

**T** ARTS & SCIENCES

# Marco News

**20<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY EDITION** FALL/WINTER 2021



**T** MARCO  
INSTITUTE

CELEBRATING

**20**  
YEARS

*Jousting in Circle Park, 2002*



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## MESSAGE FROM THE RIGGSBY DIRECTOR

On the occasion of its 20<sup>th</sup> year, the Marco Institute for Medieval and Renaissance Studies has a great deal to celebrate. Today alumni of the Institute's Graduate Certificate in Medieval Studies, together with those who have attended Institute's Summer Latin Program, have started to make a significant impact on scholarship. The success of Marco graduates in gaining fellowships and faculty appointments stems from the training they received at UT in paleography, medieval Latin, and the interdisciplinary range of classes offered under the umbrella of the Institute. Other evidence of Marco's vitality abounds. New faculty publications call attention to the cutting-edge research of Marco-affiliated scholars. In addition, the Medieval and Renaissance Studies major and minor continue to grow and attract engaged undergraduates. The Institute has revived its publication agenda through edited volumes featuring the scholarship presented at the annual symposia (see Recent Publications). Also, in 2022 we will launch the new series Medieval and Renaissance Studies (MARS) under the imprint of Brepols Publishers. Discussions are underway for a partnership between Marco and the Centre d'études supérieures de civilisation médiévale at the University of Poitiers. The twentieth year of Marco has been marked by the arrival of new affiliated faculty and a new, dedicated cohort of graduate students.

These exciting developments have only been possible because a group of faculty from different departments gathered at the turn of the millennium to foster interdisciplinary cooperation while also elevating instruction and scholarship in many the fields focusing upon the premodern world. Now, at a time when some of us still feel challenged by the pandemic, it is also important to recognize the accomplishments of all the members of the Marco community who have contributed to or participated in the Institute's programs over the years. I send my thanks for everything that each of you has done for Marco!

**Gregor Kalas**  
Riggsby Director

# Building Marco

The Marco Institute is not named for a person. Instead, in 2001 an interdisciplinary group of dedicated faculty, benefiting from seed funding from the UT-system President's Office, embarked upon a program called MARCO; the acronym at the time referred to Medieval and Renaissance Curriculum and Outreach. MARCO built upon UT's preexisting Medieval Studies Program, whose past faculty directors Paul Barrette and Tom Heffernan threw their support behind the project. In 2003, the National Endowment for the Humanities awarded a \$3-million challenge grant to qualify for \$600,000 in federal matching funds with annual fundraising goals that prompted the creation of a formal research center. The Marco Institute for Medieval and Renaissance Studies thus was born with research as



*Stuart and Kate Riggsby with 2016 Riggsby Lecturer Karla Mallette and past Riggsby Director Tom Burman*

a high priority, together with teaching and outreach. Institutional support from Stuart Riggsby, who served as the dean of the College of Arts and Sciences from 2002-2004, offered administrative backing for the nascent Marco Institute. He and his wife Katherine Riggsby generously offered private funds to endow the Institute's directorship, library, the annual Riggsby Lecture on Medieval Mediterranean History and Culture, and our summer program in medieval Latin.

# The Temple Court Years

Robert Bast was named as the inaugural Riggsby Director of Marco in 2006, when the Institute took up residence in a campus building called Temple Court, now replaced by a wing of the Student Union. The Institute's lounge became a home for students and faculty who gathered on Fridays for shared teatime snacks, while its classrooms hosted Marco-affiliated courses as well as the medieval Latin sight-reading group. One highlight of the Temple Court years was the Medieval and Renaissance Semester in fall 2007, featuring a loan exhibition at the McClung Museum entitled *Sacred Beauty: A Millennium of Religious Art, A.D. 600-1600*. The Boston Camerata, a prominent early-music performance group, arrived in Knoxville as artists-in-residence that semester, and five members of the Royal Shakespeare Company joined with UT students and faculty to offer three performances of *Macbeth* on campus.

From its earliest years, the Institute was vital for sponsoring symposia, providing fellowships for affiliated graduate students, and hosting lectures by visiting scholars. Professor Bast's impressive fundraising efforts secured the endowment of the Jimmy and Dee Haslam Marco Fund and additional benefactions to support fellowships, an annual symposium, and instruction in medieval Latin. The Lindsay Young Visiting Faculty Fund allowed the Institute to bring prominent scholars to campus to visit with classes and groups of students and deliver lectures along with informal colloquia. Other scholars from the region have visited Knoxville for its libraries and research facilities with support from the Lindsay Young endowment.



*"Building Blocks of France" symposium reception at Crescent Bend House & Gardens in 2010*



*Bob Bast demonstrating early medieval armor at a teacher in-service day in 2002*



*Marco graduate students Leah Giamalva, Sean Williams, and Geoff Martin enjoying Marco teatime in Temple Court*

*Temple Court exterior*





# A Tradition of Public Programs and Outreach

The Institute brings world-renowned speakers to campus, especially through its annual symposia, the Riggsby Lecture, the Lindsay Young Distinguished Visiting Senior Scholar program, as well as larger events such as the Southeastern Renaissance Conference (2012), the Medieval Academy of America annual meeting (2013), and the Southeastern Medieval Association Conference (2016). Dedicated efforts by the Institute's faculty keep medieval and early modern manuscript studies flourishing on campus through the annual Manuscript Workshop.

The Knoxville community and the Knox County School system have benefited from the outreach of Marco faculty and students over the past 20 years. Thanks to the vision of Laura Howes of the English department, who collaborated with Professor Bast in developing programs for the schools, a series of talks by UT historians, art historians, and literary scholars at Bearden Middle School and West High School offered in-service training to teachers starting in 2002. An outdoor event on UT's campus that year celebrated medieval and Renaissance culture with historical reenactments, costumes, and crafts; there was even a demonstration of jousting in Circle Park (see cover image). The participatory nature of the festival inspired a new program that commenced in 2016 under the leadership of history professor Thomas Burman, then Riggsby Director. Initially called Marco Madness and now known as Medieval Day, this free annual event for Knox County students and their families features educational (and entertaining) presentations by Marco faculty and graduate students together with crafts, early modern games, musical performances, and demonstrations on medieval arms and armor.



*Lindsay Young Distinguished Visiting Senior Scholar Elizabeth Pastan gave a public talk about Notre Dame in 2019*



*Medieval Day*





*SEMA delegates visited  
Special Collections in 2016*





# One measure of the Marco Institute's impact is through the testimonials of our graduate students and alumni:



"[I am thankful to the Marco Institute for offering] Latinity, paleography, career development, travel funding, research support... My dissertation would not look remotely the same had it not been for the support and influence of the Marco Institute and its attendant community."

**Jordan Amspacher**,  
graduate student in History



Learn more about  
Marco by visiting  
[marco.utk.edu](http://marco.utk.edu)



"Dr. Lafferty's paleography seminar is the reason I was able to walk into archives like the British Library and do effective manuscript research."

**Caitlin Branum Thrash**,  
graduate student  
in English



"One of my favorite Marco memories would be volunteering at the calligraphy station for Medieval Day 2019 and 2020. I loved teaching young students from Knox County Schools how to write with a real quill on parchment. We started with ink splotches, but succeeded in making letters by the end!"

**Alexandra Garnhart-Bushakra**,  
current postdoctoral  
lecturer who received her  
PhD in history in 2021



"The summer Latin classes are always such fun and so memorable. Also, Marco provided funding for me to attend 'Les Semaines Médiévales,' a special three-week program of lectures by international scholars and visits to historical sites, at the University of Poitiers, in France."

**Klayton Tietjen**,  
graduate student  
in Modern Foreign  
Languages and Literatures



"When I first came to UT to start my doctoral studies in 2009, people would ask me, 'Why are you going to Tennessee to study medieval history?' Now when I say that I work at UT, people say, 'Oh, you're so lucky to be part of the Marco Institute!'"

**Katie Hodges-Kluck**,  
current Marco Program  
Coordinator who received  
her PhD in history in 2015

## Riggsby Directors Past & Present



*Michael Kulikowski at UT's McClung Museum in 2009*



*Thomas Burman dressed as crop rotation at Marco Madness in 2016*



*Jay Rubenstein holding an image of the Antichrist in 2019*



*Bob Bast, Laura Howes, Gregor Kalas, and Heather Hirschfeld at the 2020 Visions of the End exhibition opening reception*



### NEW FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

**Marie Saldaña**, a designer and historian, joins Marco's affiliated faculty this year as an assistant professor of Interior Architecture. Saldaña earned an MA in archaeology at Durham University and holds an MArch and PhD in Architecture from UCLA. She is currently studying the lives and built environments of early settlers in northeastern New Spain during a period of colonization efforts that began in the late 16th century with large numbers of conversos seeking to escape from the Inquisition in Europe and central Mexico, and culminated in the mid-18th century with the civilian settlement of the Rio Grande in Texas and New Mexico. Her research asks how identities and spaces were shaped by the experience of living at the peripheries of empire, and considers the Rio Grande as an ecological, social, and historical vector that influenced ways of placemaking in the far north of New Spain.



# Marco Today

In 2011, the Institute moved across Volunteer Boulevard and into its current home on the sixth floor of Greve Hall. The Riggsby Library & Reading Room, established under the directorship of Heather Hirschfeld, and other spaces in the Institute attract students seeking a friendly place to study and collaborate. The thriving Institute today offers an undergraduate major and minor, fellowships for graduate students on campus, extensive training in medieval Latin through the Summer Latin Program and weekly sight-reading opportunities, and research and travel support for faculty and graduate students.

Although we jokingly describe the current atmosphere at the Marco Institute as post-apocalyptic, this is only half-serious. The Institute's *Visions of the End* exhibition at the McClung Museum in 2020 brought medieval and Renaissance artworks from many major museums in the northeastern United States to the Knoxville campus. This exhibition took place in conjunction with the College of Arts and Science's "Apocalypse Semester," which included dozens of themed courses and events on the Knoxville campus. Ironically, the coronavirus shuttered the exhibition and ended the "Apocalypse Semester" in March 2020. Nevertheless, the interdisciplinary conversations sparked by that semester continue to bear fruit. One positive outcome is that the symposium with same title as the exhibition successfully pivoted to a virtual event. Another is that Jason Stubblefield, former Marco Public Humanities Fellow and current doctoral candidate in history, created a virtual exhibition based upon the displays at the McClung Museum ([visionsoftheend.utk.edu](http://visionsoftheend.utk.edu)). Currently, Robert Bast and former Riggsby Director Jay Rubenstein are editing a volume for publication on the apocalyptic culture of the Middle Ages and the Renaissance that will further disseminate the ideas of the symposium, to be issued with the title *Visions of the End*.



History graduate student Jason Stubblefield at the Parker Library, Cambridge, in September 2021



Marco Summer Latin participants in 2019



English graduate students Amanda Platz and Emma Corbin studying in the Riggsby Library in fall 2021



# Looking to the Future

The Marco Institute has come far since its foundation in 2001. The past 20 years have seen the evolution of a thriving community of students and scholars with an international reputation for strong scholarship and supportive partnerships. As we look to the next 20 years, we see new opportunities for growth.

One of the Institute's purposes is to offer support for graduate students. In 2021 we piloted a summer graduate internship in the digital humanities, and we continue to look for ways to provide students with useful training. For example, the Institute has hosted a pre-doctoral Public Humanities Fellowship for the past five years; this offers important training for doctoral candidates as they embark on their careers.

Since 2017, the Marco Institute has played host to a director and a former director of the Centre d'études supérieures de civilisation médiévale at the University of Poitiers, France. During that time, Marco faculty and graduate students also have traveled to Poitiers to study and research. In 2019, the Institute received a Global Catalyst Grant from UT's Center for Global Engagement. These funds will allow Marco's director, Gregor Kalas, and associate director, Anne-Hélène Miller, to travel to France in early 2022 with the goal of formalizing a scholarly exchange program between Marco and the center in Poitiers.

Even as we build connections overseas, we also are expanding our more local partnerships. The relationships that the Institute has built with Knox County middle and high school teachers have led not only to our annual Medieval Day event and in-service presentations by members of the Marco community, but also to the adoption of a new Language Arts curriculum focused on medieval literature, first taught at Bearden High School in 2019. Looking to the future, the Marco Institute is developing a summer workshop for K-12 instructors from across the Tennessee, which will introduce teachers to texts, themes, and other resources about the medieval and early modern past in ways that push beyond the traditional English literary corpus.

Current events have highlighted how important it is to understand the past in a global context, redefining "medieval" and "Renaissance" to acknowledge that Europe was only one small part of a much larger and interconnected premodern world. UT now has scholars whose research on the late antique, medieval, and early modern eras explores not only Europe, but also the Middle East, India, China, North Africa, and the Americas. Marco works closely with UT's Middle East Studies and Judaic studies programs, and the recent establishment of Africana studies as an official UT department offers further prospects for exciting future collaborations.

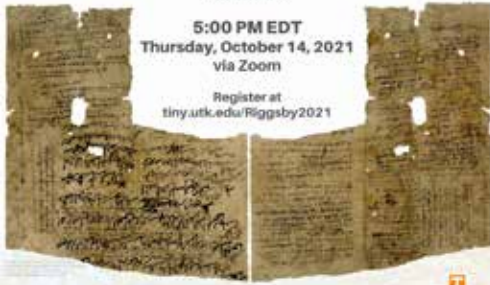


The Marco Institute for Medieval & Renaissance Studies presents the  
18th Annual Riggsby Lecture

## The India Trade, the Global Middle Ages, and the Cairo Geniza

5:00 PM EDT  
Thursday, October 14, 2021  
via Zoom

Register at  
[tiny.utk.edu/Riggsby2021](https://tiny.utk.edu/Riggsby2021)



**Marina Rustow**  
Professor of History, University of Georgia, and author of *The Cairo Geniza*  
Her latest book, *The Cairo Geniza*, is the first to explore the history of the Geniza, a vast repository of Jewish texts and documents that were preserved in the Cairo Geniza for over a thousand years.

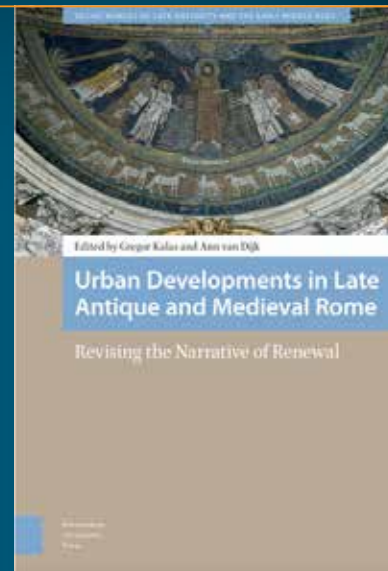
Handwritten letters, legal deeds, and financial documents preserved in the Cairo Geniza chamber, attesting to a burgeoning trade across the Islamic world, Rustow joins in the eleventh through thirteenth centuries. Together with earlier archaeological evidence linking the Indian Ocean and Mediterranean basins, the Geniza documents suggest that Egypt served as the king of a vast but segmented trade network that connected the Islamic world with China. This lecture will consider the implications of these documents and objects, and some of the pioneering discoveries of them in scholarship, for how medieval history is (and should be) taught.



## A New Marco Publication

*Urban Developments in Late Antique and Medieval Rome: Revising the Narrative of Renewal*, edited by Gregor Kalas and Ann van Dijk. Amsterdam: Amsterdam University Press, 2021. ISBN 9789462989085.

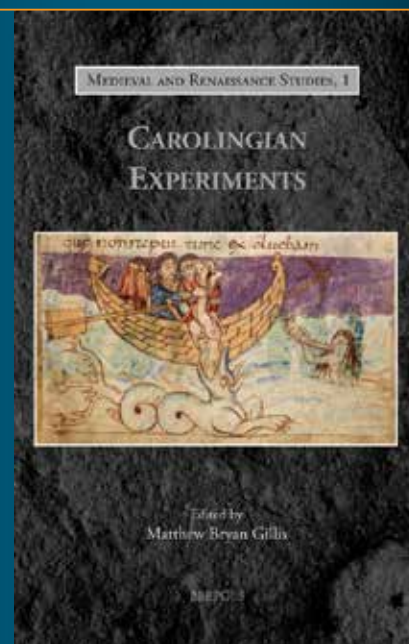
A narrative of decline punctuated by periods of renewal has long structured perceptions of Rome's late antique and medieval history. The multi-disciplinary essays in this volume, which stem from the 2016 Marco Symposium "Rome: Beyond the Discourse of Renewal," provide an alternative approach by offering rich new insights into the ways governance, literature, art, and music bolstered Rome's resilience between the fifth and eleventh centuries. There is an essay on those poets who read their works aloud throughout the fifth century in Rome's Forum of Trajan, written by Gregor Kalas. Also featured in the volume is an essay by Jacob Latham, an associate professor in the history department, with the title, "Rolling Out the Red Carpet, Roman-style: The Arrival at Rome from Constantine to Charlemagne."



## Announcing the First Volume in the MARS Series

The Marco Institute and Brepols Publishers announce the first volume in *MARS, Medieval and Renaissance Studies: Publications of the Marco Institute*. The series highlights the diversity of cultures and the exchange of ideas in the pre-modern world through a variety of thematic perspectives on the period.

We eagerly await the first volume in this series, which has been edited by Matthew Gillis in the UT history department. This volume stems from the 2017 Marco symposium. *Carolingian Experiments* presents essays exploring how the Carolingians (ca. 700-ca. 900 CE) — a regime known especially for concerns over imperial power, order, and moral correction — fostered a remarkable era of experimentation in medieval Europe. The authors whose essays are included in the volume conduct their own methodological experiments to uncover some of the many ways that people innovated within the Carolingian world. This array of scholarly experiments reveals some of the range and depth of Carolingian invention. Furthermore, the essays consider how Carolingian innovation can be found in places both more and less known today, employing novel approaches to unearth some unexpected, even uncanny phenomena. This volume consequently offers a defamiliarizing view of the Franks, unveiling them as a people whose seemingly straightforward imperialism and reform were effective precisely because they stimulated and nurtured potent, creative impulses.

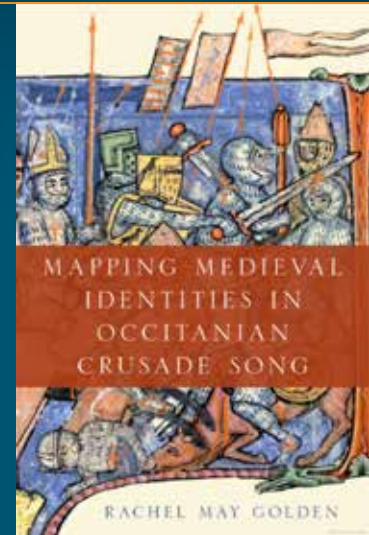




# Recent & Forthcoming Faculty Books

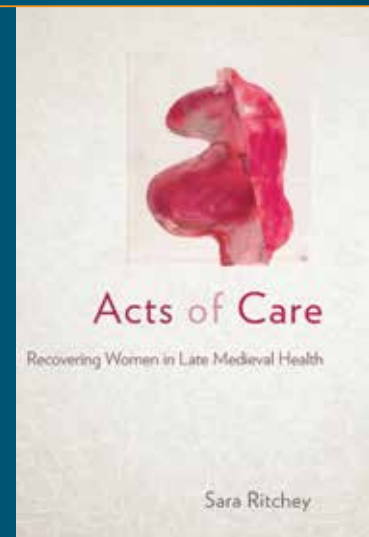
Rachel May Golden. *Mapping Medieval Identities in Occitanian Crusade Song*. Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press, 2020. ISBN 9780190948160.

The new book by Rachel May Golden, a professor of musicology in the UT School of Music, concerns the troubadours and monks of medieval Occitania whose monophonic, poetic song merged sacred genres with secular traditions. Considering how Occitanian musical production developed in response to the early Crusades, Professor Golden's book explores how the early phases of the Holy War reveal important insights into the experiences of travelers with respect to their historic reflections on the southern French homeland.



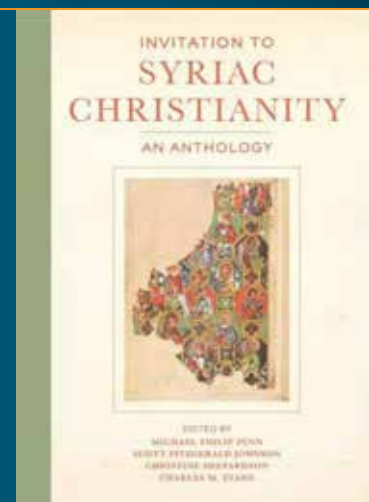
Sara Ritchey. *Acts of Care: Recovering Women in Late Medieval Health*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2021. ISBN 978150178324.

*Acts of Care* by Sara Ritchey, an associate professor in the History Department, uncovers the importance of women's contributions to late medieval medicine. Previously categorized as religious, women's activities in this realm are best categorized as medical, as Ritchey demonstrates in her analysis of blessings, indulgences, prayers, acts of penance, and the liturgical use of images. The roles of monastic women, including beguines and Cistercians, in the management of hospitals and leprosaria are uncovered in Ritchey's important new book.



*Invitation to Syriac Christianity: An Anthology*, edited by Michael Philip Penn, Scott Fitzgerald Johnson, Christine Shepardson, and Charles M. Stang. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 2022.

Christine Shepardson, Lindsay Young Professor and chair of the Department of Religious Studies at UT, is a prominent member of the team who produced the *Invitation to Syriac Christianity: An Anthology*. This volume collects and translates important texts which trace ancient Near Eastern contributions to the rich history of Syriac Christianity. The significant sources included in the anthology offer testimony to the global impact of Syria's Christian theologians. Further, the book presents documents attesting to Syria having housed critical dialogue between Christians and Muslims which emerged after the rise of Islam in the Middle East.







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**The Marco Institute for Medieval  
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# Marco News

FALL/WINTER 2021

Join Jadzia in making late antique,  
medieval, and Renaissance studies  
flourish in Tennessee!

[marco.utk.edu/giving-opportunities](https://marco.utk.edu/giving-opportunities)

Thank you for your support of the  
Marco Institute!



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