

The Lester and Sally Entin Faculty of Humanities
The Zvi Yavetz School of Historical Studies

Contextualizing the Self: Creating and Recreating the First Person

An Interdisciplinary Workshop 2018 – 2019

Tuesday, November 27, 2018
16:15 – 17:45
Gilman Building, room 449

Chairman: Prof. Aviad Kleinberg

Lecture by:

Katie Lindeman

Arnold Postdoctoral Fellow (Ph.D University of Toronto)

"True Men": Hypocrisy, Heresy, and Masculinity in Medieval Dominican Texts

Beginning in the thirteenth century, inquisitors from the Dominican order devoted unprecedented zeal to prosecuting heresy, from Cathars to Judaizers, and later moriscos. While scholars have explored the reasons for this inquisitorial dedication, one fundamental psycho-social aspect largely missing from these works is gender. Through a close analysis of Dominican vocational texts, inquisition records, and accounts of inter-religious disputations I will argue that medieval conceptions of masculine authenticity in presentation, rhetoric, and action - defined Dominican inquisitional identity and ultimately structured the interfaith confrontations that divided Catholic truth from heresy in the late medieval period.

Alissa Klots

Arnold Postdoctoral Fellow (Ph.D Rutgers University)

Just Like Any Other Worker? Class and Gender in the Regulation of Domestic Service in the Early Soviet Period.

The image of the domestic servant is a powerful symbol of inequality, a manifestation of exploitation of the lower classes by the upper classes. One could assume that in the Soviet state - a self-defined classless society that praised itself for the liberation of women from household drudgery – domestic service would be altogether eliminated or at least condemned. That was not the case. Domestic service remained legal under Soviet law and salient in public discussions and cultural production during the first decades of Soviet power. The history of domestic service in the early Soviet period is a story of how the failure to address gender hierarchies undermined the efforts to eliminate class inequality.