



THE NEWBERRY



The Center for Renaissance Studies promotes the use of the Newberry collection by scholars in the fields of medieval, Renaissance, and early modern studies (c. 1100 – c. 1800), making available programs that may not be feasible for individual institutions to mount alone. Founded in 1979, the center works with an international consortium of universities in North America and Europe. It offers a wide range of scholarly programs and digital and print publications using the Newberry collection, and provides a locus for a community of scholars who come from all over the world to use the library's early manuscripts, printed books, and other materials.

The Center for Renaissance Studies collaborates with the Folger Institute in Washington, DC, which also works with a consortium of universities. By a reciprocal arrangement, faculty members and graduate students from either consortium may apply for admission to the other's programs, and if they are admitted some fees may be waived. Faculty and graduate students of Center for Renaissance Studies consortium institutions are eligible to apply for travel grants to participate in programs or to do research at the Newberry Library or the Folger Shakespeare Library. Some member institutions may limit eligibility to certain departments, colleges, or other units within the university, and each member sets its own policies, limitations, and deadlines.

For medieval, Renaissance, and early modern studies, the Newberry collection is especially outstanding in six subject areas:

- early modern colonization
- history of the book
- humanism, education, and rhetoric
- maps, travel, and exploration
- music
- religion

Other strong subjects and genres include:

- French political pamphlets
- British local history and heraldry
- British political pamphlets, broadsides, and prints
- eighteenth-century periodicals, especially British and French
- languages, historical linguistics, and philology
- biographies
- works by women writers in all genres
- archival materials for Italy, Portugal, and the Spanish Empire

COURSES AND SEMINARS

Year-Long Dissertation Seminar

Gender, Power, Culture

Led by Linda Austern (Northwestern University) and Carole Levin (University of Nebraska).

Four meetings across the academic year on Fridays: Sept. 26, 2025 (Zoom); Nov. 21, 2025 In-person; Feb. 13, 2026 (Zoom); April 17, 2026 In-person.

9:30am-12:30pm Central Time

APPLICATION DEADLINE: MAY 15, 2025

This seminar provides an interdisciplinary, supportive community for graduate students in the early stages of dissertation preparation. Gender plays a critical role in understanding, displaying, and experiencing modes of power across a wide range of cultural activities ca. 1100-1700. We will analyze these from multiple disciplinary perspectives and theoretical approaches, examining many different sources to develop a range of research strategies.

Ten-week Fall Graduate Seminar

Discovery, Exploration, and Legacy: The Shifting Influence of Alexander von Humboldt in Latin America

Led by Emmanuel Ortega (University of Illinois Chicago).

Wednesdays, October 1-December 3, 2025
12:00-3:00pm Central Time

Hybrid: Virtual with some in-person meetings

APPLICATION DEADLINE: MAY 15, 2025

The renown of Prussian polymath Alexander von Humboldt was consolidated through a series of popular books describing his 1799-1804 expedition in the Americas—often described as the “second discovery” of the continent. His contributions, deeply informed by the Age of Exploration and European Enlightenment, spanned the burgeoning disciplines of physical geography, botany, meteorology, ethnology, and many others. This graduate seminar critically examines the complex relationship between the intellectual and scientific explorer and the longer construction of the Americas from 1492 to the end of the eighteenth century. Through an in-depth exploration of Newberry holdings, the seminar will challenge traditional narratives surrounding *discovery*, *exploration*, and *legacy* to recontextualize Humboldt’s overall influence. The insights gained from this seminar will play a key role in shaping an upcoming exhibition at The Newberry, offering unique and new curatorial opportunities to influence the presentation of Humboldt’s legacy.

Ten-Week Undergraduate Seminar

The World in Books: 1100-1800

Led by Lia Markey and Christopher Fletcher (Newberry Library) with guest lecturers.

Tuesdays and Thursdays, January 13-March 19, 2026
1-2:30pm Central Time

Virtual via Zoom

APPLICATION DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 1, 2025

This 10-week course will use the multidisciplinary field of book history to explore how medieval and early modern people used different media—theological texts, maps, letters, travel narratives, reference works, literature, and more—to make sense of a changing world. Through lectures, discussions, and interactive workshops with faculty from CRS consortium institutions, participants will learn how book history can illuminate the ways in which premodern people used religion, science, art, and technology to grapple with new economic, intellectual, and cultural challenges in a rapidly-expanding global community.

FALL WORKSHOPS

Beyond the Academy: A Professional Development Workshop

Led by Nedda Mehdizadeh (University of California Los Angeles).

Friday, September 5, 2025
9:30am-4:30pm Central Time

In-person at the Newberry

APPLICATION DEADLINE: MAY 15, 2025

This workshop, which sits at the intersection of theory and practice, invites participants who are eager to imagine a new academic landscape for a collective re-envisioning. Through guided activities, lively discussion, and engagement with the Newberry’s resources, participants will imagine ways to expand humanistic study into non-academic contexts. How can scholars begin to think differently about the lifespan of their academic and professional profiles? How can they leverage their existing skills and expertise within new arenas? How can they apply newfound skills into other fora?

Medieval Italian Paleography Intensive

Led by Maddalena Signorini (University of Rome, Tor Vergata).

Wednesday, September 16 and Thursday, September 17, 2025
9:30am–4:30pm Central Time

In-person at the Newberry

APPLICATION DEADLINE: MAY 15, 2025

This two-day intensive workshop introduces participants to the reading and transcription of handwritten Italian vernacular texts from the late medieval through the early modern periods. While the emphasis is on building paleographical skills, the course also offers an overview of materials and techniques and considers the history of scripts within the larger historical, literary, intellectual, and social contexts of Italy. Participants practice on a wide range of documents, including literary, personal, legal, notarial, official, and ecclesiastical works. The course allows participants to work with manuscripts, letters, diaries, and other primary source materials from the Newberry Library. The course is taught in Italian and co-sponsored by the American Boccaccio Association.

Indigenous Narrations of the Sacred and Premodern Studies

Led by Blaire Morseau (Michigan State University).

Friday, November 7, 2025
9:30 am–4:30pm Central Time

In-person at the Newberry

APPLICATION DEADLINE: MAY 15, 2025

This workshop centers Indigenous (specifically Anishinaabe) understandings of stories—often called myths, legends, or prophecies—in order to help medievalists and early modernists appreciate the forms, functions, science, and layers of significance within Great Lakes Native oral traditions. In exploring how Indigenous storytelling makes meaning through a combination of the real and unreal, participants will gain a better understanding of how storytelling as an approach can offer new perspectives on medieval and early modern culture and create new opportunities for effectively engaging diverse audiences today.

Global Enlightenment

Led by Karin Friedrich and Michael Brown (University of Aberdeen).

Friday, December 5, 2025
9:30am–4:30pm Central Time

In-person at the Newberry

APPLICATION DEADLINE: MAY 15, 2025

What becomes possible when we see the Enlightenment from a global perspective? Part of a larger collaborative effort to de-center Europe in Enlightenment studies, this workshop will explore how European models of ‘modernity’ were exported, appropriated or resisted by communities in Africa, Asia, and the Americas. Through discussions and hands-on workshops with Newberry materials, participants will consider how these interactions outside Europe created multiple distinct global Enlightenments that both challenge and expand our understanding of the development and significance of Enlightenment studies today.

SPRING WORKSHOPS

Premodern Women and the Digital: A Hands-on Workshop

Led by Kathy Krause (University of Missouri, Kansas City), Laura Morreale (Independent Scholar), and Christopher Fletcher (Newberry Library).

Friday, April 10, 2026
9:30am–4:30pm Central Time

In-person at the Newberry

APPLICATION DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 1, 2025

Following the October 2024 webinar “Medieval Women’s Networks: Exploring Tools and Techniques for Digital Analysis”, this workshop will explore how to extract information from premodern sources about women for use in digital environments. Through discussions, group work, and hands-on activities with Newberry collection items, participants will learn the steps needed to create transferable datasets and investigate possible applications for them. Doing so opens up collaborative possibilities and extends our knowledge of how to work with the information—at times oblique and messy—from the surviving material and documentary records of past women’s lives.

(On the following page: clockwise starting from the top)

Pierre Gassendi, Institutio astronomica iuxta hypotheses tam veterum quam Copernici & Tyconis. The Hague: 1656 (Ayer 8.9 .A8 G25 1656)

Hyginus, Clarissimi uiri Hyginii Poeticon astronomicon, opus utilissimum. Venice: 1485 (Inc. 4398)

Annette S. Lee, Ojibwe Güzbig Anung Masinaa’igan = Ojibwe Sky Star Map. St. Cloud, Minnesota?: 2012 (Ayer broadside G3191.E6 2012 .L44b)



CONVERSATIONS

Race in Dialogue

Virtual

This series of virtual conversations brings together scholars across professional generations to discuss the past, present, and future of premodern critical race studies and critical Indigenous studies.

CONFERENCES AND SYMPOSIA

Boccaccio 650: The 6th American Boccaccio Association Triennial Conference

September 18-20, 2025

In-person at the Newberry

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: APRIL 20, 2025

The year 2025 marks the 650th anniversary of the death of Giovanni Boccaccio (1313-1375), author of the *Decameron* and foundational author of the European narrative prose tradition. To commemorate this milestone, the American Boccaccio Association (est. 1974) and the Newberry Library, in collaboration with the Istituto Italiano di Cultura of Chicago celebrate the Italian author and his works with a series of scholarly events, including a paleography seminar led by Maddalena Signorini.

Co-sponsored by the Italian Cultural Institute of Chicago.

For more information and call for paper at the following link: <https://www.boccaccio-usa.org/>

Philippine Lives under Early Spanish Rule

October 23-24, 2025

In-person at the Newberry

The study of Spanish Colonialism in the Pacific (1550-1800) has been revitalized in recent years, thanks to the efforts of scholars working in a variety of academic disciplines, at institutions across Europe, North America, and Southeast Asia. Thanks to this work, the Spanish Philippines, which were once dismissed as a distant periphery of a world centered on the Atlantic, are now understood as a crucial node in the global network of exchange that emerged during the early modern period. This symposium brings together some of the leading scholars responsible for the reinvigoration of colonial Philippine studies, along with

The Celestial Imagination in Indigenous and Early Modern Worlds

Led by Tiffany Jo Werth (Newberry Library), Katie Boyce-Jacino (Adler Planetarium) and Jane Kanter (Adler Planetarium).

Friday, April 17, 2026
9:30am-4:30pm Central Time

In-person at the Newberry and the Adler Planetarium

APPLICATION DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 15, 2025

This workshop will explore the understanding, use, and representation of the sky from Indigenous communities to early modern Europe. Through viewings of technological instruments and archival materials, discussions, and hands-on activities with collection items at the Adler Planetarium and the Newberry, participants will be asked to expand awareness for how attitudes towards the heavens in Europe and the Americas from the fifteenth century onwards shaped those on earth. Following Carl Phelpstead's critique of the environmental humanities' narrowly earth-centric focus, participants will be asked to think "cosmocritically" to gain new perspectives on the sky—its horizons, its uses, and the various bodies (planets, stars, clouds, birds, deities, zodiacal figures, etc.) it contains—in both European and Indigenous contexts. Co-hosted by the Adler Planetarium, Chicago.

This workshop joins in conversation with a series of programming exploring early modern skies, with co-organized events at the UCLA Clark Library.

prominent officials of the Philippine government charged with educating Filipinos about their history. As the Newberry Library represents one of the world's foremost repositories of historical materials related to the Philippines, the symposium hopes to draw attention to the wealth of the library's Philippine holdings, and to the ways that these materials can be used to understand Philippine lives under Spanish rule.

Organized by Christina Lee (Princeton University), Miguel Martinez (University of Chicago), Ricardo Padrón (University of Virginia), and Nicholas Sy (University of the Philippines).



A Collaborative Humanities Project from the Princeton University Humanities Council. Co-sponsored by the Philippines Consulate of Chicago and the University of Chicago.

2026 Multidisciplinary Graduate Student Conference in Premodern Studies

Thursday, January 29, 2026 – Saturday, January 31, 2026

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: OCTOBER 15, 2025

In-person at the Newberry

The Center for Renaissance Studies' annual graduate student conference, organized and run by advanced doctoral students, has become a premier venue for emerging scholars to present papers, participate in discussions, and develop collaborations. This supportive, welcoming conference comprises as many as sixteen panels with nearly fifty presenters, plus plenary and professionalization sessions. See our website for further details.

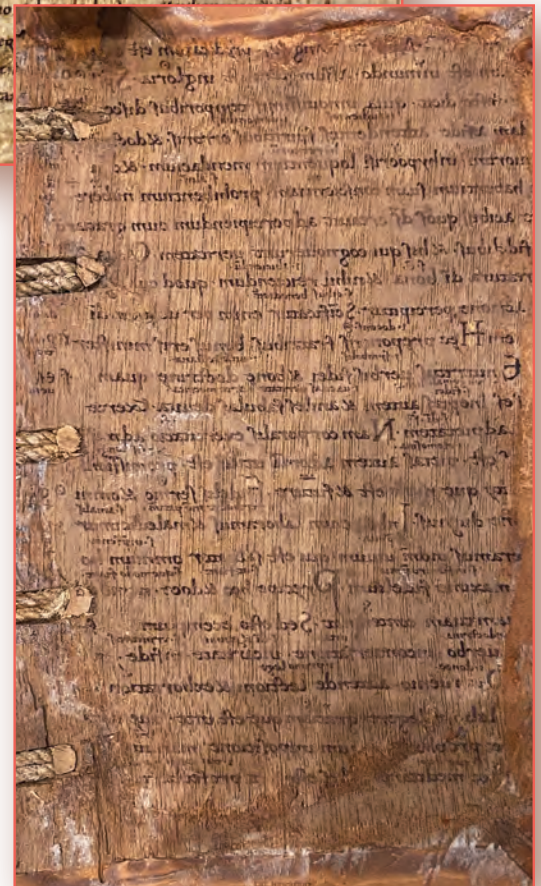
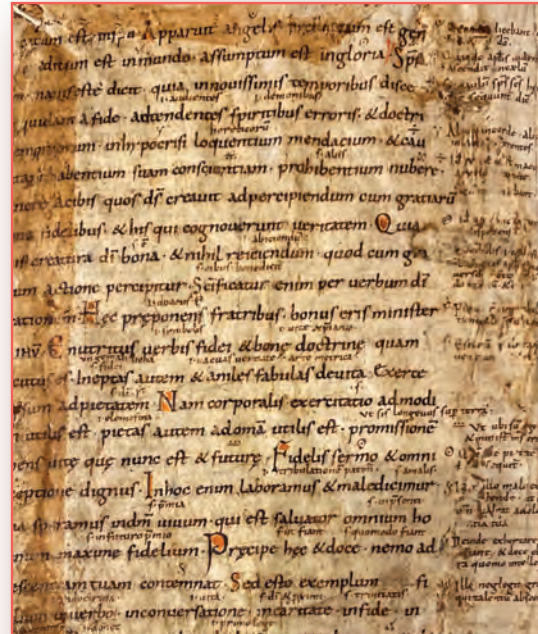
Premodern Fragments: Remnants and Recovery

April 16-17, 2026

In-person at the Newberry

Fragments of all shapes and sizes have played an essential role in the production, transmission, and mediation of knowledge in and of the premodern world: as binding material, writing supports, relics, works of art, and more. So essential, in fact, that fragments now represent some of the most widespread and accessible material witnesses of medieval and early modern material culture. This symposium explores the function and significance of fragments in premodern manuscript and print. Through presentations, discussions, and hands-on workshops involving Newberry collections, this conference will consider not only what fragments did in the distant past, but also what they can do for us today.

Co-organized by Elizabeth Hebbard (Indiana University) and Megan Heffernan (DePaul University).



[Book of Timothy fragment]. France?: 10th century (VAULT oversize Case MS Fragment 16)

CENTER FOR RENAISSANCE VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE

CRS invites scholars to explore premodern studies at the Newberry in a series of three 90-minute virtual events this fall hosted by CRS staff and their colleagues at the library.

Fellowships

Friday, September 12, 2025

12:00pm Central Time

Led by Elizabeth Neary

This information session with the Associate Director of Fellowships and Academic Programs will introduce participants to the variety of short and long-term fellowships offered by the library and provide useful tips for the application process.

The Collection

Friday, October 3, 2025

12:00pm Central Time

Led by Nora Epstein, Jill Gage, Suzanne Karr Schmidt, Analú López, and Dave Weimer

Newberry curators and librarians will present highlights of and recent acquisitions in the collection to reveal the breadth and depth of the Newberry's premodern holdings of manuscript, print, and material objects from Europe and the Americas.

Digital Resources

Friday, December 5, 2025

12:00pm Central Time

Led by Sophia Croll and Jen Wolfe

The Newberry hosts a variety of digital resources for teaching and researching premodern culture. This session will introduce scholars to the Newberry's digital tools, including our digital collections, the *Digital Collections in the Classroom*, and a variety of other digital tools that use premodern materials.

Registration opens in July 2025.



Seeing Race Before Race: A Closer Look
Explore the roots of racism from the Middle Ages to 1800
A companion to *Seeing Race Before Race*, a Newberry exhibition and an Arizona Center for Me

Belgium	Germany	Turk
The Mirror of Human Salvation	The Four Books of Human Proportion	The History of the W

NEWBERRY SCHOLARLY SEMINARS

Premodern Studies Seminar

This seminar provides a forum for new approaches to classical, medieval, and early modern studies, allowing scholars from a range of disciplines to share works-in-progress with the broader community at the Center for Renaissance Studies. Our sessions feature discussion of a pre-circulated paper and a presentation of materials from the Newberry collections. We meet three times a year. Every meeting is free and open to the public, and participants are encouraged to attend as many seminars as they are able.

Organized by Lydia Barnett (Northwestern University), Timothy Crowley (Northern Illinois University), Christopher Fletcher (Newberry Library), Caterina Mongiat Farina (DePaul University) and Megan Heffernan (DePaul University).

Eighteenth Century Seminar

The Eighteenth Century Seminar is designed to foster research and inquiry across the scholarly disciplines in eighteenth century studies. It aims to provide a methodologically diverse forum for work that engages ongoing discussions and debates along this historical and critical terrain. Each year the seminar sponsors one public lecture followed by questions and discussion, and one work-in-progress session featuring a pre-circulated paper.

Organized by Timothy Campbell (University of Chicago), Jason Farr (Marquette University), Lisa A. Freeman (University of Illinois Chicago), and Richard Squibbs (DePaul University).

Lieb Newberry Milton Seminar

This seminar brings together interested scholars to read and discuss pre-circulated papers on aspects of Milton studies. The Milton seminar's new format includes one junior scholar (not yet tenure-track) and one senior scholar who will circulate their work in advance for the seminar's discussion.

Organized by Angelica Duran (Purdue University), Stephen Fallon (University of Notre Dame), Katarzyna Lecky (Loyola University Chicago), Regina Schwartz (Northwestern University), and Joshua Scodel (University of Chicago).

SUMMER INSTITUTES

Center for Renaissance Studies Institute in Italian Paleography

Directed by Maddalena Signorini, University of Rome, Tor Vergata

June 15-26, 2026

In-person at the Newberry

APPLICATION DEADLINE: MARCH 1, 2026

Recovering Hidden Histories in Archival Collections

Herzog August Bibliothek/Newberry CRS Summer Course

Directed by Lia Markey and Christopher Fletcher, Newberry Library

August 24–29, 2026

In-person at the Newberry

APPLICATION DEADLINE: MARCH 1, 2026

PUBLIC PROGRAMS

Peri's *Euridice*

Performed by the Haymarket Opera and the Newberry Consort

Thursday, September 25, 2025

6:00pm Central Time

Elizabeth I In Her Own Words

Performed by Tammy Meneghini and written by Carole Levin

Thursday, November 20, 2025

6:00pm Central Time

2026 – 2027 FELLOWSHIPS

Newberry Center for Renaissance Studies Consortium Fellowships

APPLICATION DEADLINE: JANUARY 3, 2026

These short-term fellowships support scholars at Center for Renaissance Studies consortium member institutions. They offer support for one month's work in residence at the Newberry for one PhD candidate with ABD status and one postdoctoral scholar working in medieval, Renaissance, or early modern studies. The postdoctoral scholar could be a full-time faculty member, adjunct faculty, librarian, curator, or other staff member (with preference given for non-tenured faculty).

See all the Newberry's long- and short-term fellowships: www.newberry.org/fellowships.

STAFF

Director: Lia Markey

Assistant Director: Christopher Fletcher

Program Manager: Dylan Bingham

Funding for the Center is provided in part by the Bernard P. McElroy Fund in Renaissance Studies.

Programs are open to the public unless otherwise noted, but registration in advance is required for most events. Program dates and times are subject to change. Please see individual calendar entries on our website for registration and cost information.

renaissance@newberry.org | (312) 255-3514

www.newberry.org/renaissance



Students examine a book together in a CRS undergraduate workshop in winter 2024.

(Image on front cover): Pedro Murillo Velarde, "Carta hydrographica y chorographica de las Yslas Filipinas ..." Manila, 1734, oversize Ayer 133.5 .M97 1964

CONSORTIUM MEMBERS

University of Aberdeen
Aberdeen, Scotland

University of Alabama
Tuscaloosa, Alabama

Arizona State University
Tempe, Arizona

University of Arkansas
Fayetteville, Arkansas

University of California, Davis
Davis, California

University of Chicago
Chicago, Illinois

Claremont Graduate
University
Claremont, California

Cornell University
Ithaca, New York

DePaul University
Chicago, Illinois

Emory University
Atlanta, Georgia

Florida State University
Tallahassee, Florida

University of Illinois at Chicago
Chicago, Illinois

University of Illinois at
Urbana-Champaign
Urbana-Champaign, Illinois

Indiana University
Bloomington, Indiana

University of Iowa
Iowa City, Iowa

University of Kansas
Lawrence, Kansas

University of Lausanne
Lausanne, Switzerland

University of Louisville
Louisville, Kentucky

Loyola University Chicago
Chicago, Illinois

Marquette University
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Miami University
Oxford, Ohio

University of Michigan
Ann Arbor, Michigan

Michigan State University
East Lansing, Michigan

University of Minnesota
Minneapolis, Minnesota

University of Mississippi
University, Mississippi

University of Missouri
Columbia, Missouri

University of Nebraska-
Lincoln
Lincoln, Nebraska

University of North Carolina
Chapel Hill, N.C.

Northern Illinois University
DeKalb, Illinois

Northwestern University
Evanston, Illinois

University of Notre Dame
Notre Dame, Indiana

Oklahoma State University
Stillwater, Oklahoma

University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

University of Pittsburgh
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Purdue University
West Lafayette, Indiana

Queen Mary, University of London
London, England

Saint Louis University
Saint Louis, Missouri

University of Tennessee-Knoxville
Knoxville, Tennessee

University of Texas at Austin
Austin, Texas

Tulane University
New Orleans, Louisiana

Vanderbilt University
Nashville, Tennessee

Virginia Tech
Blacksburg, VA

University of Warwick
Coventry, England

Wayne State University
Detroit, Michigan

Western Michigan University
Kalamazoo, Michigan

University of Western Ontario
London, Ontario

University of Wisconsin-Madison
Madison, Wisconsin

University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Yale University
New Haven, Connecticut

FALL 2025

The 22nd Nebenzahl Lectures:
“Mapping from Mexico: New Narratives for the History of Cartography”

16-18 October 2025

The Hermon Dunlap Smith Center for the History of Cartography invites you to the 22nd Kenneth Nebenzahl, Jr. Lectures in the History of Cartography from 16-18 October 2025 at the Newberry Library. Convened every three years, these lectures gather interdisciplinary groups of scholars from around the world to consider the relationship between maps and the societies that create them. This year’s theme is “Mapping from Mexico: New Narratives for the History of Cartography.” Bringing together scholars working on a range of topics and periods, this series will examine how histories of Mexican cartography can rewrite common narratives and popular assumptions. By reframing the history of mapping from the perspective of Mexico, this series will introduce new ways to engage with maps and map history. The series will combine talks from leading scholars, presentations of the Newberry’s collections, a papelamate workshop, and a Map Fair.

We hope to see you in October!



Antonio García Cubas, “Carta Orografica” in *Atlas pintoresco é histórico de los Estados Unidos Mexicanos*. México: Debray Sucesores, 1885.