italy (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2005). Messbarger’s most recent book The Lady Anatomist: The Life and Work of Anna Morandi Manzolini (University of Chicago Press, 2010), examines the details of Morandi’s remarkable life, tracing her intellectual trajectory from provincial artist to internationally renowned anatomical wax modeler for the University of Bologna’s famous medical school. Her articles have appeared in such journals as Configurations, Eighteenth-Century Studies and Studies in Eighteenth-Century Culture.

14. Paul, Carole, Lecturer of Art History, UC–Santa Barbara

Carole Paul teaches at the University of California at Santa Barbara. She is a scholar of
seventeenth- and eighteenth-century art and architecture in Italy and has received fellowships from the Kress Foundation, the American Academy in Rome, and the Getty Research Institute. Her current work concerns the history of museums and collections in the early modern period, especially in Rome, as well as the related significance of the city as an international artistic center in the age of the Grand Tour. Her various publications on these subjects include Making a Prince’s Museum: Drawings for the Late-Eighteenth-Century Redecoration of the Villa Borghese (Getty Research Institute, 2000) and the conference proceedings she co-edited with Louis Marchesano, “Viewing Antiquity: The Grand Tour, Antiquarianism, and Collecting,” Ricerche di Storia dell’arte 72 (2000). In her recent book on The Borghese Collections and the Display of Art in the Age of the Grand Tour (Ashgate, 2008), her discussion of the collections is framed by an examination of the relationship between exhibition strategies, discursive practices, and social performance as it orchestrated the experience of art for early modern viewers. The forthcoming anthology that she edited, The First Modern Museums of Art: The Birth of an Institution in 18th- and Early 19th-Century Europe (Getty Publications, 2012), studies the formative history of fifteen major institutions—from the Capitoline Museum in Rome, opened in 1734, to the Alte Pinakothek in Munich, opened in 1836—both individually and collectively. These early museums played a critical role in transforming the way people related to art—and thus the function art came to play in the modern world—as well as contributing to the newly emergent sense of public cultural space we associate with the Enlightenment. She is now writing a book on the Capitoline Museum.

15. Pomata, Gianna, Professor of History of Science, Johns Hopkins

Pomata taught for many years at the Universities of Minnesota and of Bologna prior to her appointment at Johns Hopkins. Her research interests include Renaissance and early modern European social and cultural history, with a focus on early modern medical cultures and practices (healer/patient relationship, medicine and religion, humanistic medicine). She also has a long-standing interest in women’s and gender history, the history of the body, the history of historical writing (in particular, the history of women historians). She recently completed a critical edition and translation of Oliva Sabuco’s The True Medicine, for the Series The Other Voice in Early Modern Europe. This text is one of the very few medical works published under a woman’s name in early modern Europe. She has worked on the history of epistemic categories, genres, and practices in early modern medicine, with particular attention to medical empiricism and skepticism. In several articles, she has examined medicine’s contribution to the rise of observation as an epistemic category and practice in early modern Europe. Other ongoing work includes a book project on Holy Bodies in Early Modern Medicine and Religion. Using 17th and 18th-century canonization records, this project examines how the cult of the saints’ bodies faced the scrutiny of early modern medicine and natural philosophy. More generally, it studies how new concepts and rules of evidence were developed at the intersection of early modern medicine and religion.

16. Rusconi, Roberto, Professor of Religious Studies specializing in history of Christianity, University of Rome Tre

Professor Rusconi is a specialist in the Italian religious history from the end of the middle ages to the beginning of modern times. He has published mostly on the regular orders and their pastoral activities: the preaching in the vernacular and the hearing of confessions. Many of his books and articles also concern apocalypticism, eschatology and prophecy. He is interested in the study of religious iconography.

Prof. Rusconi leads a research project of national relevance (PRIN 2006), devoted to: “Books, libraries and culture in the regular orders in modern Italy.” He served in the same function for PRIN also in 2003 and 2001. He is a member of a number of boards (Centro internazionale di studi gioachimiti, Centro interuniversitario di studi francescani, Centro interuniversitario de historia de spiritualidade, Forschungsstelle für vergleichende Ordensgeschichte) and of the direction of scientific publications (*Florensia, Rivista di storia del cristianesimo, Franciscan Studies, Franciscana, Picenum Seraphicum, Memorie Domenicane, Via Spiritus*). Prof. Rusconi is editor of *Iconographica*. He is a member of the international committee for the edition of the works of Joachim of Fiore. From November 2007 to October 2010 Professor Rusconi has been attached to the Centro interdipartimentale “Beniamino Segre” at the Accademia dei Lincei, Rome.

17. Van Kley, Dale, Professor of Religious Studies, Ohio State Univ.

Professor Vankley is a distinguished scholar and professor of Early Modern European History at Ohio State University [OSU]. His specialization is in the French Revolution and its religious origins. His studies of the history of France, and of the French Revolution, have resulted in a number of academic studies that were subsequently published in several academic books. Professor Van Kley has recently devoted more time to eighteenth century Dutch history. Van Kley is currently engaged in a book project entitled Catholic Reform in an Age of Anti-Catholic Revolution.


Missouri History Museum Panel Discussants:

Daniel Bornstein, Professor of History and Religious Studies at Washington University in Saint Louis, where he holds the Stella K. Darrow Professorship in Catholic Studies and directs the Program in Religious Studies.

A specialist in the religious culture of medieval Europe, in particular Italy, Professor Bornstein has written extensively on lay piety, popular devotional movements, religious confraternities, female sanctity, parish priests, civic religion, and other intersections of the spiritual and material worlds. He is the author of The Bianchi of 1399: Popular Devotion in Late Medieval Italy and a score of articles on the religious culture of medieval Europe, editor of Medieval Christianity (the fourth volume of the seven-volume People's History of Christianity, under the general editorship of Denis Janz), and co-editor (with Roberto Rusconi) of Women and Religion in Medieval and Renaissance Italy and (with David S. Peterson) of Florence and Beyond: Culture, Society and Politics in Renaissance Italy. His translations of medieval Italian texts include Dino Compagni’s Chronicle of Florence and Bartolomea Riccoboni, Life and Death in a Venetian Convent: The Chronicle and Necrolgy of Corpus Domini, 1395-1436. He has held fellowships from the American Philosophical Society, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the National Humanities Center, and served as a visiting professor at the University
of California, Santa Barbara, the Università degli studi di Milano, and the Central European University in Budapest. He is presently writing a book on religion, culture, and society in medieval Cortona.

**Philip Gavitt, Chair of the Department of History and Founder of the Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies at Saint Louis University.**

Professor Gavitt's broad research interests are the social, cultural and intellectual history of late medieval and early modern Italy, especially the history of childhood, gender history, history of science and medicine, and the history of poverty and charity. More specifically, he has studied the intersection of art, charity, and politics at the Medici court in sixteenth-century Florence, the intellectual milieu of Dominicans in Rome and Venice from the Renaissance up to the beginning of the Council of Trent in 1545, and the History of Medicine as revealed in the resources of the Vatican Film Library. He is the author of *Gender, Honor, and Charity in Late Renaissance Florence* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2011) and *Charity and Children in Renaissance Florence* (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 1990).

**Judith W. Mann, Curator, European Art to 1800, Saint Louis Art Museum**

Jonathan Sawday is the Walter J. Ong, S.J., Chair in the Humanities at Saint Louis University, in the Department of English.

Professor Sawday is a cultural historian, whose research is focused on the intersection between science, technology, and literature particularly (but not exclusively) in the early-modern period. He has published articles, essays, and book chapters on the visual arts (including sixteenth-century French funerary sculpture, Rembrandt, and contemporary body art); national identity in the seventeenth century; Montaigne; interiority; autobiography in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries; English Renaissance and Restoration writing (including Spenser, Milton, Descartes, Robert Burton, Hobbes, Shakespeare, Marvell, Rochester, and William Harvey); forgery; cyborgs and trans-humanism; madness; 'race' and 'scientific racism' in the Edwardian period; the failure of technology. His books include: Engines of the Imagination: Renaissance Culture and the Rise of the Machine (New York and London, 2007); (co-edited with Neil Rhodes) The Renaissance Computer: Knowledge Technology in the First Age of Print (New York and London, 2000); The Body Emblazoned: Dissection and the Human Body in Renaissance Culture (New York and London, 1995); (co-edited with Tom Healy) Literature and the English Civil War (Cambridge and New York, 1990, 2011). He has held awards and grants from the British Academy, the UK Arts and Humanities Research Council, and the British Council, and he has held fellowships at the Huntington Library and the Russian State University for the Humanities. In the UK, he is a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society, the Royal Society for the Arts, and the English Association. Currently, he is working on the idea of blanks or voids in literature, art, and culture. He is also working on an intellectual biography of Robert Burton (1577-1640), the inscrutable author of The Anatomy of Melancholy (1621), the first (and probably longest) psychoanalytic work published in English. Professor Sawday is a regular broadcaster on BBC national radio, commenting on culture and the arts, most recently (2010) writing and presenting a six-part series of radio essays commemorating the 350th anniversary of the restoration of monarchy in the kingdoms of England, Ireland, and Scotland in May 1660.

Leigh Eric Schmidt, Edward Mallinckrodt University Professor, joined the Danforth Center on Religion & Politics in 2011.

In addition to the Center, Professor Schmidt is also involved with Religious Studies, History, American Cultural Studies, and the Humanities Center. From 2009 to 2011, he served as the Charles Warren Professor of the History of Religion in America at Harvard University, and, from 1995 to 2009, he taught at Princeton University where he was the
Agate Brown and George L. Collord Professor of Religion and chair of the Department of Religion. He has held research fellowships at Stanford and Princeton and also through the National Endowment for the Humanities, the American Council of Learned Societies, and the American Philosophical Society.