

# Marco News

FALL/WINTER 2022



*Hereford Mappa Mundi*



### MESSAGE FROM THE RIGGSBY DIRECTOR

With the academic year in full swing, it is wonderful to witness all the impressive achievements of those connected to the Marco Institute.

Currently, two Marco-affiliated faculty and two graduate students are fellows at the UT Humanities Center, making this a banner year for campus-sponsored research on the premodern world. Joining this cohort at the Humanities Center is Katie Hodges-Kluck, our former program coordinator, who is now their Communications and Marketing Coordinator, after she took this next step in her brilliant career. The creativity and intelligence that Katie brought to her Marco position has contributed to the Institute's success and it is truly a pleasure to have an opportunity to recognize her. After a national search, Ryan Goodman was hired as the Program Coordinator of the Marco Institute, bringing his intelligence and impressive experience to the position with fantastically positive results. We are also pleased to welcome three new faculty members to the Marco Institute community from three different fields: History, Classics, and Japanese. These developments attest to the overall strength of the Marco Institute and the collegiality of the Knoxville campus. We are thrilled to witness the contributions of those who work across the university to make the Marco Institute a successful interdisciplinary center.

I thus offer my sincere appreciation to the people who have helped make the Marco Institute great, whether through sharing resources, impressive scholarly work, academic achievements, and active participation in programs. Thank you for making Marco an exciting program, and we look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events!

**Gregor Kalas**  
Riggsby Director



## Looking Forward

Marco faculty and graduate students gathered to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Institute on October 30, 2021. This opportunity to toast our past achievements has also allowed us to anticipate the bright future.

A series of publications issued by the Marco Institute was spearheaded by Professor Bob Bast when he was Riggsby Director more than a dozen years ago. Now we have revived the series of volumes featuring the scholarship of Marco faculty and the guest speakers at our symposia with the publication of *Carolingian Experiments*, edited by Matthew Gillis. This is the first in the series "Interdisciplinary Studies in the Middle Ages and the Renaissance: Publications of the Marco Institute," issued by Brepols Publishers. Manuela Ceballos and Alison Vacca have worked tirelessly on another forthcoming volume, *Navigating Language*

*in the Islamic World: Multilingualism, Arabicization, and Language Change in the First Centuries of Islam*; this will be issued in 2024. Shortly thereafter will appear *Prophecy and Politics: Apocalyptic Cultures in Medieval and Renaissance Europe*, edited by Bob Bast and Jay Rubenstein.

In addition, the Institute is active in making its programs about the premodern world global in scope. With new additions to the faculty, with global manuscript scholarship now fully embraced at the annual Marco Manuscript Workshop, and with new global partnerships, the Marco Institute fully encompasses the wide premodern world. The pages to follow highlight the extraordinary achievements of a terrific group of people.

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[marco.utk.edu](http://marco.utk.edu)

## New Faculty Members

This fall, the Marco Institute was pleased to welcome three new faculty in the three different fields of premodern studies.



Duygu Yildirim

**Duygu Yildirim** is a new member of the UT Department of History and is an affiliate of the Marco Institute, after joining the campus community as an assistant professor this fall. She earned her PhD in history from Stanford University in 2021 with her dissertation, "The Age of the Perplexed: Translating Nature and Bodies between the Ottoman Empire and Europe, 1650-1730." Last year she was a Max Weber postdoctoral research fellow at the European Institute in Florence. She focuses primarily on the early modern history of the Ottoman Empire, and on the history of science and nature. Her co-edited volume, entitled *Natural Things: In and Beyond Ecologies of Knowledge*, is forthcoming in 2023 with Routledge Books. The unique volume consists of twelve essays, each based on a different natural object and shows how those objects can be used to explore "relationships among natural philosophy, science, medicine, and European colonialism to chart the expansion of natural science from 1500 to the early 1900s."



Małgorzata (Gosia) Citko-DuPlantis

We are also pleased to welcome **Małgorzata (Gosia) Citko-DuPlantis** to the university and to the Marco Institute community. She joined the Department of Modern Foreign Languages and Literatures as a specialist in medieval and early modern Japanese literature. Gosia received her PhD in Japanese literature from the Department of East Asian Languages and Literatures at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa in 2018. Since then, she was appointed as a Dean's Postdoctoral Fellow in Japanese Studies at Florida State University, a lecturer in Japanese at Texas State University, and a visiting researcher at the University of Texas at Austin. She is currently working on her book monograph *Embracing Instability: Imagining "Man'yōshū" in Medieval and Modern Japan*.

Professor Citko-DuPlantis's research interests range from the instability of knowledge and mechanisms of stabilizing lines of knowledge transmissions in premodern cultures, to depictions of premodern Japan in contemporary pop-media, representations of women in Japanese culture, Japan's intellectual history, and the digital humanities. Her newest project focuses on the archetype of a "waiting woman" (*matsu onna*) as a mode of control over the female body in Japan. Outside of her academic interests, Gosia is also interested in video games, cooking, and gardening.



Salvador Bartera

The Marco Institute is also pleased to welcome **Salvador Bartera** back to the University. Salvador grew up in Italy and was an exchange student here in Knoxville (where he says he "fell in love with the region"), then earned his PhD in classics at the University of Virginia. He then spent several years back here at the University of Tennessee as a lecturer in the Department of Classics before moving to Mississippi State University's Department of Classical and Modern Languages. He now returns to us again as an assistant professor of classics.

Salvador's main research focus is on the Roman historian Tacitus, and his current projects include finishing a commentary on Tacitus's *Annals*. Salvador's interest in Tacitus goes back to his high school days in Italy, which also led him to another interest. As he says, when you study an ancient or medieval text in Italian schools, "you also study its reception in the Middle Ages and the Renaissance." He writes, "I have always been fascinated with [...] Renaissance scholarship on Tacitus." Salvador's other main interest is cycling, both here in the city and in the mountains; "the Smokies are one of the most beautiful places in the world," he says. His wife is from the area, so he also looks forward to spending time with family, and enjoying all Knoxville has to offer in terms of food and entertainment.

## Celebrating Laura Howes

### One of the Founders of the Marco Institute

**Laura Howes**, a professor of English literature and one of the founders of the Marco Institute, is retiring from teaching at the end of 2022. We would like to take this opportunity to commend her numerous contributions to scholarship, to the campus community, and to her students. As one of her former doctoral students, Kendra Slayton (now a visiting assistant professor of Medieval Literature at Clemson) reflects, "My continued work as a scholar and teacher has very much been informed by what I learned from Professor Howes. She has been the best mentor I could have hoped for—always generous with her time, giving me advice and direction and the space to explore my own arguments. ... I will remember the delight I found in learning to read Chaucer with Professor Howes for the rest of my life and will feel lucky if I can channel half as much of that enthusiasm for my own students."

Professor Howes provided leadership in important ways to the foundation of an interdisciplinary program in Medieval Studies in the early days of MARCO or Medieval and Renaissance Curriculum and Outreach, as the Institute was originally named. Thanks to Professor Howes's commitment to outreach to the schools as well as her skills in fostering the growth of Medieval Studies on campus, she shaped the Institute significantly. In 2010-2011, Professor Howes served as Marco's Riggsby Director and she took on additional leadership roles, including organizing the annual symposium in 2011 and taking up the position of Associate Director in 2019-2020. Students know Professor Howes well for her inspired teaching. Scholars commend her for her work, including the co-editorship of *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight: A Norton Critical Edition* (2022) and *Chaucer's Gardens and the Language of Convention* (1997) in addition to her numerous other publications. It is not easy to summarize all of Professor Howes's contributions to UT, since they are substantial. We certainly treasure her thoughtfulness and her deep wisdom, and wish her the best in retirement.



Laura Howes

## Celebrating the Career of Maura Lafferty

In August 2022, the community gathered to celebrate the career of **Maura Lafferty** after her retirement over the summer.

Professor Lafferty started the program in Medieval Latin at the University of Tennessee, which was fundamental to the growth in Medieval Studies on the Knoxville campus. The contributions of Professor Lafferty to the Marco Institute have included the formation of a legendary series of seminars on codicology and paleography, offering important training to many cohorts of graduate students. Jay Rubenstein, a former Riggsby Director of the Marco Institute, wrote in with the following words of praise: "I admire immensely Professor Lafferty's humanity, her linguistic skills, and her rigor. I have been blessed with a lot of different professional opportunities in my life, but the chance to learn from Professor Lafferty is right up there near the top." In addition, Thomas Burman, another former Riggsby Director, reflected that "Professor Lafferty is remarkable for her fascination with the big questions that knowledge of Latin and paleography could open up. All this she got across vividly to our students, who came away from the paleography course with the knowledge that there are piles and piles of Latin manuscripts out there and each one has a story to tell."

It is with pride that we reflect upon Professor Lafferty's contributions to the Marco Institute over the years. It is also hard to imagine the Marco Institute without her daily presence on campus, since she was hired in 2006 as we first ushered forth the Graduate Certificate program to encourage interdisciplinary training in Medieval Studies for which she played such a leading role. She is the author of *Walter of Châtillon's "Alexandreis": Epic and the Problem of Historical Understanding* (Turnhout, 1998) and important articles in the *Journal of Early Christian Studies*, the *Journal of Medieval Latin*, and *Sacris erudiri*. We are pleased that Professor Lafferty remains in Knoxville and continues to convene the Latin sight-reading group attended not just by current faculty and students, but some of her former students and alumni as well.



Maura Lafferty



# Changes in the Marco Community



Katie Hodges-Kluck

## GOODBYE TO KATIE HODGES-KLUCK

The Marco Institute has undergone many changes this year, one of the biggest of which has been the departure of **Katie Hodges-Kluck** as the program coordinator. Katie's affiliation with Marco began as a PhD student in History in 2009, during which time she held Marco's Haslam Dissertation and Van Hook fellowships as well as serving as a GTA and the instructor of the introductory sequence in Medieval Studies. She joined the Marco Institute as program coordinator in 2016, when Tom Burman was Riggsby Director of the Marco Institute, and served in that role through the directorships of Jay Rubenstein and Gregor Kalas. In her time as program coordinator, Katie says, "I loved that my job let me work with Marco students and faculty to help spread the word about the awesome things that we medievalists and early modernists do!" Despite leaving the position of program coordinator for the Institute, she remains an alumna, an affiliated research associate, and a valued friend.

Katie has since taken up the position of communications and marketing coordinator for the University of Tennessee Humanities Center. In this role, she uses her experience as the Marco program coordinator to serve their mission of "[supporting] arts and humanities research in all of its diversity, and [advocating] for the importance of the arts and humanities today." While we were sad to lose Katie, we are also pleased to continue working with her through the Humanities Center and its ties to the Marco Institute; as she says, she is very happy to "continue being part of the vibrant Marco community in yet another capacity!"

## WELCOMING RYAN T. GOODMAN

With the departure of Katie as program coordinator, the Marco Institute is pleased to welcome **Ryan T. Goodman** to the role!

Ryan is originally from Thomasville, North Carolina, and earned his BA in History and Medieval & Renaissance Studies (2008) and MA in European History (2012) from East Carolina University. After three years as a history instructor and an academic advisor with ECU's Italy Intensives study abroad program based in Certaldo, Tuscany, he moved to the UK where he earned his PhD in Medieval History (2019) at the University of Manchester, where his dissertation was "'In a Father's Place': Anglo-Saxon Kingship and Masculinity in the Long Tenth Century."

"After being out of the academic world for a few years," he said, "I'm glad to be back in a community like the Marco Institute! I'm looking forward to working with the Marco faculty and students and contributing to the Institute's programming and events!"

In addition to Medieval Studies, Ryan has a range of other hobbies and interests ("too many!" he says!). He is an avid musician (a multi-instrumentalist who plays bluegrass, folk, Irish, and Americana, amongst other genres) and is a fan of fantasy and science-fiction literature. He is also particularly interested in tabletop miniature, role-playing, and board games, and building and painting miniatures for those games. If you haven't had a chance to meet Ryan yet, feel free to stop by the Marco Institute main office in Greve Hall to say hello!

Ryan at Conwy Castles, Wales



Michael Lovell (right), Haslam Dissertation Fellow 2021-22, presents at the UT Humanities Center's Chandler Seminar.



Thomas's dissertation research has taken him to archives all around Italy, including the Biblioteca Antoniana in Padua.



Thomas Maurer, the Marco Institute's 2022-23 Haslam Dissertation Fellow, outside the Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi.



One of Thomas's other research stops was the Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana at the Vatican.

## Haslam Dissertation Fellows

Each year, the Marco Institute offers the Jimmy and Dee Haslam Dissertation Fellowship, awarded to a graduate student at the dissertation writing stage working in a premodern field of study. The recipient is expected to devote the full academic year to research and writing to complete the doctoral dissertation, either in residence in Knoxville or while away on research-related travel. Recently, the UT Humanities Center has offered our Haslam Fellows office space in their facilities in Dunford Hall, allowing them to further take part in the intellectual community of the University more broadly, while also working on their own research and writing.

This past academic year (2021-22), our Haslam fellow was **Michael Lovell**, now a seventh-year history PhD candidate studying late antique and early medieval Gaul under the supervision of Matthew Gillis. Michael's research interests include biblical exegesis, apocalyptic thought, late antique and early medieval heresy, Frankish statecraft, Church history, late antique and early medieval theology and philosophy. His dissertation project is titled "A Dark-Age Enlightenment: Reason, Faith, and Social Intolerance in Frankish Culture, 380-754 CE." In Late Antiquity and the early Middle Ages, he argues, Christians increasingly identified themselves as holding a monopoly on rationality, while dubbing their opponents - namely pagans, Jews, and perceived heretical Christians - as untrustworthy champions of irrationality, insanity, and bestial nature. Elites in late Roman Gaul, Francia, and later Germany educated

each other and the non-elite laity from the top-down on how to live most rationally for the sake of salvation, and this particular form of Christian identity narrowed the window of acceptable thought, thus increasing the degree of violence and persecution of religious outsiders in the Frankish dominions.

This year, Michael was named a UT Humanities Center Fellow, and has continued his work research and writing to complete the dissertation while also taking part in the Center's activities, including presenting his research as part of the Chandler Seminar series.

**Thomas Maurer**, a sixth-year PhD student from the department of history, is the 2022-23 Haslam Dissertation Fellow. His research focuses on prophecies about Italian cities during the wars between Frederick II (d. 1250) and the papacy. In the course of wartime conflict, Italians established an apocalyptic identity in the face of imminent destruction at the hands of either imperial or papal forces. As part of this research, Thomas has spent time this year doing archival research in several libraries around Italy, including the Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana at the Vatican, the Biblioteca Antoniana in Padua, and the Biblioteca Nazionale Marciana in Venice, as well as having the opportunity to visit other sites including Assisi, Turin, Milan, and Modena.

**The Marco Institute for Medieval  
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