

ADA PALMER

Curriculum Vitae

University of Chicago
Department of History
1126 East 59th Street, Mailbox 47
Chicago, IL 60637

773-834-8178
adapalmer@uchicago.edu
Office: Social Sciences 222
adapalmer.com • exurbe.com

EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT

Academic Employment

- University of Chicago, Department of History, Associate Professor 2018-present
 - Assistant Professor, 2014-2018
 - Associate Member of the Department of Classics
 - Member of the Institute on the Formation of Knowledge
 - Affiliate Member of the Center for the Study of Gender and Sexuality
- Texas A&M University, Department of History, 2009 – 2014, Assistant Professor

Education

- Ph.D., History, 2009, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA
- M.A., History, 2003, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA
- B.A., History, *cum laude*, 2001, Bryn Mawr College, Bryn Mawr, PA
- A.A., with distinction, 1999, Simon's Rock College of Bard (now Bard College at Simon's Rock), Great Barrington, MA
- **Non-Degree Programs:**
 - *Seminario di Alta Cultura*, 2010, Istituto Internazionale di Studi Piceni, Sassoferrato, Italy
 - *Aestiva Romae Latinitatis*, 2004, with Fr. Reginald Foster, Rome, Italy

Languages

- English, Italian, French, Latin, Ancient Greek, Gothic, German (reading)

PUBLICATIONS

Nonfiction Books

- *Inventing the Renaissance: Myths of a Golden Age*, Head of Zeus UK, University of Chicago Press USA, 2025.
- *Reading Lucretius in the Renaissance*, I Tatti Renaissance Studies Series, Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2014.
- *The Recovery of Classical Philosophy in the Renaissance, a Brief Guide*, Quaderni di Rinascimento 44. Co-authored with James Hankins. Istituto Nazionale di Studi sul Rinascimento. Florence: Leo S. Olschki, 2008.
- Forthcoming: *Trace Elements: Conversations on Science Fiction & Fantasy*, essay collection co-authored with Jo Walton, Tor Books, February 2026.
 - Current project: *Why We Censor: Motives of Information Control from Antiquity to the Internet*.

- Current project: Critical edition of 17th-Century English Banned Droll Plays, co-edited with Thomas Noriega.

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

- “Pomponio Leto’s Lucretius, the Quest for a Classical Technical Lexicon, and the Negative Space of Humanist Latin Knowledge.” *Erudition and the Republic of Letters*, 8, 3 (August 2023), 221-278.
- “Humanist Lives of Classical Philosophers and the Idea of Renaissance Secularization: Virtue, Rhetoric, and the Orthodox Sources of Unbelief.” *Renaissance Quarterly*, 70, 3 (2017), 935-76.
- “Reading Lucretius in the Renaissance.” *Journal of the History of Ideas*. July 2012 (vol. 73, no. 3), pp. 395-416.

Novels

- *Fire in the Dark* (Book 1 of *Hearthfire Saga*), Tor Books, forthcoming July 2027.
- *Perhaps the Stars* (Book 4 of *Terra Ignota*), Tor Books, November 2021.
- *The Will to Battle* (Book 3 of *Terra Ignota*), Tor Books, December 2017.
- *Seven Surrenders* (Book 2 of *Terra Ignota*), Tor Books, March 2017.
- *Too Like the Lightning* (Book 1 of *Terra Ignota*), Tor Books, May 2016.
 - *Terra Ignota* UK editions by Head of Zeus. Audiobooks by Recorded Books, audio drama series by Graphic Audio. French editions by Le Belial and Livre de Poche, Polish by Wydawnictwo MAG, Hungarian by Edesviz Kiado, Turkish by Eksik Parça, German by Panini, Russian by AST.

Scholarly Book Chapters and Articles

- “Shakespeare and the Lucretian,” co-authored with Elena Nicoli and Sarah-Gray Lesley, for *The Routledge Companion to Shakespeare*, ed. Christopher Fitter, in press.
- “The Persecution of Renaissance Lucretius Readers Revisited,” in Philip Hardie, Valentina Proserpi, and Diego Zucca eds., *Lucretius Poet and Philosopher: Background and Fortunes of ‘De Rerum Natura’*, De Gruyter, 2020, 167-200.
- “Humanist Dissemination of Epicureanism,” in *The Oxford Handbook of Epicureanism*, ed. Phillip Mitsis. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2020.
- “The Effects of Authorial Strategies for Transforming Antiquity on the Place of the Renaissance in the Current Philosophical Canon,” in *Beyond Reception: Renaissance Humanism and the Transformation of Classical Antiquity*, eds. Patrick Baker, Johannes Helmrath, and Craig Kallendorf, 2019.
- “On Progress and Historical Change,” *KNOW: A Journal on the Formation of Knowledge*, Fall 2017, pp. 319-337.
- “The Active and Monastic Life in Humanist Biographies of Pythagoras,” *Forms and Transfers of Pythagorean Knowledge: Askesis—Religion—Science*, eds. Almut-Barbara & Stavru. Harrassowitz: Wiesbaden, 2016, pp. 211-226.
- “The Recovery of Stoicism in the Renaissance,” in *The Routledge Handbook of the Stoic Tradition*, ed. John Sellars. New York: Routledge, 2016, pp. 117-132.
- “The Use and Defense of the Classical Canon in Pomponio Leto’s Biography of Lucretius,” in *Vitae Pomponianae, Biografie di Autori Antichi nell’Umanesimo Romano (Lives of Classical Writers in Fifteenth-Century Roman Humanism)*, proceedings of a conference

- hosted by the Danish Academy in Rome and the American Academy in Rome, April 24th 2013, *Renaissanceforum* (Forum for Renaissance Studies, Universities of Aarhus and Copenhagen) 2015 (vol. 9), pp. 87-106,
http://www.renaissanceforum.dk/rf_9_2015.htm
- “All Life is Genocide: the Philosophical Pessimism of Osamu Tezuka,” in *Mangatopia: Essays on Manga and Anime in the Modern World*, ed. Timothy Perper and Martha Cornog. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2011, pp. 173-90.
 - “*Lux Dei*: Ficino and Aquinas on the Beatific Vision,” *Memini, Travaux et Documents* 2002 (vol. 6), pp. 129-152.

Exhibit Catalogs

- *Censorship and Information Control*, with assistant editor Julia Tomasson, University of Chicago Special Collections Research Library, 2018.
- *Tensions in Renaissance Cities*, exhibit co-curated with Hilary Barker and Margo Weitzman, University of Chicago Special Collections Research Library, 2017.

Reference Works

- “Lucretius Renaissance Thought,” *Oxford Bibliographies in Renaissance and Reformation*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2023.
- Entries “Lucretius,” “Diogenes Laertius” and “Epicureanism” in *The Springer Encyclopedia of Renaissance Philosophy*. New York: Springer, 2016-18.
- “T. Lucretius Carus, Addenda et Corrigenda,” in *Catalogus Translationum et Commentariorum*, vol. 10. Washington, DC: Catholic University of America Press, 2014.

Reviews of Books and Exhibitions

- “Royalty Reconsidered: the King’s Beer and the Commoner’s Shirt,” review of ‘First Kings of Europe’ at the Field Museum, for *Humanities* magazine, National Endowment for the Humanities, Winter 2024, vol. 45 iss. 1.
- “Can Science Justify Itself? Review of *Enlightenment Now: the Case for Reason, Science, Humanism, and Progress*, Steven Pinker (Viking, 2018),” *Harvard Magazine*, March-April 2018, 56-59.
- Review of *De Rerum Natura Editio Princeps (1472-73)*, ed. Marco Beretta (Bologna: Bononia University Press, 2016), *Renaissance Quarterly*, 70 n. 4 (2017), 1475-6.
- “Lucretius after *The Sverve*.” Review essay focused on David Norbrook, Stephen Harrison, and Philip Hardie, eds., *Lucretius and the Early Modern*, Classical Presences (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2015), and Steven Greenblatt, *The Sverve: How the World Became Modern* (New York: W. W. Norton, 2011), *Modern Philology*, vol. 115 no. 2 (2017), 289-97.
- Review of Kenneth Sheppard, *Anti-Atheism in Early Modern England 1580-1720: The Atheist Answered and His Error Confuted* (Brill, 2015), *Renaissance Quarterly*, vol. 70, n. 2 (2017), 780-82.
- Review of Christopher M. Graney, *Setting Aside All Authority: Giovanni Battista Riccioli and the Science against Copernicus in the Age of Galileo* (Notre Dame, Indiana: University of Notre Dame Press, 2015), *The Journal of Religion*, no. 3 (July 2017), 423-425.

- Review of Eileen Reeves, *Evening News: Optics, Astronomy, and Journalism in Early Modern Europe* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2014), *The Journal of Modern History*, vol. 88, no. 4 (2016), pp. 901-3.
- Review of Marie Thérèse Jones-Davies ed., *Le Plaisir au Temps de la Renaissance* (Turnhout: Brepolis, 2010), *Renaissance Quarterly*, vol. 66, no. 1 (2013), pp. 330-1.
- Review of Stéphanie Lecompte, *La Chaîne d'Or des Poètes: Présence de Macrobe dans l'Europe humaniste* (Geneva, Librairie Droz. S.A., 2009), *Neo-Latin News* vol. 70, no. 1-2 (2012), pp. 102-4.

AWARDS AND HONORS

Academic Awards and Honors

- Llewellyn John and Harriet Manchester Quantrell Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching, University of Chicago, 2021.
- David Hoeft Award for Newly Tenured Faculty, University of Chicago, 2018
- I Tatti Prize for best essay by a junior scholar in 2012.
- Selma V. Forkosch prize for the best article published in the *Journal of the History of Ideas* in 2012.
- Texas A&M Student Led Award for Teaching Excellence, Fall 2010.
- Harvard University Certificate of Distinction in Teaching, 2005, 2006, 2007.
- Nominated for the Joseph R. Levenson Memorial Teaching Prize, Harvard, 2004.

Fiction Awards and Honors

- Astounding Award winner (formerly John W. Campbell Award), for best new writer of science fiction, fantasy, and related subjects, 2017.
- For the *Terra Ignota* series
 - Grand Prix de l'Imaginaire winner for Best Foreign Novel, 2023.
 - Hugo Award Finalist for Best Series, 2022.
- For *Perhaps the Stars*:
 - Nagród Nowej Fantastyki (New Fantasy Awards) winner for Best Foreign Book (Polish title: *Być może gwiazdy*) 2023.
- For *The Will to Battle*:
 - Romantic Times Reviewers' Choice Award nominee best SF novel 2018.
- For *Seven Surrenders*:
 - Goodreads Choice Award nominee for best SF novel 2018.
 - Locus Award nominee for best SF novel 2018.
- For *Too Like the Lightning*:
 - Nagród Nowej Fantastyki (New Fantasy Awards) winner for Best Foreign Book (Polish title: *Do błyskawicy podobne*) 2020.
 - Grand Prix de l'Imaginaire winner for best translator Michelle Charrier, and finalist for best novel (French title: *Trop semblable à l'éclair*), 2020.
 - Prix Planète-SF des blogueurs finalist, 2020.
 - Compton Crook Award winner 2017 (for the best first novel in the genres of science fiction, fantasy, or horror).

- Hugo Award Finalist for best novel, 2017 (for works of science fiction, fantasy, and related subjects).
- James Tiptree Jr. Literary Award honors list (honoring speculative fiction that explores and expands gender).
- Romantic Times Reviewers' Choice Award nominee best SF novel 2016.
- Chicago Review of Books Award nominee for best debut novel 2016.
- Goodreads Choice Award nominee for best science fiction novel 2016.

FELLOWSHIPS AND RESEARCH GRANTS

External

- American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS) Fellowship, 2019-20.
- National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute: Roman Comedy in Performance, August 2012.
- Villa I Tatti, Harvard University Center for Italian Renaissance Studies Fellowship, 2011-12.
- Fulbright Scholar, Italy, 2006-7.

University of Chicago

- Social Sciences Division Curriculum Innovation Grant, for "Printing Press Rehabilitation," with Timothy Harrison and Adrian Johns, 2018-19 and 19-20.
- Institute on the Formation of Knowledge Faculty Research Grant, for "Censorship, Information Control, and Information Revolutions from Printing Press to Internet," 2018-19.
- Neubauer Collegium Grant, for "Censorship, Information Control, and Information Revolutions from Printing Press to Internet," co-lead with Adrian Johns and Cory Doctorow, three year funded project for 2018-21.
- College Research Fellows Program, 2017-18 and 2018-19.
- Nicholson Center funds for faculty activities, 2015, 2017, and 2018.
- Institute on the Formation of Knowledge Faculty Seed Grant, for "Censorship, Information Control, and Information Revolutions from Printing Press to Internet," 2017.
- Smart Museum of Art Grant for Faculty Initiatives, 2017.
- Institute on the Formation of Knowledge Conference Co-Sponsorship, 2017.
- Morris Fishbein Center for the History of Science and Medicine funds for university activities, 2016 and 2017.
- College Research Fellows Program, 2016-17, for "Tensions in Renaissance Cities Exhibit Catalog."
- Franke Institute for the Humanities Residential Faculty Fellowship, 2015-16.

Texas A&M University

- Glasscock Center for Humanities Research Co-Sponsorship Grant, Fall 2012.
- College of Liberal Arts Strategic Development Fund, co-developer of "Classical Transformations Center" proposal, 2011.

- College Faculty Research Enhancement Award, 2011.
- Program to Enhance Scholarly and Creative Activities, 2010.
- International Research Travel Assistance Grant, 2010.
- Melbern G. Glasscock Center for Humanities Research Faculty Stipendiary Fellowship, 2009-10.

Harvard University

- Frederick Sheldon Traveling Fellowship, 2006-7.
- Villa I Tatti, Harvard University Center for Italian Renaissance Studies Graduate Student Readership, 2005.
- History Department Summer Research Grant, 2002.

SHORT-FORM POPULAR PRESS, JOURNAL, & WEB PUBLICATIONS

Popular Nonfiction Essays (selected)

- “Why All Science Fiction & Fantasy Authors Are Historians,” *Strange Horizons*, forthcoming 2025.
- [“The Ghost Did What?! Translation Exposing Providentialist Thinking,”](#) *Strange Horizons*, November 27, 2023.
- [“A Mitfreude of Anime and Manga’s Relationship with Anglophone Science Fiction \(or This Essay Will Not Try to Get You into Anime and Manga!\)”](#) *Strange Horizons*, July 25, 2023.
- [“We Are an Information Revolution Species,”](#) Microsoft *AI Anthology*, ed. Eric Horvitz, Microsoft Unlocked, May 2023.
- [“Writing/Realizing Disability + Power,”](#) *Strange Horizons*, August 2022.
- [“Hopepunk, Optimism, Purity, & Futures of Hard Work”](#) BeforeWeGoBlog, 2021.
- [“Expanding Our Empathy Sphere Using Science Fiction and Fantasy, a History,”](#) *Uncanny Magazine*, 2021.
- [“The Protagonist Problem,”](#) with Jo Walton, *Uncanny Magazine*, 2021.
- Introductions Gene Wolfe’s *Book of the New Sun*, vol. 1 *Shadow & Claw*, and vol. 2 *Sword & Citadel* (Tor Essentials), New York: Tor Books, 2021.
- [“Censorship and Genre Fiction: Let’s Broaden our Broader Reality.”](#) *Uncanny Magazine*, May 2020.
- Intro to *Beanworld* Omnibus 2, Larry Marder. Milwaukie: Dark Horse, 2019.
- “The Cruelty of *The Crater*,” introduction to Osamu Tezuka’s *The Crater*, Gardena, CA: Digital Manga Publications, 2017.
- [“The Key to the Kingdom, or, How I Sold *Too Like the Lightning*,”](#) in *The Usual Path to Publication*, ed. Shannon Page. Cedar Crest, NM: Book View Café, 2016.
- Notes for DVD release of *Hetalia* seasons 5-6 (“The Beautiful World”). Co-authored with Lauren Schiller. Flower Mound, TX: FUNimation, 2013-present.
- Historical notes for the DVD release of *Hetalia* seasons 3-4 (“World Series”) and *Hetalia Paint it White* (film). Co-authored with Lila Garrott, Lauren Schiller, and Ruth Wejksnora. Flower Mound, TX: FUNimation, 2011-12.

- “‘You, God of Manga, are Cruell’: Karma and Suffering in the Universe of Osamu Tezuka,” in *Manga and Philosophy*, ed. Josef Steiff and Adam Barkman. Chicago: Open Court, 2010.
- “Film is Alive: The Manga Roots of Osamu Tezuka’s Animation Obsession,” for “Osamu Tezuka: God of Manga, Father of Anime,” Smithsonian Freer and Sackler Galleries, Washington DC, 2009. <http://www.asia.si.edu/film/tezuka/>
- “Black Jack: The Excluded Issues and Tezuka’s Star System,” in Osamu Tezuka’s *Black Jack* (vol. 3 hardcover), New York: Vertical Inc., 2008.
- Notes for *Mythical Detective Loki Ragnarok* DVDs. Houston, TX: ADV, 2005-6.

Blogging & Op-eds

- Columnist for *Strange Horizons* magazine, 2022-present.
- Primary blog: ExUrbe.com (2011 to present). Sample posts:
 - [“Resistance When the Tyrant is in Power: Florence’s Vasari Corridor,”](#) 2025.
 - [“History’s Largest & Most Famous Disability Access Ramp,”](#) 2025.
 - [“Black Death, COVID, and Why We Keep Telling the Myth of a Renaissance Golden Age and Bad Middle Ages,”](#) 2020.
 - [“On Progress and Historical Change,”](#) 2017.
 - [“Sketches of a History of Skepticism Part I: Classical Eudaimonia,”](#) 2014.
 - [“The Shape of Rome”](#) August 15th, 2013.
 - [“The Borgias vs. Borgia: Faith & Fear \(accuracy in historical fiction\)”](#) 2013.
 - [“Machiavelli I – S.P.Q.F.”](#) 2012.
- Sample Op-Eds and Guest Posts (see also the Media & Outreach section below)
 - [“Il Futuro si Vede dal Passato,”](#) *La Repubblica* special issue for Italian Tech Week, September 29th, 2022.
 - [“A Better Way of Understanding the Debate over Free Speech on Campus,”](#) *Pacific Standard*, July 19th, 2019
 - [“Why Trump’s decision to intervene in campus speech policies is so dangerous,”](#) *The Washington Post*, March 28th, 2019
 - [“How #Article13 is like the Inquisition: John Milton Against the EU #CopyrightDirective,”](#) *BoingBoing*, March 24th, 2019
 - [“How Pacing Makes History into Story: Shakespeare’s Histories and *The White Queen*,”](#) *Tor.com* Jan 25th, 2016

Theater, Costuming, and Music

- [Sundown: Whispers of Ragnarok](#) (a cappella musical stage play based on Viking mythology, composed, written and directed by Ada Palmer). Debut performance at Balticon, Baltimore, May 26th 2013; cast recording, libretto and songbook released 2013, DVD of the live Balticon performance released in 2014.
- [Music CDs released with Sassafrass](#) (polyphonic a cappella music with mythology and science fiction themes, written, composed, and directed by Ada Palmer, performed along with other vocalists).
 - *Renaissance Pastorale Collection* (forthcoming).
 - *Trickster & King: Friend in the Dark* (forthcoming).
 - *Stories & Stone*, 2015.
 - *Sundown: Whispers of Ragnarok* (cast recording), 2014.

- *Eclectic II: Prophecies and Lies*, 2009.
- *Eclectic: Concertino*, 2009.
- *Firebrand*, 2008.
- *Solitary Dancer*, 2001.
- Digital-only releases include *Make Them All Real*, and teaching albums.
- Music Awards:
 - “Somebody Will” winner for Best Classic Song 2020, nominated for Best Song 2011, 2012, 2015, 2016, and for Best Sing-Along Song 2019.
 - Best Writer/Composer nominee 2013, 2014, 2016.
 - Best Performer nominee (with Sassafrass) 2010, 2012, 2013.
- Other Theater Activities:
 - Prop consultant for *The Lion in Winter* at Court Theatre, 2023.
 - Costuming consultant the Chicago Shakespeare Project, 2022-present.
 - Created and maintains the Renaissance Costume Library, used for classroom historical simulations, and student and local theater productions of Shakespeare and other period works. Used by organizations including Purdue University, Du Paul University, Steppenwolf Theater, &c.
 - Dramaturgy consultant for Court Theater productions of *The Lion in Winter*, 2023, and *Othello*, 2021.
 - Costuming and dramaturgy for Purdue University student productions:
 - *A Comedy of Errors*, 2019.
 - *Hamlet*, April 14th-22nd, 2018.
 - *The Merchant of Venice*, April 7th-15th, 2017.

ACADEMIC TALKS AND PRESENTATIONS

Invited Lectures and Presentations

- “Democracy and a Fair Economy in the Age of AI: A Historical View”, Yale University, International Workshop on Reimagining Democracy, December 10 2025.
- “History of Ideas and our Climate Imaginations” and “Environmental Collapse and Hope,” Bazyliszek x Polcon, Warsaw, July 4-5 2025.
- “The Wealth Gap as Temperature, or Meritocracy is Not Democracy,” International Workshop on Reimagining Democracy, December 7th, 2024 (Theme: Democracy and AI).
- “Why We Censor,” Wesleyan University Philip Hallie Lecture, with accompanying masterclass on Lucretius, November 14th 2024.
- “Speculative Resistance and Le Guin’s Realists of a Larger Reality”, Thought Experiments in Science and Fiction Workshop, Santa Fe Institute, June 5-7.
- “Why We Censor, from the Inquisition to the Internet,” University of Chicago Divinity School Nuveen Lecture, October 12th, 2023. [Video](#).
- “Rejected from Our Histories of the Renaissance, the cases of Raffaello Maffei il Volterrano and Camilla Bartolini Rucellai,” Chicago-area Faculty Renaissance Seminar, Chicago, February 22nd, 2023.
- “Sortition’s Vulnerability to Capitalist Capture: Democratic Alternatives and the Medici Takeover of the Florentine Republic,” International Workshop on

- Reimagining Democracy (first session of a new conference), speaker and co-organizer with Bruce Schneir, Judith Donath, Henry Farrell, Beth Noveck, and Jamie Susskind, Harvard University, December 6-8 2022.
- Opening keynote address at Italian Tech Week, September 2022.
 - “Recovering a Lost Classic in the Renaissance,” Paideia Institute, online, April 3rd 2021. [Video](#).
 - “Teaching Online in a Crisis While the World Explodes,” National Humanities Council Student Winter Residency program “Passionate Teaching in a Research Environment: How to Create Meaningful Online Learning Experiences,” December 7th, 2020.
 - Keynote, “The Modern Political Impact of How We Talk about Premodern Censorship,” at ‘Speech as Protest: Being Heard and Taking Up Space in the Premodern World,’ Newberry Library, Chicago, October 22nd, 2020. [Video](#).
 - Plenary Lecture, “Hostile Intervention in Renaissance Books and Manuscripts, from Correction to Expurgation,” History of the Book Biennial Conference, ‘Bibliophilia and bibliophobia,’ Durham University Institute of Medieval & Early Modern Studies, given online June 30th, 2020.
 - “Why We Censor, from the Inquisition to the Internet,” Princeton University Committee for the Study of Books and Media Seminar, November 21st, 2019.
 - “Speculative Fiction as a Tool for Interdisciplinarity Beyond Academia,” Christ College, the Honors College at Valparaiso University, Distinguished Speakers Symposium, February 13th, 2019.
 - “How We Assign Agency in Historical Change Examined through the Persecution of Renaissance Lucretius Readers,” at Textuality, Materiality and Reading Practices, Princeton University, May 10th, 2018.
 - “Censorship and Information Control from the Inquisition to the Present,” Purdue Northwest College of Humanities, Education and Social Sciences lecture series, February 28th 2018.
 - “Figures of Renaissance, Reform, and Renewal: Savonarola,” with Jo Walton, Lumen Christi lecture at the University of Chicago, February 20th, 2018.
 - “Figures of Renaissance, Reform, and Renewal: Christian Humanism,” Lumen Christi lecture at the University of Chicago, January 23rd, 2018.
 - “The Desperate Renaissance,” Paideia Living Latin Institute Annual West Coast Reception, San Francisco, February 23rd, 2018.
 - “Pomponio Leto’s Lucretius and the Negative Space of Humanist Latin Knowledge,” at Texts and Contexts, Ohio State University Center for Epigraphical and Paleographical Studies, October 21st, 2017.
 - Discussant at Reception Histories of the Future: a Conference on Byzantinisms, Speculative Fiction, and the Literary Heritage of Medieval Empire, organized by the joint Paris-Uppsala Text and Narrative in Byzantium Collaborative Research Network, Uppsala University, Sweden, August 4th-6th, 2017.
 - “Opinio Non Christiana: Renaissance Lucretius Marginalia,” Paideia Living Latin in Rome Institute, Rome, Italy, June 28th, 2016.
 - “The Role of Monasteries in the Survival of Classical Literature,” Paideia Living Latin in Rome Institute, Rome, Italy, June 27th, 2017.

- “The Persecution of Renaissance Lucretius Readers Revisited,” at *Lucretius Poet and Philosopher: Six Hundred Years from His Rediscovery*, Alghero, Sicily, June 16th, 2017.
- “Opinio Non Christiana: Renaissance Lucretius Marginalia,” *Paideia Living Latin in Rome Institute*, Rome, Italy, June 28th, 2016.
- “Cities as Centers of Knowledge & Crisis in Raffaele Maffei’s Humanist Encyclopedia *Commentaria Urbana* (1506),” Netherlands Institute of Advanced Studies in the Social Sciences, Formation of Knowledge Group meeting, June 22nd, 2016.
- “Reading Lucretius in the Renaissance,” *Afterlives of Hellenistic Ethics*, University of Queensland Node of the ARC Centre of Excellence for the History of Emotions in Europe (1100-1800), Santa Lucia, Australia, April 9th, 2016.
- “Humanist Biographies of Classical Philosophers,” Purdue University *Bible as Literature* series, Lafayette, IN, March 14th, 2016.
- “San Marco: the Dominican Monastery at the Heart of Renaissance Florence,” Lumen Christi lecture at the University of Chicago, February 26th, 2016.
- “Humanist Biographies of Classical Philosophers,” Chicago-area Faculty Renaissance Seminar, Chicago, January 19th, 2016.
- Speaker at “Osamu Tezuka God of Manga,” Anime Chicago Symposium Series, Chicago, November 21st, 2015.
- “The Moral Physics of Dante’s Cosmos” and “The Syncretic, Radical and Hybrid Christianities of Renaissance Humanists,” guest lectures for the Figures of Renaissance Reform and Renewal non-credit course, Lumen Christi Institute, Chicago, February 24th and March 3rd, 2015.
- “How Humanists Read a Famous Atheist: the Evolution of Renaissance Reading Methods Exposed through a Survey of Marginalia in Renaissance Copies of Lucretius, 1417-1600,” Classics Department Colloquium, University of Pennsylvania, February 12th, 2015.
- “Lucretius, Renaissance Reading Culture and the Epicurean Roots of the Scientific Method,” Descartes Centre for the History and Philosophy of the Sciences and the Humanities, Utrecht University, February 2nd, 2015.
- Panelist for “Osamu Tezuka: God of Manga, Father of Anime,” Smithsonian Freer and Sackler Galleries, Washington, DC, Nov. 13th-Dec. 13th, 2009.

Conference Papers and Roundtables

- “Roundtable: Reimagining the Historiography of Philosophy,” Renaissance Society of America Conference, Boston, March 20, 2025.
- “Why We Care Whether Machiavelli was an Atheist,” at *Materialism in the Middle Ages and the Renaissance*, Université Paris Cité, September 19th-20th 2024.
- “What Makes Us Dislike and Exclude a Humanist? The Case of Raffaello Maffei Volterrano”; also chaired “Italian Humanism and Mediterranean Philosophies: In Memory of Michael J. B. Allen II” and was respondent at the session “*All'improvviso: Poetic, Musical, and Theatrical Improvisation between 1300 and 1700*,” Renaissance Society of America Conference, Chicago, March 21st-23rd, 2024.
- “Using Reception Studies to Re-Pluralize How We Portray Authorship in Intellectual History” (for the panel “In Honor of Craig Kallendorf I: Humanism and

- Philology”); also spoke in “Roundtable: New Views on Pico della Mirandola” and “Roundtable: James Hankins’ Virtue Politics: Soulcraft and Statecraft in Renaissance Italy,” and served as a Monitor for “Marsilio Ficino: His Working Practices and Sources II,” Renaissance Society of America Conference, online, April 13-22, 2021.
- “Hostile Annotation” at the panel series “Stretched or Cropped Margins? Annotation Studies between the Disciplines,” American Historical Association and Modern Language Association joint conference, Chicago, January 3-4 2019.
 - “The Persecution of Lucretius’s Renaissance Readers Revisited”; also chaired the session “Thomas More’s Visions and Revisions II: Heretical or Holy Humanism,” Renaissance Society of America Conference, New Orleans, March 22nd, 2018.
 - “The Humanist Roots of Enlightenment Radical Religion Seen through Renaissance Biographies of Classical Philosophers”; also chaired the session “Thomas More’s Visions and Revisions II: Heretical or Holy Humanism” and was respondent at the session “New Approaches to Skepticism I,” Renaissance Society of America Conference, Chicago, March 30th-31st, 2017.
 - “Humanism’s Links with Enlightenment Radicalism: a Case Study Based on Alan Charles Kors’s Work on the Orthodox Sources of Unbelief,” Society for French Historical Studies, Washington, DC, April 22nd, 2016.
 - “Humanist Lives of Pythagoras”; also chaired the session “Literary Dubia and Spuria,” Renaissance Society of America Conference, Boston, March 31st, 2016.
 - “The Influence of Spuria and Forgeries on Renaissance Neoclassicism: The Recovery of the Stoics, 1400-1664,” Renaissance Society of America Conference, Berlin, March 28th, 2015.
 - “The Inversion of Epicureanism in Lorenzo Valla’s *De Voluptate*,” Beyond Reception: Renaissance Humanism and the Transformation of Classical Antiquity, Berlin, March 23rd, 2015.
 - “The Transformation of Stoicism in the Renaissance,” Renaissance and Early Modern Transformations of Antiquity. Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, December 2nd, 2014.
 - “The Vernacular Lucretius,” Sixteenth Century Society Conference, New Orleans, October 16th, 2014.
 - “Weak Empiricism & Provisional Belief: The Influence of Lucretius & Epicurean Skepticism on Montaigne, Gassendi, Mersenne, and Scientific Thought,” Renaissance Society of America Conference, New York, March 27th, 2014.
 - “The Archetype of Noble Suicide in Early Modern Biographies of Philosophers,” Libraries, Lives and the Organization of Knowledge in the Pre-Modern World, American Academy in Rome, December 12th, 2013.
 - “Sources as Weapons in the Competition among Humanist Editors of Lucretius, from Leto to Lambin,” Medieval and Renaissance Transformations of Antiquity, hosted by the Humboldt Universität zu Berlin and Texas A&M University, Villa Vergiliana, Cuma, Italy, Sept. 29th, 2013.
 - “*Opinio Non Christiana*: Lucretius’ Renaissance Reception, Humanist Reading Practices and Philosophical Skepticism,” Italian Renaissance Seminar Series, Oxford University Centre for Early Modern Studies, May 6th, 2013.

- “The Use and Defense of the Classical Canon in Pomponio Leto’s Biography of Lucretius,” *Vitae Pomponianae*, Biografie di Autori Antichi nell’Umanesimo Romano, Danish Academy in Rome & American Academy in Rome, April 24th, 2013.
- “Humanist Biographies of Lucretius,” Renaissance Society of America Conference, Washington, DC, March 22nd, 2012.
- “Renaissance Biographies of Classical Philosophers,” Fellows Seminar, Villa I Tatti, Harvard University Center for Italian Renaissance Studies, Dec. 7th, 2011.
- “How Humanists Read a Famous Atheist: the Evolution of Renaissance Reading Methods Exposed through a Survey of Marginalia in Renaissance Copies of Lucretius, 1417-1600,” Renaissance Society of America Conference, Montréal, March 26th, 2011.
- “Lucretius, Epicureanism and Atomism in the Renaissance,” American Philological Association Conference, Boston, January 9th, 2005.

Presentations at the University of Chicago

- “Rejected from Our Histories of the Renaissance: the cases of Raffaello Maffei il Volterrano and Camilla Bartolini Rucellai,” Chicago-Area Faculty Renaissance Seminar, February 22nd, 2023.
- “The Persecution of Renaissance Readers of Lucretius Revisited, a Case Study Challenging Common Modern Narratives of the Relationship Between the Catholic Church and Science,” History & Philosophy of Science Workshop, March 1, 2019.
- “Orwell’s Impact on How We Imagine Censorship,” Comparing Practices of Knowledge Workshop, January 29th 2019.
- “The Persecution of Renaissance Lucretius Readers Revisited,” at the Renaissance Workshop, co-sponsored with the Early Modern and Mediterranean Worlds Workshop, January 22nd, 2018.
- “Humanist Lives of Classical Philosophers and the Idea of Renaissance Secularization,” Institute on the Formation of Knowledge, October 9th, 2017.
- “The Desperate Birth of Renaissance Humanism,” Graham School of Government Works of the Mind Lecture Series, Chicago Cultural Center, October 8th, 2017.
- “Why Pious Renaissance Scholars Read and Defended the Infamous Roman ‘Atheist’ Lucretius,” Graham School of Government Works of the Mind Lecture Series, Chicago Cultural Center, April 9th, 2017.
- Address to accompany the exhibit “Harry Potter’s World: Renaissance Science, Magic and Medicine,” Crerar Library, February 22nd, 2017.
- “The Roots of Enlightenment Radical Religion Examined through Renaissance Biographies of Classical Philosophers,” Divinity School Wednesday Lunch series, April 27th, 2016.
- “Active and Monastic Life in Humanist Biographies of Pythagoras,” Western Mediterranean Culture Workshop, March 2nd, 2015.
- “Hands-on Rare Books Icebreaker Session, opportunity to get used to working with antique books and manuscripts.” Early Modern Workshop, Feb. 9th, 2015.
- “How Forgeries and Spuria Still Shape Our Modern Classical Canon, Examined Through the Renaissance Revival and Early Print History of Classical (and Not-so-

Classical) Stoicism,” Weissbourd Text Seminar, Society of Fellows in the Liberal Arts at the University of Chicago, November 12th, 2014.

Presentations at Texas A&M University and Harvard University

- “Sustenance of the Soul in Renaissance Reconstructions of Classical Libraries,” Cultured Sustenance: an Interdisciplinary Symposium, Melbern G. Glasscock Center for Humanities Research, Texas A&M University, April 2011.
- “Pagan Imagery in Poetry on the Death of Raphael,” Texas A&M University Interdisciplinary Early Modern Studies Working Group, Oct. 6th, 2010.
- “*Opinio Non Christiana*: Lucretius’ First Renaissance Readers Examined through Their Marginalia,” From Studiolo to Street: A Harvard/Princeton Graduate Conference in Early Modern History, Cambridge, MA, January 18th, 2008.
- “Reception of Lucretius, Epicureanism and Atomism in the Renaissance,” Early Modern Studies Workshop, Harvard University, December 14th, 2004.

TEACHING

Teaching Fields

- Renaissance and Early Modern Europe
- Enlightenment Europe
- Long Durée European Intellectual and Cultural History
- Radical Heterodoxy, Atheism, and Freethought
- Reception and Transformation of Classical Texts
- History of the Book and Reading
- Patronage and the Production of Culture
- Censorship and Information Control
- Manga & Animation After WWII, Osamu Tezuka, Feminist Manga

Courses Offered at the University of Chicago

Graduate Courses

- Renaissance Humanism (HIST 42514)
 - Offered Spring 2015, Spring 2022
 - Cross-listed with Classics, Comparative Literature, and Italian
- Patronage and Culture in Renaissance Italy and Her Neighbors (HIST 81503/4)
 - Two quarters, offered Fall and Winter 2016-17
 - Cross-listed with Classics, Italian, and KNOW.

Mixed Graduate/Undergraduate Courses

- Censorship from the Inquisition to the Present (HIST 25421/35421), 2017, 2025
 - Co-taught with Stuart McManus (SIFK Postdoctoral Fellow), 2017
 - Cross-listed with Classics, History of Science, Religious Studies, KNOW, and College Signature Courses.
- Europe’s Intellectual Transformations Renaissance to Enlightenment (HIST 29522/39522) 2018, 2023

- Cross-listed with French, Religious Studies, Renaissance Studies, Formation of Knowledge (KNOW), College Signature Courses.
- God of Manga: Osamu Tezuka's "Phoenix," Buddhism, Ethics, Science Fiction, and post-WWII manga & anime (HIST 24613), 2023
- Censorship, Information Control, & Revolutions in Information Technology from the Printing Press to the Internet (HIST 25425/35425)
 - Co-taught with Adrian Johns, 2018
 - Cross-listed with History of Science, Religious Studies, Renaissance Studies, and Media Arts and Design, Formation of Knowledge (KNOW), College Signature Courses, Big Problems.
- History of Censorship (HIST 29516/39516), 2018
 - Cross-listed with Classics, History of Science, Religious Studies, KNOW, and College Signature Courses.

Undergraduate Courses

- Study Abroad: Florence Living with History (HIST 22907)
 - Offered September Term 2019, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025
- Italian Renaissance: Dante, Machiavelli, and the Wars of Popes and Kings (HIST 12203, previously offered as HIST 22900/32900)
 - Offered Spring 2015, 2016, 2018, 2019, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025
 - Cross-listed with Classics, Italian, KNOW, Medieval Studies, and Religious Studies (History of Christianity).
- European Civilization I (Core course; HIST 13001)
 - Offered 2015, Winter 2017, Fall 2017, 2019, 2023, 2025
- Rome Study Abroad: European Civilization III, Renaissance and Baroque, 2022

Continuing Education Open Enrollment Courses at the Graham School

- History of Fantasy, co-taught with Jo Walton, 2024
- History of Science Fiction, co-taught with Jo Walton, 2023
- Monks to Voltaire: European Intellectual Transformations 1200-1750, 2022

Courses Offered at Other Institutions

- *Rare Books School Course:* History of Censorship from the Inquisition to the Internet, hosted at University of Chicago Special Collections Research Center, August 2025.
- *At Previous Institutions:*
 - Renaissance and Reformation Europe
 - Renaissance Florence
 - The Craft of History: Intellectual History
 - European Intellectual History from Ancient Greece to the Early Middle Ages
 - European Intellectual History from the High Middle Ages to 17th Century
 - Seminar in Historiography and Historical Writing
 - A Global History of Modern Times, 1600-present

Unconventional Teaching Activities

- Renaissance Papal Election Simulation event in Rockefeller Chapel, offered in conjunction with “Italian Renaissance,” 2015, 2016, 2018, 2019, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, and as a three-day summer faculty intensive Summer 2023.
- Organizer and Project Head for the *ExoTerra Imagination Lab*, a gamified undergraduate virtual community for collaborative research, 2019-20.
- “Censorship and Information Control During Information Revolutions” Guest speaker series co-organized with Adrian Johns and Cory Doctorow (Electronic Freedom Foundation, MIT Media Lab) featuring a series of nine filmed discussions among experts on censorship past and present, funded by the Neubauer Collegium, the SIFK, and a Kickstarter campaign, and disseminated online by video and podcast: <https://voices.uchicago.edu/censorship/>
- Organized the exhibit *Censorship and Information Control from Inquisition to Internet* in the University of Chicago Special Collections Research Library, and its associated catalog, with contributions from three graduate students and thirty-five undergraduates, September 17th-December 14th 2019, with accompanying weekly master class series. See <https://voices.uchicago.edu/censorship>
- Organized the exhibit *Tensions in Renaissance Cities* in the University of Chicago Special Collections Research Library, and the production of its associated catalog, with contributions from fifteen graduate students, one undergraduate, and one postdoctoral fellow, March 27th-June 9th, 2017.
- Organized a History Ph.D. student and faculty group expedition to see *Hamilton: An American Musical*, with accompanying discussion of the use of history in public discourse, October 30th, 2016, second expedition April 7th, 2017.
- Took students from the University of Chicago and Northwestern University to present historical materials at the Italian Cultural Festival, part of Chicago’s Neighborhoods of the World festival series, organized by the Italian Cultural Institute of Chicago, Navy Pier, March 5th, 2017.
- Oversaw the production of *Homer among the Moderns*, a collection of essays written, edited, and published by the seventeen graduate students in my “Renaissance Humanism” course, as part of a “learning by doing” program, 2015.

On-Campus Presentations for Students

- “On Progress and Historical Change,” Fundamentals Program, February 5th 2019.
- “Healthy work Habits,” Project Eudaimonia Graduate Mental Health and Wellbeing Series, October 11th 2018.
- Science Fiction and Fantasy Publishing Discussion with Jo Walton for the University of Chicago Creative Writing Program, February 20th, 2018.
- Social Sciences Undergraduate Annual Colloquium Lecture, November 6th 2017.
- Food for Thought lunch discussion with History Ph.D. students, April 5th, 2017.
- “Fiction & History Narrative, Contexts, and Imagination,” faculty discussion panel for the *Chicago Journal of History*, February 15th, 2017.
- “The Craft of Writing and Non-Academic Writing,” Making History Work series, April 29th, 2016.

- “Historians in the Public Sphere: A Conversation with David Perry,” Making History Work series, April 13th, 2016.
- “Teaching Primary Sources with Special Collections” history graduate student pedagogy workshop, organized by Diana Schwartz, Jan. 29th and Feb. 5th, 2016.
- “Healthy Work Habits,” Making History Work series, January 15th, 2016.

Guest Teaching and Supplementary Teaching Activities

- Pedagogy Workshop for History Ph.D. Students, 2021-3.
- “The Symbiosis of Information Technologies New and Old in the Print and Digital Revolutions,” at The Future of Books, University of Chicago Basic Program of Liberal Education for Adults Symposium, October 26th, 2019.
- Week of Latin training focused on the Renaissance and Florence, for students at the Paideia Living Latin in Rome institute, Rome, Italy, scheduled June 2018.
- Participant in the O-week augmented reality game “O.S.” project led by Heidi Coleman, Patrick Jagoda, and Kristen Schilt, September 2017.
- Guest session in KNOW 40201, “Reason and Religion” taught by Shadi Bartsch-Zimmer and Robert J. Richards, January 31st, 2017.
- Talk on “Comics and Manga” for the Chicago Public Library Summer Library Visit series, August 25th, 2016.
- Took students from the University of Chicago and Purdue University to see the touring Shakespeare’s Globe performance of the *Merchant of Venice*, hosted by Chicago Shakespeare Theater, August 13th, 2016.
- Walking tour of the historic center of Florence for students at the Paideia Living Latin in Rome institute, Rome, Italy, June 25th, 2016.
- Judged the Making History Work “History Extravaganza” research presentation contest for Ph.D. students, June 2nd, 2016.
- Presented “The Humanist Roots of Enlightenment Radical Religion Seen through Renaissance Biographies of Classical Philosophers” in History 14203, “Doing History: Theories and Practices,” taught by Kathleen Belew, April 14th, 2016.
- Organized Shakespeare Histories Screening Series, Franke Institute, Spring 2016.
- Presented “How Forgeries and Spuria Still Shape Our Modern Classical Canon, Examined Through the Renaissance Revival and Early Print History of Classical (and Not-so-Classical) Stoicism” in History 14203, “Doing History: Theories and Practices,” taught by Susan Burns, April 10th, 2015.
- Guest-taught in Latin 2/31400, “Lucretius’ *De Rerum Natura*,” taught by Elizabeth Asmis, Wednesday February 5th, 2015.

Student Advising

Dissertation Committees

- John-Paul Heil, “*Virtue and Vice in the Political World of Renaissance Naples.*” (History)
- Brendan Small, “*Praise and Blame: The Politics of Virtue in Early Sixteenth Century Rome.*” (History)

- Tali Winkler, “*The Role of Early Modern German Book Fairs in Jewish Economic, Cultural, and Intellectual Life.*” (History)
- Edward Johnson (History & Art History)
- Griffin Ridley (History)
- Hilary Barker (Art History)
- Ji Gao (French)
- Georgios Gittis (Classics)
- Patrick Joseph Kaufman (Musicology)

Ph.D. Student Orals Committees

- | | |
|--|------------------------------|
| ○ Anastasia Conner (History) | ○ Griffin Ridley (History) |
| ○ Catherine Randazzo (History) | ○ Brendan Small (History) |
| ○ Edward Johnson (History & Art History) | ○ Alexandra Peters (History) |
| ○ Elizabeth Hines (History) | ○ Benny Bar-Lavi (History) |
| | ○ John-Paul Heil (History) |

M.A. Theses

- Rowan Tackitt, 2024 (MAPSS), “Blood, Breath, and Beauty: Consumption and Vampirism in the Western Imagination.”
- Aylin Corona, 2021 (MAPSS), “Balancing Acts: Domestic Careers and Enforced Reproduction for Female Court Dwarfs in Early Modern Europe.”
- Monica Barry, 2021 (MAPSS), “Placing the Blame: the Religious Experience of the Black Death.”
- Onsi Kamel, 2021 (MAPSS), “Metaphysics of Spirit: Henry More, Descartes, and Atheism.”
- Rebecca Ries-Roncalli, 2021 (MAPSS), Renaissance women’s vernacular poetry and the impact of the Council of Trent.
- Julia Marsan, 2019 (MAPH), “Mayan Myths” children’s book retelling
- Sean Oros, 2017 (MAPSS), “Of Platonists and Plantagenets: The Birth of English Humanism.”
- Chris Conway, 2017 (MAPSS), “Bacon, Hobbes & Anti-Dueling Reform.”
- Jeff Della Rocco, 2016 (MAPSS), “Humanism and the Papacy: Pomponio Leto, Pope Paul II, and Rodrigo Sánchez de Arévalo, 1464-1468.”
- Brendan Small, 2015 (MAPH), “Virtuous Pursuits: Rebuilding an Imagined Antiquity.”

B.A. Theses

- Freya Haworth, 2024 (History), Christian theology & canon formation, Origen and his world, 2nd to 5th c. CE
- Basil Egli, 2024 (History), Papal Feasting in the Counter-Reformation
- Hannah Halpern, 2023 (History) “*De consolazione Augustini*: Augustinian Authority in Petrarch’s *Secret Book*.”
- Katia Kukucka, 2021 (History), “Violent Delights and Violent Ends: Renaissance Politics of Italian Sovereignty. and the Case of Pier Luigi Farnese, 1534-1549.”
- Katerina Stefanescu, 2021 (History), “Power versus Piety: A Formal Analysis of the Bentivoglio Altarpiece.”
- Timothy Cunningham, 2018 (History), “Reception of Seneca.”

- Gabrielle Dulys, 2018 (Fundamentals Program), “To be Visible, or a Guide to disassembling a Cardboard Box,” an animated reflection on *Mawaru Penguindrum* and Kunihiko Ikuhara’s feminist fiction.
- Nathaniel Eakman 2018 (Creative Writing), novel “Gorgon.”
- Emilia Lehmann, 2018 (History), “Napoleon’s Egyptology.”
- Maxwell Wiltzer, 2018 (History & Philosophy), “The Common Understandings of Foreign Lands: A New Conception of Stoic Cosmopolitanism Framed by Roman Exile”
- Mark Hassenfratz, 2017 (English), “Watterson’s Rebellion: Anti-Consumerism, Imagination, and Wonder in *Calvin and Hobbes*.”
- Will Kuehnle, 2017 (History), “Father Beiting: A Pastor’s *Sensus Unitatis*.”
- Elliot Mertz, 2017 (History), “The Mechanical Puzzle: The Eighteenth-Century English Past and the Hidden Role of Antiquarianism in Enlightenment Thought.”
 - Winner of the Karafiol Prize for the Best Thesis in International or European History, University of Chicago Department of History.

Junior Papers

- John Carter Hall, 2017 (History) “Renaissance Hymn Reform.”

Advising Student Groups

- Faculty Advisor for Sodalitas (the Renaissance Studies interest group), the Chi Chi Chi Academic Honors Society, Attori Senza Paura (Commedia dell’Arte performance troupe), and for Uchi-con, an annual convention organized by Chi Chi Chi in collaboration with the University of Chicago Japanese Animation Society (UCJAS), 2015-present.
 - Talk on “History of Gender in Manga and Anime” at Uchi-con, January 30th, 2021, and created the convention’s GatherTown campus.
 - Helped organize the “Renaissance Banquet” on campus at International House, June 2nd 2017.
 - Helped Uchi-con organize a charity auction to support the Hyde Park Ronald McDonald House, February 4th, 2017.
 - Talk on “Shigeru Mizuki and Japanese Yokai Ghost Stories” at Uchi-con, January 30th, 2016.
 - Talk on “Early Yonkoma Manga, the Gekiga & Underground Movements, & the Formation of Contemporary Manga” for Chi Chi Chi, June 4th, 2015.
 - Talk on “Osamu Tezuka and the Birth of Modern Manga after World War II” for Chi Chi Chi, April 9th, 2015.
 - Talk on “The Economics of Anime and Manga Production” at Uchi-con, January 31st, 2015.
- Faculty friend of Thangaraj House (Campus North; formerly called Tufts House)
 - Dinner and discussion with Thangaraj House students after the Aims of Education Address, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2020.
 - Dinner with Thangaraj House students, January 31st, 2017.
 - Faculty panel on “Extraterrestrial Life” at Tufts House, May 21st, 2016.

PROFESSIONAL AND SERVICE ACTIVITY

While at the University of Chicago***Professional Organizations***

- Project Launch, American Historical Association Remote Teaching Wiki, supported by NEH CARES Grant awarded to the AHA, 2020.
- Renaissance Society of America Mentoring Program Committee, 2017-2019.

Conferences and Exhibitions

- Curator of the exhibition “Censorship and Information Control from Inquisition to Internet,” University of Chicago Library Special Collections Research Center, September 17th-December 14th, 2018.
- Organizer of campus visits to the Smart Museum of Art and the University of Chicago Libraries Special Collections Research Center, for the Renaissance Society of America Annual Meeting, March 28th and April 2nd, 2017.
- Curator of “Tensions in Renaissance Cities,” University of Chicago Library Special Collections Research Center, March 28th-June 9th, 2017.
- Organized conference “The Inquisition and Information Control before and after Galileo,” Franke Institute, University of Chicago, March 18th-20th, 2016.
- Conference co-developer for “Beyond Reception: Renaissance Humanism and the Transformation of Classical Antiquity” (March 23-24th, 2015) and “Renaissance and Early Modern Transformations of Antiquity” (December 2nd-3rd, 2014) in Berlin, co-organized by the Texas A&M University Classical Transformations Group and the Transformationen der Antike (Transformations of Antiquity) group at the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin.

University Level Service

- Court Theatre Faculty Advisory Committee 2024-present
- Chicago Center for Teaching and Learning Consulting Faculty 2022-present
- Search Committee: Dean of the University Libraries 2021
- Access UChicago Now Leadership Committee 2020-present
- University of Chicago Board of the Library 2020-present
- Renaissance Studies Program Steering Committee Co-Chair 2017-present
- Co-Developer of the new Renaissance Studies Minor 2017-2019
- University of Chicago Professional Advancement and Training for Humanities Scholars (PATHS) Steering Committee 2017-present
- University of Chicago Renaissance Studies website developer
<https://voices.uchicago.edu/renaissancestudies/> 2017-present
- Early Modern and Mediterranean Worlds 1200-1800 Workshop, formed by merging the Early Modern Workshop with the Western Mediterranean Culture Workshop, attendant and cycling faculty sponsor 2017-present
- Early Modern Workshop, faculty sponsor 2014-2017
- Western Mediterranean Culture Workshop, periodic attendance 2014-2017
- Renaissance Workshop, periodic attendance 2014-present

- Member of the Steering Committee for the Classics Department's Ph.D. Program in Transformations in the Classical Tradition 2015-2018

Divisional and College Service

- Created GatherTown Virtual Campus, for the pandemic 2020-2021
- Organized *ExoTerra Imagination Lab*, for the pandemic 2020-2021
- Social Sciences Division Fall Planning Committee (adapting College teaching for the COVID-19 Pandemic) 2020-2021
- Committee of the College Council 2017-2021
- SIFK New Curriculum Initiative Faculty Seminar 2017-2018
- Society of Fellows Senior Fellow 2016-present
- College Council 2016-2019

Departmental Service

- History Department Pedagogy Workshop 2020-21, 2025-26
- History Dept. Teaching & Fellowships Committee 2020-present intermittent
- Promotion Committee: Emily Kern 2025
- History Department MAPSS Coordinator 2023-4
- History Department Collegiate Affairs Committee 2016-2018
- Search Committee: Associate Director of Undergraduate Research 2018
- Search Committee: British History 2017-2018
- Search Committee: Ancient Roman History 2017-2018
- History Department Website Committee 2016-2017

Service at Previous Institutions

- Co-convenor and web developer for the Texas A&M Interdisciplinary Early Modern Studies Working Group, Glasscock Center 2010-2014
- Texas A&M History Department Diversity Committee. 2012-2014
- Texas A&M History Department Library Committee. 2009-2010
- Co-Coordinator of the Harvard Early Modern Studies Workshop. 2007-8
- *The Cambridge Companion to Renaissance Philosophy*. Assistant to general editor James Hankins. Cambridge University Press. 2007

Professional Memberships

- Renaissance Society of America
- American Historical Association
- International Association for Neo-Latin Studies
- Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America (SFWA)
- American Association of University Women
- Netherlands Institute of Advanced Studies in the Social Sciences Working Group on the Formation of Knowledge, Sub-Group on Knowledge & the City
- XPRIZE Science Fiction Writers' Advisory Council
- Collective Intelligence Project Advisory Council

MEDIA AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Interviews, Consulting, and Guest Blogging

- Columnist for *Strange Horizons*, 2022 to present.
- Blogger for [Reactor/Tor.com](#), 2014 to present.
- History and Language Consultant for FUNimation, 2010 to present.
- Columnist for Tokyopop.com, 2006 to 2007.
- Mythology and Language Consultant for ADV Films, 2005 to 2008.

Sample Interviews and Features (selected)

- [“Ada Palmer and the Weird Hand of Progress”](#) *Wired Magazine*, 2022.
- [“Why Is Silicon Valley So Obsessed With the Virtue of Suffering?”](#) *The New York Times*, March 26, 2019.
- [“Speaking Freely: Ada Palmer,”](#) Electronic Freedom Foundation, 2019.
- [“Ada Palmer: Beyond the Exponential Age,”](#) *Locus*, May 14, 2018.
- [“Nice Ice Baby!”](#) *The Economist 1843*, August/September issue, 2017.
- [“Alternate Universes and Side-By-Side Timelines No Longer Just for Science Fiction”](#) Christopher Borrelli, *Chicago Tribune*, January 13, 2017.
- [“A Utopia with Caveats,”](#) *Scientific American*, Summer 2016.
- [“The Rediscovery of This Writer in the Renaissance Opened the Way to the Modern World,”](#) Monkey Cage, *The Washington Post* 2015.

Sample Video and Audio Interviews and Podcasts/Vidcasts

- [Inventing the Renaissance discussion](#) with Paul Krugman, Substack, June 2025.
- [The Renaissance: Not Such a Golden Age?](#) BBC History Extra, June 2025.
- [Inventing the Renaissance interview](#), *The Medieval Podcast* with Danièle Cybulskie, Medievalists.net, May 2025.
- [Myths of the Renaissance](#), HistoryForAtheists.com, April 2025.
- [Is the Renaissance a Myth?](#) *Gone Medieval* podcast with Elanor Janega, February 25th 2025.
- [Reinventing... the Renaissance](#), If It An't Baroque..., February 15th 2025.
- [On How Speculative Worlds Can Help Us Demand A Better Future](#), Existential Hope podcast, January 21st 2025.
- [A History of Saving the World](#), Hope is a Verb (FixTheNews podcast) August 30th, 2024.
- [Ada Palmer on Viking Metaphysics, Contingent Moments, and Censorship](#), *Conversations with Tyler Podcast*, June 28th 2023.
- “Tennessee Governor, GOP Push More for Scrutiny of School Libraries,” *Chicago Tonight* PBS news WTTW [interview](#) 2022.
- [“Prof. Ada Palmer on Pandemics, Progress, History, Teleology, and the Singularity,”](#) *Singularity Podcast*, 2020.
- [“Episode 34: Ada Palmer,”](#) *In Lieu of Fun* (law & politics vidcast), 2020.
- [“Is Progress Inevitable?”](#) *You Are Not So Smart Podcast*, 2017.

Other op-ed, guest blog, anthology, interview, and podcast venues (selected)

- [*Actusf*](#) (French science fiction video interview series)
- [*Barnes & Noble*](#)
- [*Before We Go Blog*](#) (literary blog)
- [*Book Smugglers*](#) (literary blog)
- [*BiblioSanctum*](#) (literary blog)
- [*Black Gate*](#) (science fiction video interview series)
- [*Chicago Magazine*](#)
- [*Clarkesworld*](#) (science fiction magazine)
- [*Crooked Timber*](#) (political science blog)
- [*Fantasy Book Critic*](#) (science fiction and fantasy literary reviews)
- [*Fast Forward*](#) (contemporary science fiction & horror journalism)
- [*The Guardian*](#)
- [*Hong Kong Standard*](#)
- [*Huffington Post*](#)
- [*Inverse*](#) (fan culture e-magazine)
- [*Librarie Mollat*](#) (French science fiction publisher interviews)
- [*Locus*](#) (science fiction & fantasy publishing trade magazine)
- [*Manga Out Loud*](#) (manga scholarship podcast)
- [*Methods of Rationality*](#) (rationalist fiction podcast)
- [*Queering SF*](#) (LGBTQ+ science fiction newsletter)
- [*Sci Fi Chick*](#) (feminist science fiction and fantasy blog)
- [*SF Signal*](#) (science fiction fanzine/fancast)
- [*Shoreline of Infinity*](#) (Scottish science fiction magazine)
- [*Tokyopop.com*](#) (anime and manga publisher blog)
- [*Tor/Forge Newsletter*](#) (publisher blog)
- [*Uncanny Magazine*](#) (science fiction & fantasy magazine)
- [*University of Chicago Magazine*](#)
- [*Vice Motherboard*](#)