

**Education**

- 2014            PhD – Decorative Arts, Design History, Material Culture  
Bard Graduate Center  
*Dissertation: “The Chymical Cleric: John Allin, Puritan Alchemist in England and America (1623-1683).”*
- 2008            MPhil – Decorative Arts, Design History, Material Culture  
Bard Graduate Center
- 2004            MA – History  
York University  
*Thesis: “Emergence of Botany and Knowledge of Plants: Nature and Creation in the Sixteenth Century.”*
- 2001 – 2002    Special Student – Masters Programme History  
York University
- 1994            Ontario College Advanced Diploma – Jewelry Arts  
George Brown College of Applied Arts and Technology  
*Metalsmithing, Gemology, Metallurgy, Enameling, Jewelry Design*

**Appointments****Academic**

- 2020 – Present    Director & Founder, Active Matter: Regeneration through Artisanal Studies  
*\*formerly Retro Technology Transfer*  
<https://activemattergroup.org/>
- 2020 – Present    Designer–Goldsmith, Prima Materia Jewelry  
<https://www.primamateria.jewelry/>

**New York University**

- 2018 – Present    Part-Time Faculty, Gallatin School of Individualized Study

**Pratt Institute**

- 2023 – Present    Visiting Assistant Professor, Fine Arts, School of Art  
Co-Director (with Brice Garrett) “Future of Jewelry” Research Accelerator @Research Yard of Pratt Institute, Brooklyn Navy Yard

**Rhode Island School of Design (RISD)**

- 2024 – Present    Lecturer and Critic, Jewelry + Metalsmithing

**Stevens Institute of Technology**

- 2023 – 2024       Adjunct, School of Humanities, Arts & Social Sciences

**Columbia University in the City of New York**

- 2017 – 2018       Associate Research Scholar, The Italian Academy for Advanced Studies in America  
2014 – 2017       History of Science and Technology Postdoctoral Fellow, “Making & Knowing Project,” Department of History

**Nunavut Arctic College**

- 2015 – 2022       Sessional Jewelry History Instructor, Jewelry + Metalwork Program

**Visiting Scholar**

- 2018 – 2019       Columbia University, Center for Science and Society. Support for completion of *Furnace and Fugue: A Digital Edition of Michael Maier’s Atalanta fugiens (1618) with Scholarly Commentary*.
- 2017 – 2019       Brown University, History Department. Support for development and completion of *Furnace and Fugue*, born-digital edition of *Atalanta fugiens* funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Digital Publications Initiative.

- 2012 National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy (Ukraine), Department of Cultural Studies. Course Director, MA seminar: “Cultural History of Computers and Information Technology.” PhD Workshop Director: “Doing History in the Digital Age: Research, Methodology, Interpretation.”

## Jewelry

### NYC Jewelry Week

- 2023 Nov “Making & Breaking” Zine launch and exhibition  
(With Brice Garrett) “The Future of Jewelry” Research Accelerator @Research Yard of Pratt Institute. Held at Steuben Gallery Pratt Institute, NYC Jewelry Week (13–19 November).
- 2021 Nov Independent Curator, exhibition: *Ars Alchemica | Art of Alchemy*  
(With Christianne Teague) Designed and co-curated contemporary jewelry exhibition at Jewelry Arts Inc., NYC Jewelry Week (15–21 November).

### Jewelry Industry

- 2001 – 2018 Antique Jewelry & Art Conference (New York): jewelry history educator to industry professionals.
- 2001 – 2008 Royal Ontario Museum (Toronto): ROMLife Education Lecturer; ROMLife Programs Coordinator.
- 1994 – 2000 Jewelry industry production (Toronto): 1994–2000 freelance designer, wax model-maker, private commissions. 1998–1999 jewelry designer for Design Model Services Group (firm specializing in wax models and fine jewelry designs for international jewelry manufacturers). 1997–1998 jewelry designer, wax-model maker, retail services for Secrett Jewel Salon. 1996–1997 jewelry designer and wax model-maker for Dianna Rhodes Accessories (firm specializing in electroformed jewelry).

## Fellowships

- 2025 CTL Faculty Fellow, “Re-making Making,” Pratt Institute.
- 2023 – Present Future of Jewelry Research Accelerator, Pratt Research Yard, Brooklyn Navy Yard, Pratt Institute.
- 2019 Allington Fellow, Science History Institute (formerly Chemical Heritage Foundation), Beckman Center for the History of Chemistry: “John Allin (1623-1683) and Puritan Alchemy in the British Atlantic World.”
- 2017 – 2018 Associate Research Scholar, Columbia University, The Italian Academy for Advanced Studies in America: “Ludic Humanism in Michael Maier’s *Atalanta fugiens* (1618).”
- 2014 – 2017 History of Science and Technology Postdoctoral Fellow, Columbia University, Department of History: “Making and Knowing Project.”  
<https://www.makingandknowing.org/>
- 2013 – 2014 Sidney M. Edelstein Fellow, Science History Institute, Beckman Center for the History of Chemistry: “Allegorical Laboratory: Michael Maier’s Alchemical Emblem Book *Atalanta fugiens* (1618).”
- 2013 Dibner Research Fellow in the History of Science and Technology, The Huntington Library: “Sight and Sound of Early Modern Alchemy: Michael Maier’s *Atalanta fugiens* (1618).”

## Grants & Awards

### Common Ground

- 2024 – 2025 Dean’s Grant for Emergent Research, School of Art, Pratt Institute  
Awarded to support development of an environmental art installation on Governors Island. Project development in partnership with colleagues from Stony Brook University (Art; Ecology & Evolution), Columbia University (Earth Sciences), NYU (Liberal Studies), New York City College of technology, New York Botanical Garden, and Classic Harbor Line.

### Furnace & Fugue

- 2022 American Historical Association (AHA), Roy Rosenzweig Prize  
Awarded to *Furnace and Fugue: A Digital Edition of Michael Maier’s Atalanta fugiens (1618) with Scholarly Commentary*. Co-edited with Tara Nummedal (University of Virginia Press, 2020).  
<https://furnaceandfugue.org/>

### Gold & Mercury

- 2022 “Gold & Mercury: Metals in Transit.”  
Lorentz Center for Scientific Workshops (Leiden NL) 7–10 June 2022; Donna Bilak workshop director.  
Funders: Lorentz Center; SHAC Subject Development Award #SD-1-2021; AlchemEast ERC #724914;

DURARE ERC #852732; Descartes Centre; ReForm (Leibniz Science Campus Bochum, “Resources in Transformation”).

Working group funds to convene Special Issue contributors of “Gold & Mercury: Amalgamated Histories in Chemistry, Culture, and Environment.” Published in *AMBIX: The Journal of the Society for the History of Alchemy and Chemistry*, 70.1 (February 2023); Donna Bilak, Guest Editor.

<https://www.lorentzcenter.nl/gold-en-mercury-metals-in-transit.html>

NYU Adjunct Faculty Professional Development Fund. Support for “Gold & Mercury” workshop travel and accommodation.

### **Project Atalanta**

2016 – 2020

Andrew W. Mellon Digital Publications Initiative. Awarded to “Project Atalanta” by the Library at Brown University. Project Leads: Donna Bilak and Tara Nummedal.

Funds to support project development and publication of *Furnace and Fugue: A Digital Edition of Michael Maier’s Atalanta fugiens (1618) with Scholarly Commentary* at Brown University for transcription, translation, customized programming, and other relevant scholarly activities. “Project Atalanta” is based on Donna Bilak’s *Atalanta fugiens* research. *Furnace and Fugue* is co-edited with Tara Nummedal (History, Brown) in collaboration with Dr. Loren Ludwig (Music Director, LeStrange Viols).

2015

Betty Irene Moore Library Fund, Science History Institute. Support for international multi-disciplinary workshop, “Interplay: Rethinking Music, Mathematics, and Alchemy in *Atalanta fugiens* (1618)”; Donna Bilak workshop director.

## **Publications**

Special Issue

Guest Editor, “Gold & Mercury: Amalgamated Histories in Chemistry, Culture, and Environment.” Special Issue, *AMBIX: The Journal of the Society for the History of Alchemy and Chemistry*, 70.1 (February 2023).  
<https://www.tandfonline.com/toc/yamb20/70/1>

Digital Edition

(With Tara Nummedal) *Furnace and Fugue: A Digital Edition of Michael Maier’s Atalanta fugiens (1618) with Scholarly Commentary*. Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 2020.  
ISBN: 978-0-8139-4558-3  
<https://doi.org/10.26300/bdp.ff>

Articles & Essays

“Living Then and Now with Gold and Mercury.”

“Gold & Mercury” Special Issue, *AMBIX*, 70.1 (February 2023): 1–6.  
<https://doi.org/10.1080/00026980.2023.2192590>

(With George Vrtis) “Environmental Alchemy: Mercury-Gold Amalgamation Mining and the Transformation of the Earth.”

“Gold & Mercury” Special Issue, *AMBIX*, 70.1 (February 2023): 31–53.  
<https://doi.org/10.1080/00026980.2023.2192131>

“Ch.3 Laboratories and Technology: Chymical Practice and Sensory Experience.” In *A Cultural History of Chemistry in the Early Modern Age*, ed. Bruce T. Moran, 67–88. Volume 3 of *A Cultural History of Chemistry*, gen. eds. Peter Morris and Alan Rocke. London: Bloomsbury, 2022.

“Chasing Atalanta: Maier, Steganography, and the Secrets of Nature.” In *Furnace and Fugue: A Digital Edition of Michael Maier’s Atalanta fugiens (1618) with Scholarly Commentary*, eds. Nummedal and Bilak. Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 2020.  
<https://doi.org/10.26300/bdp.ff.bilak>

(With Tara Nummedal) “Interplay: New Scholarship on *Atalanta fugiens*.” In *Furnace and Fugue: A Digital Edition of Michael Maier’s Atalanta fugiens (1618) with Scholarly Commentary*, eds. Nummedal and Bilak. Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 2020.

[https://edition640.makingandknowing.org/#/essays/ann\\_305\\_ie\\_19](https://edition640.makingandknowing.org/#/essays/ann_305_ie_19)

“Out of the Ivy and into the Arctic: Imitation Coral Reconstruction in Cross-Cultural Contexts.”

Special Issue, “Rethinking Performative Methods in the History of Science.” Guest Editor, Marieke M. A. Hendriksen. *Berichte zur Wissenschaftsgeschichte*, 43.3 (September 2020): 341–366.  
<https://doi.org/10.1002/bewi.202000010>

“Making and Knowing Pedagogy.” In *Secrets of Craft and Nature in Renaissance France. A Digital Critical Edition and English Translation of BnF Ms. Fr. 640*, eds. Pamela H. Smith et al. Columbia University Libraries, NY: The Making and Knowing Project, 2020.  
[https://edition640.makingandknowing.org/#/essays/ann\\_305\\_ie\\_19](https://edition640.makingandknowing.org/#/essays/ann_305_ie_19)

(With Pamela H. Smith, Joel Klein, and Jenny Boulboulé) “The Making and Knowing Project: Reflections, Methods, and New Directions.” *West 86th: A Journal of Decorative Arts, Design History, and Material Culture*, 23.1 (Spring-Summer 2016): 35–55.

“Decoding Bronzino’s Portrait of Eleonora di Toledo (c.1539): An Iconography of Jewels and Dress.” In *Bronzino: The Muse of Florence*, ed. Liana de Girolami Cheney, 371–392. Washington, DC: New Academia Publishing, 2014.

“Alchemy and the End Times: Revelations from the Laboratory and Library of John Allin, Puritan Alchemist (1623–1683).” Special Issue, “Alchemy and Religion in Christian Europe.” Guest Editor, Tara Nummedal. *Ambix: The Journal of the Society for the History of Alchemy and Chemistry*, 60.4 (November 2013): 390–414.  
<https://doi.org/10.1179/0002698013Z.000000000040>

#### In Press

“Colonial Chymistry and Spaces of Experiment in Gershom Bulkeley’s Laboratory Notebook.” In *Making Space in Early Modern Europe*, eds. Colin Murray, Sophie Pitman, and Tianna Helena Uchacz. Cultural Histories of the Material World (New York: Bard Graduate Center).

#### Exhibition Catalogue

“The Jeweler’s Art and Alchemical Transformation.” In *Jewelry Stories: Highlights from the Collection 1947–2019*, ed. Barbara Paris Gifford, 96–97. Stuttgart; New York: Arnoldsche Art Publishers in association with the Museum of Arts and Design, 2020.

“Coda: The Jeweler’s Bench.”  
*A View from the Jeweler’s Bench: Ancient Treasures, Contemporary Statements*  
 Feature Exhibition, Bard Graduate Center. New York City (14 February – 7 July 2019)  
<https://www.bgc.bard.edu/research-forum/articles/437/jewelers-bench>

#### Book Reviews

Melanie Holcomb, ed. *Jewelry: The Body Transformed* (New Haven: Yale University Press with the Metropolitan Museum of Art, 2019). Reviewed in *West 86th: A Journal of Decorative Arts, Design History, and Material Culture* 26, no. 2 (Fall–Winter 2019): 322–4.

Katherine Eggert. *Disknowledge: Literature, Alchemy, and the End of Humanism in Renaissance England* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2015). Reviewed in *Early Science and Medicine: Journal for the Study of Science, Technology and Medicine in the Pre-Modern Period*. Reviewed in *Early Science and Medicine* 21, no. 4 (2016): 393–5.

(Paired Review) Sven Dupré, Dedo von Kerksenbrock-Krosigk, Beat Wismer, eds. *Art and Alchemy: The Mystery of Transformation* (Munich: Hirmer; Düsseldorf: Stiftung Museum Kunstpalast, 2014); and Sven Dupré, ed. *Laboratories of Art: Alchemy and Art Technology from Antiquity to the 18<sup>th</sup> Century* (Cham: Springer, 2014). Reviewed in *Isis: A Journal of the History of Science Society* 107, no.3 (September 2016): 625–7.

Marco Beretta and Maria Conforti, eds. *Fakes!? Hoaxes, Counterfeits, and Deceptions in Early Modern Science* (Sagamore Beach, Mass.: Science History Publications, 2014). Reviewed in *Isis: A Journal of the History of Science Society* 106, no. 2 (June 2015): 434–435.

Bruce Janacek. *Alchemical Belief: Occultism in the Religious Culture of Early Modern England* (Pennsylvania State University Press, 2011). Reviewed in *Early Science and Medicine: Journal for the Study of Science, Technology and Medicine in the Pre-Modern Period* 17, no. 6 (2012): 663–4.

Frances Larson. *An Infinity of Things: How Sir Henry Wellcome Collected the World* (Oxford University Press, 2009). Online review 30 July 2010, New York University “Material World Blog.”  
<https://materialworldblog.com/2010/07/book-review-an-infinity-of-things/>

#### Popular

“The Gold You Wear Is Millions Of Years Old.”

Medium.com (17 September 2021)  
<https://medium.com/@bilak12keys>

“Mari Ishikawa and Eunmi Chun: The Jeweler’s Art and Alchemy.”  
*45 Stories in Jewelry: 1947 to Now*  
 Feature exhibition, Museum of Arts and Design (MAD). New York City (13 February 2020 – 24 January 2021)  
<https://madmuseum.org/exhibition/45-stories-jewelry>

“Gershom Bulkeley (1635–1713): A Sensory Chymist in Colonial Connecticut.”  
 The Recipes Project (19 April 2018)  
<https://recipes.hypotheses.org/10463>

“Blast from the Past: Atomic Age Jewelry and the Feminine Ideal.”  
*Distillations Magazine*, 1.1 (Spring 2015): 34–37.  
<https://www.sciencehistory.org/distillations/blast-from-the-past-atomic-age-jewelry-and-the-feminine-ideal>

“The Crying of Lot 222: A Victorian Brooch Deconstructed.”  
*Ornamentum*, 31. 1–2 (Spring/Summer 2014): 18–21.  
<http://ornamentum.ca/the-crying-of-lot-222-a-victorian-brooch-deconstructed/>

## Media

### Academic

Donna Bilak, *Prima Materia Jewelry*.  
<https://www.primamateria.jewelry/>

“Donna Bilak, Research and Projects.”  
<https://dbilakpraxis.com/>

(With Tara Nummedal) “Furnace and Fugue: A Digital Edition of Michael Maier’s *Atalanta fugiens* (1618) with Scholarly Commentary.”  
 New Book Network Podcast, 21 October 2020  
<https://newbooksnetwork.com/d-bilak-and-t-nummedal-furnace-and-fugue-a-digital-edition-of-michaelmaiers-atalanta-fugiens-1618-with-scholarly-commentary-u-virginia-press-2020>

“Tear the Books Apart: *Atalanta fugiens* in a Digital Age.”  
 Donna Bilak & Tara Nummedal. Brown University, 21 April 2016  
<youtube.com/watch?v=ijphGB0kqb8>

“The Frozen Museum: A Metal Arts Jewelry History Workshop.”  
 Nunavut Arctic College, 5–15 January 2016  
<https://12keys.github.io/frozen-museum/>

“The Art of Encryption: Music-Image-Text in Michael Maier’s Alchemical Emblem Book, *Atalanta fugiens* (1618).”  
 BGC Alumni Spotlight, 15 April 2015. Lecture-performance with Les Canards Chantants and special guest speaker Dr. Loren Ludwig (Director, LeStrange Viols).  
<youtube.com/watch?v=27S704jWJk0>

### Popular

“Twenty-First-Century Alchemists: In the lab with a team of science historians who are attempting to re-create recipes from a sixteenth-century text.” By Sam Kean, *New Yorker*. 26 September 2016. Feature article about The Making & Knowing Project.  
<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2016/09/26/twenty-first-century-chemists>

“Delving into a 400-year old puzzle book, through song.” By Jason Laughlin, *Philadelphia Inquirer*. 16 Mar 2015. Feature article about Bilak’s Science History Institute workshop, “Interplay: Rethinking Music, Mathematics, and Alchemy in *Atalanta fugiens* (1618).”

“Chemically Inspired Music, Tuneful Apathy.” By Sarah Everts. *C&EN Chemical & Engineering News* 92, no. 12 (24 March 2014): 40. Feature article about Bilak’s *Atalanta fugiens* research.  
<cen.acs.org/articles/92/i12/Chemically-Inspired-Music-Tuneful-Apathy.html>

## Conference Papers & Invited Lectures

- 2024 October “Hot Gems and Environmental Alchemy.”  
Scientiae Conference, “The Global History of Knowledge.”  
Brown University  
Providence RI, USA
- “Hot Gems and 21<sup>st</sup>-century Alchemy: Imitation Pearls, Coral, and Emeralds.”  
Jewelry+Metalsmithing Department Lecture  
RISD (J+M Department)  
Providence RI, USA
- 2024 May “Neo Gems.”  
Imitation Gemstones Experimental Workshop, “Hot Gems.”  
Brown University (History) & RISD (Glass Department)  
Providence RI, USA
- 2024 April (With Farzad Mahootian) “Technology as Imagination.”  
Symposium: “AI in the Arts and Humanities.”  
School of Liberal Arts and Sciences  
Pratt Institute  
Brooklyn, USA
- 2023 November “Alchemizing Kudzu: From Invasive Species to Artificial Gemstones.”  
Conference & Experimental Workshop: “Fire Arts, Pasts and Futures.”  
Texas A&M  
College Station TX, USA
- 2023 April “Prima Materia Jewelry: Doing Entrepreneurial Scholarship at the Goldsmith’s Bench.”  
Lecture & Practical Demonstration, “Alchemy Meets Jewelry.”  
Royal College of Art, School of Arts & Humanities  
London, UK
- 2022 May “Mining, Alchemy, and Environmental Transformation: The Earth as an Alembic.”  
Conference: “Through a Glass Darkly: The Visual Culture of Alchemy.”  
Princeton University  
Princeton NJ, USA
- 2022 Mar (With Tianna Uchacz, Texas A&M; and Tina Asmussen, Deutsches Bergbau-Museum)  
*\*virtual* “Tria Prima: Experimenting with Material Transformation.”  
TURBA meeting, Society for the History of Alchemy and Chemistry.  
<https://youtu.be/eAp41FkW8Io>
- \*2021 Oct (Virtual)  
*\*virtual* “1950s Atomic Age Jewelry and Cold War Culture.”  
Scholars Series Virtual Talk for Feature Exhibition: “Two Minutes to Midnight and the Architecture of Armageddon.”  
Irving Archives and Museum  
Irving TX, USA
- \*2021 May (Virtual)  
*\*virtual* (With Ivo Purš) “*Artifex in opere*: Michael Maier’s Self-Representation in *Atalanta fugiens* (1618).”  
De re vestiarum. Antiquity and Fashion in the Renaissance  
Palazzo Mocenigo – Centro Studi di Storia del Tessuto e del Costume  
Venice, Italy
- \*2021 April (Virtual)  
*\*virtual* Panelist: “Out of the Ivy and Into the Arctic: Pedagogy and Reconstruction in Cross-Cultural Contexts.”  
Panel: Making and Knowing II: Teaching through Reconstruction Outside the Academy  
Renaissance Society of America Annual Meeting
- \*2020 Nov (Virtual)  
*\*virtual* (With Loren Ludwig) “Sonic Emblems & Magic Squares: *Atalanta fugiens* and Ludic Humanism in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.”  
University of Oxford, Centre for the History of Science, Medicine, and Technology

Oxford, UK

- \*2020 Oct  
\*virtual  
(With Loren Ludwig & Tara Nummedal) “‘Tear the Books Apart’: Making of *Furnace & Fugue*.”  
The Warburg Institute, School of Advanced Study, University of London  
London, UK
- \*2020 Apr  
\*canceled  
COVID-19  
Panelist: “Out of the Ivy and into the Arctic: Pedagogy and Reconstruction in Cross-Cultural Contexts.”  
Panel: Making and Knowing II: Teaching through Reconstruction Outside the Academy  
Renaissance Society of America Annual Meeting  
Philadelphia PA, USA
- 2020 Feb  
Presenter: “*Atalanta fugiens* (1618) and Communities of Knowledge in the Digital Age.”  
International Symposium: Alchemical Laboratories: Practices, Texts, Material Relics  
Vienna, Austria
- 2019 Oct  
Lecture-Performance: “*Atalanta fugiens* and the Ongoing Histories of Alchemy.”  
With musical examples performed by Les Canards Chantants directed by Dr. Robin Bier  
Event: Opus Magnum Masonic Lodge No.815  
Ardmore PA, USA
- 2019 Mar  
Panelist: “The Allen G. Debus Collection and (Early) Modern Research Practice.”  
Panel: Interpreting Early Modern Alchemical Texts at the Othmer Library Collections  
Renaissance Society of America Annual Meeting  
Toronto ON, Canada
- 2018 Nov  
Panelist: “An Arctic Case Study: Humanism in Realtime.”  
Panel: Art-Science: Premodern Theory and Practice Entangled  
History of Science Society Annual Meeting  
Seattle WA, USA
- 2018 Oct  
Panelist: “*Atalanta fugiens*, 1618–2018.”  
Panel: Reviving the Distant Past  
Science History Institute, Cain Conference, Historiographies of Modern Chemistry and the Life Sciences  
Philadelphia PA, USA
- 2018 May  
Presenter: “The Afterlife of *Atalanta fugiens*.”  
Scientiae, 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, University of Minnesota  
Minneapolis MN, USA
- 2018 Mar  
Panelist and Session Co-Organizer with Tara Nummedal  
Panel: “‘Tear the Books Apart’ – Digitizing Michael Maier’s *Atalanta fugiens* (1618)”  
Chair: Allison Levy (Brown University). Panelists: Tara Nummedal (Brown University) “Training the Mind and Body: Michael Maier’s *Atalanta fugiens*”; Loren Ludwig (Director, LeStrange Viols) “Digitizing Maier’s ‘Triple-Voiced Musical Echo’”; Donna Bilak (Columbia University) “‘Publish or Perish’: The Digital Edition in Academe.”  
Sponsored by the New England Renaissance Conference  
Renaissance Society of America 64<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting  
New Orleans LA, USA
- 2017 Apr  
(With Jennifer D. Miglus) “Chymistry in the Archives: Gershom Bulkeley’s Alchemical Notebook Collection at the Hartford Medical Society Historical Library (1635–1713).”  
Cain Conference, “Chemistry in the Early Americas.” Organized by John R. R. Christie (Oxford University) and Carin Berkowitz (Science History Institute)  
Science History Institute  
Philadelphia PA, USA
- 2016 Mar  
(With Ann-Sophie Barwich) “Vials and Vinaigrettes: Manipulation of Odor in 18<sup>th</sup>-Century French Science and Society.”  
Dutch-Belgian Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies  
Royal Flemish Academy of Belgium for Science and the Arts  
Brussels, Belgium

- 2015 Nov Colloquium Lecturer: “Steganography and the Art of Secret Writing: New Perspectives on Michael Maier’s Alchemical Emblem Book, *Atalanta fugiens* (1618).”  
Program for the History of Science, Technology, and Medicine  
University of Minnesota  
Minneapolis MN, USA
- 2015 May Invited Lecturer: “Possum Tales: Inside the Story of a Painted Puzzle by Australian Artist Clifford Possum Tjapaltjarri (1932–2002).”  
Nunavut Arctic College  
Iqaluit NU, Canada
- 2015 Apr & 2014 Dec Lecture-Performance: “The Art of Encryption: Music-Image-Text in Michael Maier’s Alchemical Emblem Book, *Atalanta fugiens* (1618).”  
Presented by Donna Bilak with musical examples performed by solo-voice ensemble Les Canards Chantants directed by Robin and Graham Bier, and with special guest speaker Loren Ludwig (Director, LeStrange Viols)  
Columbia University (December 2014) and Bard Graduate Center (April 2015)  
New York NY, USA
- 2014 Nov Panelist: “The Alchemical Emblem Book and Early Modern Game Theory: *Atalanta fugiens* (1618).”  
Panel: Alchemy of the Unexpected: Interpreting Alchemical Sources from Antiquity to the 17th Century  
History of Science Society Annual Meeting  
Chicago IL, USA
- 2014 Mar Panelist: “The Art of Encryption: Music-Image-Text in the *Atalanta fugiens* (1617).”  
Panel: Communicating Chymistry I: Alchemical Images, Allegories, and Practices  
Renaissance Society of America 60<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting  
New York NY, USA
- 2013 Nov Invited Lecturer: “Plague, Death, and the Transit of Mars: An Astrological Analysis of John Allin’s November 1665 London Letters to Rye.”  
Rye Castle Museum  
East Sussex, UK
- 2013 Jul Presenter: “The Allegorical Laboratory: Process and Technology in Michael Maier’s Alchemical Emblem Book, *Atalanta fugiens* (1618).”  
Symposium: Reworking the History of Chemistry: Practice, Revolution, Visualization and Exchange  
24<sup>th</sup> International Congress of History of Science, Technology and Medicine  
Manchester, UK
- 2012 Jul Panelist: “Colonial Chymistry: The Case of John Allin, Minister-Physician in Woodbridge, NJ, 1680–1683.”  
Panel: Transatlantic Reactions: Translating Chemistry between Continents  
2012 Three Societies Meeting: 7<sup>th</sup> Joint Meeting of the British Society for the History of Science, Canadian Society for the History and Philosophy of Science, and the History of Science Society.  
Philadelphia PA, USA
- 2012 Apr Presenter: “Sight and Sound of Alchemy: Michael Maier’s Emblem Book *Atalanta fugiens* (1618).”  
Symposium: IFA-Frick Symposium on the History of Art  
New York NY, USA
- 2011 Nov Panelist and Session Organizer  
Panel: “Brave New World: The Culture of Chymistry in Early Modern England and America.”  
Chair: William R. Newman (Indiana University). Panelists: Tricia R. Peone (University of New Hampshire)  
“Myth, Magic, and Minerals: John Dee and the New World”; Walter W. Woodward (University of Connecticut)  
“‘The Special Gift of the Most High’: The Significance of Iatrochemistry in Early New England Medical Culture, as seen through the Practice of John Winthrop, Jr.”; Donna Bilak (Bard Graduate Center) “The Chymical Cleric: Science, Theology, and the Professional Life of John Allin in England and America (1623–1683)”; Jennifer Rampling (University of Cambridge) “The Transmutation of Alchemical Medicine in Early Modern England.”  
History of Science Society Annual Meeting  
Cleveland OH, USA

- 2011 Sep Presenter: "The Laboratory Construct of John Allin, Puritan Alchemist in Restoration London."  
University of Cambridge, Centre for Research in the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities (CRASSH)  
International Conference *Alchemy and Medicine from Antiquity to the Enlightenment*.  
Cambridge, UK
- 2011 Jan Invited Lecturer: "Treasure in the Archives: Researching the Life and Times of John Allin, Puritan Alchemist in England and America (1623–1683)."  
Queen's University (Canada) Bader International Study Centre, Herstmonceux Castle  
East Sussex, UK
- 2010 Apr Panelist: "Emblematic Impressions: Use of Wax Seals in John Allin's Correspondence, 1663–1674."  
Panel: Inventories and Reforms  
Renaissance Society of America 56<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting  
Venice, Italy
- Invited Lecturer: "A Circle of Friends: John Allin, Samuel Jeake, and Philip Frith in Restoration Rye."  
Rye Castle Museum  
East Sussex, UK
- 2010 Jan Presenter: History of the Garden. Three-part lecture series:  
~ "Petals and Metals: Floral Jewelry in France, England and America, 1600–1960."  
~ "Reconfiguring Eden: European Garden Design, 1500–1800."  
~ "Plant vs. Plant: John Evelyn, Joseph Paxton and Urban Planning in the (Pre)Industrial Age."  
Toronto Botanical Garden  
Toronto ON, Canada
- 2008 Apr Panelist: "Visual Narration in Bronzino's Portraiture."  
Panel: Agnolo Bronzino's Teasing Clues  
Renaissance Society of America 54<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting  
Chicago IL, USA
- 2008 Feb Presenter: "Pomanders and Plague in 17<sup>th</sup>-century Dutch Culture."  
Royal Ontario Museum (ROM) event in co-operation with Penguin Group (Canada): *Vermeer's Hat: The Seventeenth Century and the Dawn of the Global World* (2008), Timothy Brook promotional book tour.  
Multi-disciplinary panel with Timothy Brook, "Vermeer's Hat" (Oxford University).  
(With) Ross Fox, "Canadian Beavers, Traders and Hatters" (ROM Curator Canadian Decorative Arts); Donna Bilak (Bard Graduate Center, above title); Brian Musselwhite, "The Influence of Chinese Porcelain on Delftware" (ROM Assistant Curator European Decorative Arts)  
Toronto ON, Canada
- 2007 May Presenter: "Stewards of Nature: An Analysis of Pieter Bruegel the Elder's *Seasons*."  
10<sup>th</sup> Annual Mediterranean Studies Association International Congress  
Évora, Portugal
- 2007 Mar Panelist: "Bronzino's *Portrait of Lodovico Capponi* and the Case of the Missing Codpiece."  
Panel: References and Cross-References: European Emblems in Context I  
Renaissance Society of America 53<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting  
Miami FL, USA
- 2006 May Panelist: "Pomanders, Plague, and the Essence of Smell."  
Panel: Environmental History of the Middle Ages I: The Stench of the Medieval West  
41<sup>st</sup> International Congress on Medieval Studies  
Kalamazoo MI, USA
- 2006 Jan Invited Lecturer: "Medieval Jewelry, ca. 400–1500."  
Course: Culture and Society in the Middle Ages (HIST 4200 6.0), York University  
Toronto ON, Canada
- 2005 Apr Panelist: "Emblematic Jewelry in Bronzino's Portrait of Eleonora di Toledo."  
Panel: Italian *Imprese* or Emblems?  
Renaissance Society of America 51<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting

Cambridge, UK

2005 Mar Panelist: “Analysis of Bronzino’s *Portrait of a Young Man*.”  
 Panel: Interpreting Italian Renaissance Art  
 Exploring the Renaissance 2005 International Conference, The Huntington Library  
 San Marino CA, USA

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## Workshops

- 2024 May Presenter & Practical Demonstration Participant  
 “Hot Gems: Imitation Gemstones Experimental Workshop.”  
 Organizer: Tara Nummedal (Brown, History) and Rachel Berwick (RISD, Glass)  
 Brown University and RISD – Providence RI, USA
- 2023 Nov Presenter & Practical Demonstration Leader  
 Active Matter Experimental Workshop: “Fire Arts, Past and Futures.”  
 Organizer: Dr. Tianna H. Uchacz (Department of Visualization & Fine Arts, Texas A&M University)  
 Texas A&M University – College Station TX, USA  
 Materials research and reconstruction experiments involving:
- 16th-century European goldsmith’s furnace
  - Pre-Hispanic Colombian goldsmith’s furnace
  - 16th-century European distillation furnace
- 2023 April Presenter & Practical Demonstration Leader  
 Active Matter Experimental Workshop: “Alchemy Meets Jewelry.”  
 Organizer: Dr. Peter Oakley (Reader in Material Culture; Co-Lead, Material Engagements Research Cluster)  
 Royal College of Art, School of Arts & Humanities – London, UK
- 2022 Jun Workshop Director: “Gold & Mercury: Metals in Transit.”  
<https://www.lorentzcenter.nl/gold-en-mercury-metals-in-transit.html>  
 Lorentz Center for Scientific Workshops – Leiden University, NL
- Designed and organized 4-day multi-disciplinary workshop held @Snellius, Lorentz Center to support production of the *Ambix* Special Issue “Gold and Mercury: Amalgamated Histories in Chemistry, Culture, and Environment”; Donna Bilak, Guest Editor and author.
  - Convened international working group of scholars, artisans, and chemists associated with the *Ambix* “Gold and Mercury” Special Issue; involved graduate students from the University of Leiden and University of Amsterdam.
- 2021 May (With Christianne Teague) BGC Materials Day Workshop Co-Director: “The Thrifty Onion.”  
*\*virtual*  
 Bard Graduate Center – New York NY, USA
- Designed and led BGC Materials Day for graduate students. A playful hands-on exploration of the material applications of the onion through guided exercises involving dyeing and pickling based on historical recipes.
- 2020 Feb Presenter and Reconstruction Leader: “Imitation Coral: Materials, Imagination, and Making Knowledge.”  
 Workshop: The *Imaginarium* and *Realia* of Making Knowledge: The Power of Collections in the Early Modern World and Today.  
 Organizer: Dominik Hünninger, DFG-Kolleg-Forschungsgruppe “Imaginarium der Kraft.”  
 Universität Hamburg, Universitätsmuseum – Hamburg, Germany
- 2019 Feb Workshop Participant: “Informational Images and the Legacy of Humanism.”  
 Organizer: Tarwin Baker, Visual Studies Program, University of Pennsylvania  
 University of Pennsylvania – Philadelphia PA, USA
- 2016 Feb (With Tara Nummedal) Workshop Co-Director: “Project Atalanta: A Brown University Humanities Initiative. Performance and Workshop.”  
 Brown University – Providence RI, USA
- Three-day international multi-disciplinary workshop that convened international scholars and Brown faculty and students from Art History, Chemistry, Classics, History, Music, Mathematics, and

Religious Studies together with the Center for Digital Scholarship (Hay Library) to explore the interpretation of *Atalanta's* emblems and music from diverse disciplinary approaches and ways to prototype *Atalanta* in a digital environment.

- Co-organized and co-directed with Tara Nummedal (Brown University) in collaboration with Dr. Robin Bier and Les Canards Chantants.

- 2016 Jan Workshop Director: “The Frozen Museum: A Metal Arts Jewelry History Workshop.”  
<https://12keys.github.io/frozen-museum/exhibits.html>  
 Nunavut Arctic College – Iqaluit NU, Canada
- Two-week jewelry history workshop and knowledge exchange, integrating lectures and hands-on historical reconstruction through the exploration of Western jewelry genres and technologies, the geology of Nunavut, and Inuit culture and craft traditions.
  - With support from Beata Hejnowicz (Senior Instructor, NAC Jewelry Department) and special guest speaker Linda Ham (Chief Geologist, Canada Nunavut Geoscience Office).
- 2015 May Workshop Director: “Imitation Coral.”  
 Nunavut Arctic College – Iqaluit NU, Canada
- Two-day hands-on history of science and craft technology workshop based on textual examination and reconstruction of a 16<sup>th</sup>-century imitation coral recipe.
  - With support from Beata Hejnowicz (Senior Instructor, NAC Jewelry Department).
- 2015 – 2016 Workshop Director: “Material Conversations: Matter, Meaning & Methods in History of Science Research.”  
 Science History Institute – Philadelphia PA, USA
- Initiated, designed, organized, and moderated monthly discussion group convening Institute fellows with Institute museum and library representatives to advance material literacy among fellows.
  - Meetings included handling sessions with objects and instruments from the Institute’s museum collections and library sessions with archival material and rare books.
- 2015 Oct (With Pamela H. Smith, Joel Klein, and Jenny Boulboulé) Workshop Co-Organizer: “Making and Knowing Reconstruction Workshop.”  
 Science History Institute – Philadelphia PA, USA
- Multi-disciplinary workshop that considered conceptual and methodological issues of historical reconstruction as well as discipline-specific case studies demonstrating the kinds of knowledge that reconstructions can yield. Convened scholars from the disciplines of history of early modern science, musicology and performance, experimental archaeology, garden and landscape studies, and art conservation.
- 2015 Mar Workshop Director: “Interplay: Rethinking Music, Mathematics, and Alchemy in *Atalanta fugiens* (1618).”  
 Science History Institute – Philadelphia PA, USA
- Two-day international multi-disciplinary workshop sponsored by the Institute that convened twenty international scholars from musicology, mathematics, classics, religious studies, and history of science together with rare book curators to probe and explore Bilak’s research about Michael Maier’s alchemical emblem book *Atalanta fugiens* as a text to be read, performed, and used as a game based on its hidden mathematical elements.
  - With support from Ronald Brashear (Arnold Thackray Director of the Othmer Library and Director of the Beckman Center) and in collaboration with Dr. Robin Bier and Les Canards Chantants.
- 2012 Nov Workshop Director: “Doing History in the Digital Age: Research, Methodology, Interpretation.”  
 National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy (Ukraine)
- Four-week Digital Humanities Doctoral workshop (2.5 ECTS European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System).
  - Initiated, designed, and organized an introduction to digital tools and methodologies for academic research to doctoral students at the Kyiv-Mohyla Academy Doctoral School in the departments of Mass Communications, Philosophy and Literature, and Political Science.
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## Teaching Academic \* Jewelry History Education \* Museum Public Engagement

### Academic

#### ***New York University Gallatin School of Individualized Study***

- 2018 – Present “Library and Laboratory: Trans-Cultural Histories of Early Modern Science.” (IDSEM-UG 1876)  
Undergraduate seminar, Historical and Cultural Requirement
- 2025 Spring “Ex Machina: Jewelry as STEAM.” (INDIV-UG 1901-019), 4 Units  
Independent Study Director, Georgia Barrett (student)
- 2024 Spring “What is Style?” (INDIV-UG 1901-004), 4 Units  
Independent Study Director, Melly Mejia (student)
- 2021 Fall “Museums and the Material World of Ancient Jewelry.” (INDIV-UG 1901-010), 4 Units  
Independent Study Director, MB Cannon (student)
- 2021 Spring “Understanding ‘Eco Anxiety’ in Adolescents and Young Adults.”  
Senior Project Advisor, Julie Garcia Souza (student)
- 2018 Fall “Making Knowledge in the ‘Scientific Revolution.’” (IDSEM-UG 1875)  
Undergraduate seminar, Historical and Cultural Requirement

#### ***Pratt Institute***

- 2023 – Present “Theory and Critique of Contemporary Jewelry.” (FAU-331)  
Undergraduate seminar (Junior), Fine Arts

#### ***Rhode Island School of Design (RISD)***

- 2025 Wintersession “Pearl LAB: Only with Agitation, Comes Growth.” (JM 2110-101)  
Advanced undergraduate and graduate seminar-studio, Jewelry + Metalsmithing.  
Co-taught with Timothy Veske-McMahon
- 2024 – Present “History of Adornment.” (JM 4440-01)  
Undergraduate seminar (Sophomore), Jewelry + Metalsmithing

#### ***Stevens Institute of Technology***

- 2024 “History of Science and Technology.” (HHS 130)  
Undergraduate seminar, School of Humanities, Arts & Social Sciences
- 2023 “Studies in the Scientific Revolution.” (HHS 369)  
Undergraduate seminar, School of Humanities, Arts & Social Sciences

#### ***Bard Graduate Center***

- 2019 Spring “What is Jewelry History?” (992)  
Graduate seminar

#### ***Nunavut Arctic College***

- “World Jewelry History” (434-120). Jewelry + Metalwork Program; two-week block course.  
Years taught: Virtual (Covid-19): 2022 April; 2020 Dec; 2020 Jan  
In person: 2019 Jan; 2018 Oct; 2016 Jan

#### ***Columbia University in the City of New York***

- 2014 – 2017 Lecturer in History: “Craft and Science: Making Objects in the Early Modern World.” (HIST G8906)  
Co-taught with Pamela H. Smith, Joel Klein, Jenny Boulboulé, and Tianna H. Uchacz  
Graduate laboratory-seminar, Department of History
- 2016 Summer Lecturer in History: “Material World of Western Jewelry.” (HIST S3939)  
Undergraduate lecture, Department of History
- 2016 – 2017 & 2014 – 2015 Lecturer in History: “Contemporary Civilization.” (CC 1101-2)  
Undergraduate seminar, Core Curriculum

- 2016 Jan &  
2015 Nov      Invited Lecturer: “Introduction to Early Modern Science: The ‘Scientific Revolution.’”  
Community Impact, College Road Science Program
- 2015 Apr      Invited Lecturer: “Introduction to Contemporary Civilization: St. Augustine and Thomas Hobbes.”  
Community Impact, College Road Program

***National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy (Ukraine)***

- 2012 Fall      Course Director: “Cultural History of Computers and Information Technology.”  
MA seminar, Department of Cultural Studies (4.5 ECTS European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System)

***York University***

- 2009 Apr      Replacement Lecturer: “The Sustainability of Traditional Agroecosystems.”  
Course: “Environment, Culture and Economy in Preindustrial Europe.” (HIST 4240 6.0)
- Replacement Lecturer: “Pasture, Woodland, and the Wild.”  
Course: “Environment, Culture and Economy in Preindustrial Europe.” (HIST 4240 6.0)
- 2009 Feb      Replacement Lecturer: “Virtuous Women: 17<sup>th</sup>-century Dutch Genre Painting.”  
Course: “Roles and Representations of Women in Renaissance and Baroque Art.” (VISA 3562 3.0)
- Replacement Lecturer: “Mural Painting – Ancient, Medieval, Renaissance.”  
Course: “Practice and Theory in Historical Painting.” (VISA 3222 3.0)
- 2006 – 2008    Teaching Assistant: “Medieval and Early Modern Europe.” (HIST 2220 6.0)

***George Brown College of Applied Arts and Technology***

- 1999 Fall      Continuing Education Instructor: “History of Jewelry and Design.” (JEWL 9035)

**Jewelry History Education**

- 2018 Oct      Invited Lecturer: “Matters of Form: Jewelry Styles and Motifs.”  
41<sup>st</sup> Annual Antique Jewelry & Art Conference. Hosted by Newark Museum – Newark NJ, USA
- 2014 Jul      Keynote: “Diamonds, Death, and Flowers: Jewelry Genres in Renaissance Portraits.”  
Instructor: “Victorian Jewelry: A Cultural History of the Rational and the Romantic.”  
37<sup>th</sup> Annual Antique Jewelry & Art Conference – West Harrison NY, USA
- 2014 Apr      Invited Lecturer: “Blast from the Past: 1950s Atomic Age Jewelry.”  
Christie’s Education – New York NY, USA
- 2012 Jul      Instructor: “Three Centuries of Style: Jewelry from Baroque to Art Deco”; and “Jewelry in Renaissance  
Portraits by Agnolo Bronzino (1503–1572), Florentine Painter Extraordinaire.”  
35<sup>th</sup> Annual Antique Jewelry & Art Conference – Westchester NY, USA
- 2012 Apr      Invited Lecturer: “No.115 Piccadilly, London: Revivalist Jewelry of Carlo Giuliano and the Victorian Culture of  
Curiosity.”  
Christie’s Education – New York NY, USA
- 2011 Jul      Keynote: “Flora Bejewelled: Horticulture, Jewelry, and the Victorian Language of Flowers.”  
Instructor: “Fundamentals: Western European Jewelry Design and Technology, 1800–1900.”  
34<sup>th</sup> Annual Antique Jewelry & Art Conference – Tarrytown NY, USA
- 2011 Jan      Invited Lecturer: “The Rise and Fall of the French Crown Jewels: A Biography of an Auction.”  
Antique Jewelry & Art Conference Hosted by Fashion Institute of Technology – New York NY, USA
- 2001 – 2006 Jul    Lecturer to jewelry industry professionals (select topics): “Late Georgian and Early Victorian Jewelry”;  
“Victorian Jewelry Styles”; “Turn-of-the-century Jewelry”; “Cross-cultural Jewelry Motifs”; “Victorian Revival  
style Jewelry: Gothic, Renaissance, and Archaeological”; “Influence of Ancient Cultures on Jewelry”; and  
“Jewelry and its Relationship to Decorative Arts.”

22<sup>nd</sup> – 27th Annual Antique Jewelry & Art Conference, NY USA

## Museum Public Engagement

- 2021 Oct  
\*virtual  
Guest Speaker: “Cold War and Culture: Atomic Age Jewelry of the 1950s.”  
Event: Scholars’ Series Virtual Talk @IAM  
Irving Archives and Museum – Irving TX, USA
- 2020 Oct  
\*virtual  
Guest Speaker: “The Hunt for the Secrets of Nature.”  
Event: All Souls Trilogy Convention. In celebration of the All Souls universe created by Deborah Harkness  
Remote event due to Covid-19, sponsored by the Museum at the Institute  
Science History Institute – Philadelphia PA, USA
- 2018 Nov  
Guest Speaker: “Alchemy.” Special Projects, Education Division  
Event: Lecture in conjunction with NYHS feature exhibition “Harry Potter: A History of Magic.”  
New-York Historical Society – New York NY, USA
- 2017 Nov  
Guest Speaker: *Atalanta fugiens* lecture and performance with Les Canards Chantants  
Event: “Alchemy and Faith.” Supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities  
Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art – Hartford CT, USA
- 2015 Apr  
First Friday Event Coordinator, co-presented with Ryan Whibbs (Professor, Culinary Arts School, George Brown College of Applied Arts and Technology)  
Event: “The Alchemist’s Cookbook.” Held in conjunction with feature exhibit *Books of Secrets: Writing and Reading Alchemy*. Hosted by the Museum at the Institute. First Fridays are a monthly city-wide public open house with over 40 Philadelphia museum and gallery participants.  
Science History Institute – Philadelphia PA, USA
- 2014 Apr  
First Friday Event Coordinator. Co-presented with Elisabeth Berry Drago (Institute Fellow)  
Event: “Night at the Alchemical Laboratory.” Hosted by the Museum at the Institute.  
Science History Institute – Philadelphia PA, USA
- Royal Ontario Museum: ROMLife Education**
- 2008 Jan – Feb  
Lecturer: “Stink, Stank, Stunk: A Cultural History of Smell in Early Modern Europe.”  
Initiated, designed, and led three-week ROMLife Program.
- 2006 Oct – Nov  
Lecturer: “The Art of Dress: 1850–1950.”  
Initiated and designed four-week ROMLife program. Co-lectured with Kimberly Wahl (Professor, Ryerson University School of Fashion).
- 2006 Feb  
Lecturer: “Birds, Bees, Flowers and Trees: European Gardens, 1400–1800.”  
Initiated, designed, and led four-week ROMLife Program.
- 2005 Oct – Nov  
Lecturer: “Western European and American Jewelry, 1800–1959.”  
Initiated, designed, and led four-week ROMLife Program.
- 2003 Jan – Feb  
Lecturer: “Fabulous 50s Couture and Jewelry.”  
Held in conjunction with ROM feature exhibit *Elite Elegance: Couture Fashion in the 1950s*. Initiated, designed, and led four-week ROMLife Program.
- 2002 Apr – May  
Lecturer: “History of Jewelry and Design.”  
Initiated, designed, and led six-week ROMLife Program.
- 2002 Jan – Mar  
Lecturer: “19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Century Jewelry and Design Styles.”  
Initiated, designed, and led six-week ROMLife Program.
- 2001 Apr  
Lecturer: “Scythian Culture and Ornamentation.”  
Held in conjunction with ROM feature exhibit *Legacy in Gold: Scythian Treasure from Ancient Ukraine*. Initiated, designed, and led four-week ROMLife Program.
- 2001 Mar – May  
Lecturer: “History of Jewelry.”

Initiated, designed, and led six-week ROMLife Program.

**Royal Ontario Museum: ROMLife Events & Programs**

- 2008 Nov ROMLife Event Program Coordinator  
Event: “The Oyster Considered.”
- Initiated, designed, and organized a multi-disciplinary offsite event at Toronto restaurant Starfish Oyster Bed and Grill about oysters in Western culture. Historical culinary recreations from 19<sup>th</sup>-century British and Canadian oyster recipes by Kyle Deming, Starfish *Chef de cuisine*. Lecture topics: oysters in 17<sup>th</sup>-century Dutch still life paintings (Donna Bilak); aqua culture and environmental issues impacting today’s North American oyster industry (Patrick McMurray, proprietor and 2002 World Champion Oyster Opener); socio-economic history of Toronto’s 19<sup>th</sup>-century oyster industry (Lawrence David, professional shucker and oyster historian).
- 2004 Apr – May ROMLife Program Coordinator  
Program: “Egyptian Jewelry Workshop.” Held in conjunction with ROM feature exhibit *Eternal Egypt: Masterworks of Ancient Art from the British Museum*.
- Initiated, designed, and organized five-week workshop for ROMLife programs (utilizing the ROM’s Egyptian decorative arts exhibit as models for workshop participants to construct amulets, bracelets, necklaces from metal, glass, polymer clay components, and beads), held onsite. Responsibilities involved contracting the instructor (jeweler-metalsmith Susan Stopps), determining topics, coordinating course material and class-time management, and overseeing student evaluations.
- 2004 Apr – May; ROMLife Program Coordinator  
2005 Feb Program: “Costume Jewelry, Basics I.”
- Initiated, designed, and organized four-week workshop for ROMLife programs (beading and basic metalworking techniques), held onsite. Responsibilities involved contracting the instructor (jeweler-metalsmith Valerie Csopak), determining topics, coordinating course material and class-time management, and overseeing student evaluations.
- 2003 Apr – May ROMLife Program Coordinator  
Program: “Collecting Vintage Couture and Jewelry.” Held in conjunction with ROM feature exhibit *Elite Elegance: Couture Fashion in the 1950s*.
- Organized five-week, five-session specialist lecture series in collaboration with Conrad Biernacki ROM Programs Manager, held offsite. Responsibilities involved designing the thematic scope of the program, scheduling, and contracting the five lecturers: vintage collector Jonathon Walford (founding curator Bata Shoe Museum, Toronto); textile conservator Margaret Ballantyne (Textile Museum of Canada); vintage jewelry dealer Carole Tannenbaum (The Carole Tannenbaum Vintage Collection, Holt Renfrew); auction house specialist Marla Rae Katz-Good (Ritchie’s Auctioneers); and vintage couturière Elizabeth Mason (The Paper Bag Princess, Beverly Hills and Toronto).
- 2003 Mar ROM Vintage Couture Fashion Show Event Coordinator  
Event: “Fabulous 50s Flashforward.” Fashion show held in conjunction with ROM feature exhibit *Elite Elegance: Couture Fashion in the 1950s*.
- Organized student competition and selection committee for haute couture ensembles by Ryerson University School of Fashion students and jewelry creations by Georgian College Metal Arts students featured in this ROM event. Co-produced and hosted by Elizabeth Mason (The Paper Bag Princess vintage couturière, Beverly Hills and Toronto).
- 2002 Nov – Dec ROMLife Program Coordinator  
Program: “Hands-on Gems and Jewelry.”
- Initiated, designed, and organized four-week, two-part workshop for ROMLife programs, held onsite. Part I explored gemstone formation, locality, cuts and colors. Part II examined the history and value of estate jewelry. Responsibilities involved contracting two instructors (Anna Jankowiak, gemmologist and gemstone dealer; Marla Rae Katz, jewelry specialist at Ritchie’s Auctioneers and Appraisers), determining topics, coordinating course material and class-time management, and overseeing student evaluations.
- 2002 Oct – Dec ROMLife Program Coordinator  
Program: “Jewelry Workshop.”

- Initiated, designed, and organized six-week, three-part workshop for ROMLife programs for three jewelry-making techniques (costume jewelry, sand casting, and chasing-repoussé), held onsite. Responsibilities involved contracting three instructors (accredited jeweler-metalsmiths Valerie Csopak, Susan Stopps, Andrea Wenckebach), determining workshop topics, coordinating course material and class-time management, and overseeing student evaluations.

2002 Oct – Nov ROMLife Program Coordinator

Program: “Gemstone and Fine Jewelry Workshop.”

- Initiated, designed, and organized six-week workshop for ROMLife programs on design and creation of gem-set gold and silver jewelry, held offsite at Shao Design Studio, Toronto. Responsibilities involved contracting the instructor (award-winning jewelry and metal artist Shao-Pin Chu), determining workshop topics, coordinating course material and class-time management, and overseeing student evaluations.
- This workshop continued annually to 2011.

2002 Oct – Nov ROMLife Program Coordinator

Program: “Art Deco Jewelry Workshop.” Held in conjunction with ROM feature exhibit *Art Deco 1910–1939*.

- Initiated, designed, and organized four-week workshop for ROMLife programs (beading and basic metalworking techniques to create Deco style jewelry), held onsite. Responsibilities involved contracting the instructor (jeweler-metalsmith Valerie Csopak), determining topics, coordinating course material and class-time management, and overseeing student evaluations.

## Service

### New York University, Gallatin School of Individualized Study

#### Faculty Adviser

Melly Mejia (class of 2025). Major: Web Programming. Minor: Art History.

Kate Salvesen (class of 2027). Major TBD.

Ava Nobandegani (graduated 2024). Major: Psychology and Health Humanities.

Casey Gentry (graduated 2023). Major: Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) and Science Communication.

Livia Walker (graduated 2023). Major: Fashion and Environmental Justice.

#### Senior Project adviser

2021 Julie Garcia Souza, “Understanding ‘Eco Anxiety’ in Adolescents and Young Adults.”

#### Senior Colloquium Examiner:

2024 Marsha Zimble, “American Consumerism: Problems and Solutions.”

Ava Nobandegani, “Mindfulness and Creativity: Practices to Heal the Mind, Body, and Spirit.”

Cortlandt Meyerson, “Sustainable Entrepreneurship.”

Jacob Benoist, “Environmental Sciences and Studies for Sustainable Business Practices.”

Louis Pardo, “Living Knowledge: Biology and the Role of artistic Practice.”

Stephanie Shin, “East Meets West: Exploring the Intersection between Eastern and Western Medicines.”

2023 Livia Walker, “Greenbelting Fashion.”

James Lu, “Trans-Cardinal Indigo as Culture and Politics.”

Mary-Benning (MB) Cannon, “Ethics of Museum Studies and Curatorial Practice.”

Casey Gentry, “Thoughtful Communication and Education: The Real Heart of ESG.”

Milo Schindler, “Threading the Needle Through the Great Filter: AI & Existential Risk.”

Marilia Sangalli Bertollo, “Cognitive Neuroscience.”

2022 Amanda Brown, “Criminology and Trauma Studies.”

Lauren Kirshenbaum, “Computer Science, Data Science, and Ethical Design.”

2021 Samantha Lee, “The Past, Present, and Future of the ‘East Asian Miracle.’”

Dani Kubiliun, “Marketing, Attraction, and Memory: The Complicated Development of the Adolescent Mind.”

Alexandra Muller, “A Holistic Approach to Healing: Mind and Body.”

Nicky Huang, “Perceptions of Technology and Implications for the Future.”

Brandon Tsou, “Business and Creativity: Business, Creative Writing and Improvised Music.”

- Sam Anderson, "Restoring Human and Ecological Unity: Design for Global Symbiosis."  
 Findlay McCombe, "Art Creation and Expressive Realism."  
 Sean McLaughlin, "Of Medicine and Man: The Intersecting Evolutions of Ethics and Medicine."  
 2020 Sarah Hee Joo Hahn, "Palimpsests of Culture, With an Emphasis on the Visual."  
 Julie Garcia Souza, "The Unequal Impacts of Environmental Degradation."  
 Jillian Matluck, "Ideology through the History of Science and Religion."  
 2018 Ronnie Goodrich, "Gaming and the Psychology of Trauma."

## Other

- 2018 – Present Manuscript Submission Reviewer, *AMBIX: The Journal of the Society for the History of Alchemy and Chemistry*.  
 2018 – 2010 Advisory Board, "Age of Alchemy: The Goldsmith's Daughter." Science History Institute, NEH Digital Projects for the Public.

## Professional Memberships

Material Engagements Research Cluster (MERC), Royal College of Art -- associate member  
 Society of North American Goldsmiths  
 Society for the History of Alchemy and Chemistry  
 Renaissance Society of America

## References

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