

# JONATHAN SEITZ

Drexel University  
Department of History  
3141 Chestnut St.  
Philadelphia, PA 19104  
215-895-0996  
jwseitz@drexel.edu

## EDUCATION

---

Ph.D. History of Science: University of Wisconsin – Madison, 2006  
M.A. History of Science: University of Wisconsin – Madison, 1998  
B.A. History and Chemistry: Swarthmore College, Swarthmore PA, 1996

## ACADEMIC POSITIONS

---

2012 – present Associate Teaching Professor, History Department,\* Drexel University  
2006 – 2012 Assistant Teaching Professor, History Department, Drexel University  
2005 Associate Lecturer, History of Science Department, University of Wisconsin – Madison

## TEACHING AND RESEARCH INTERESTS

---

History of science and medicine, religious history, witchcraft and magic, medieval and early modern history

## PUBLICATIONS

---

### Book

2011 *Witchcraft and Inquisition in Early Modern Venice*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

### Peer-reviewed chapters and articles

Forthcoming “Interconnected Inquisitors: Circulation and Networks among Outer Peripheral Tribunals,” in *The Roman Inquisition: Center versus Peripheries*, eds. Christopher Black and Katherine Aron-Beller. Boston: Brill (expected February 2018).  
In progress “In Defense of Exorcism,” in *The Science of the Supernatural in Early Modern Europe*, ed. Kathryn A. Edwards. Volume submitted to publisher.  
2009 “‘The Root is Hidden and the Material Uncertain’: The Challenges of Prosecuting Witchcraft in Early Modern Venice,” *Renaissance Quarterly* 62, pp. 102-133.

### Encyclopedia entries

2010 “Aristotelismo” in *Dizionario storico dell’Inquisizione*, ed. Adriano Prosperi in collaboration with Vincenzo Lavenia and John Tedeschi. Pisa: Scuola Normale Superiore.

---

\* Until fall 2015, the History Department was part of the History and Politics Department.

- 2010 “Pierre Gassendi” in *Dizionario storico dell’Inquisizione*, ed. Adriano Prosperi in collaboration with Vincenzo Lavenia and John Tedeschi. Pisa: Scuola Normale Superiore.

### **Book reviews**

- 2016 Review of Federica Ambrosini, *Una Gentildonna Davanti al Sant’Uffizio: Il processo per eresia a Isabella della Frattina 1568–1570*, for *Renaissance Quarterly* 69, pp. 1145-1146.
- 2015 Review of Thomas F. Mayer, *The Roman Inquisition: On the Stage of Italy* for the *American Historical Review* 120, pp. 733-734
- 2014 Review of Thomas F. Mayer, *The Roman Inquisition: A Papal Bureaucracy and Its Laws in the Age of Galileo* for the *Journal of Jesuit Studies* 1, pp. 133-135
- 2014 Review of Jane L. Stevens Crawshaw. *Plague Hospitals: Public Health for the City in Early Modern Venice* for the *Journal of the History of Medicine and Allied Sciences* 69, pp. 327-329
- 2013 Review of James Shaw and Evelyn Welch, *Making and Marketing Medicine in Renaissance Florence* for *Canadian Bulletin of Medical History* 30, pp. 233-234
- 2013 Review of Federico Barbierato, *The Inquisitor in the Hat Shop: Inquisition, Forbidden Books, and Unbelief in Early Modern Venice* for *Renaissance Quarterly* 66, pp. 300-302
- 2012 Review of Maria Pia Donato and Jill Krave, eds., *Conflicting Duties: Science, Medicine and Religion in Rome, 1550-1750* for *Isis* 103, pp. 401-402
- 2010 Review of Christopher Mackay, *The Hammer of Witches: A Complete Translation of the Malleus Maleficarum* for *Isis* 101, pp. 870-871
- 2010 Review of Umberto Mazzone and Claudia Pancino, eds., *Sortilegi Amorosì, Materassi a Nolo e Pignattini: Processi Inquisitoriali del XVII Secolo fra Bologna e il Salento* for *Gender and History* 22, pp. 217-218

### **AWARDS, GRANTS, AND FELLOWSHIPS**

---

- 2017 Drexel University Teaching and Learning Conference Travel Award
- 2014 Drexel University International Travel Award
- 2013 – 2014 Gladys Krieble Delmas Grant for Independent Research on Venetian History and Culture
- 2011 Drexel University College of Arts and Sciences Humanities Fellowship Program
- 2009 – 2010 American Historical Association Schmitt Grant
- 2008 Nominated by university for National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Stipend
- 2008 Drexel University International Travel Award
- 2003 – 2004 Department of Education Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship
- 2002 – 2003 National Science Foundation Dissertation Research Fellowship
- 2001 – 2002 Gladys Krieble Delmas Grant for Independent Research on Venetian History and Culture

### **PRESENTATIONS AND OUTREACH**

---

#### **Pedagogical research**

- 2017 “Fusing Coursework and Short-Term Study Abroad,” Lilly Conference on College Teaching (Oxford, Ohio)

- 2015 “The Engaged Classroom Across the Disciplines,” poster presentation at Drexel University Showcase of Teaching 2015 (Philadelphia), co-authored with Debjani Bhattacharyya, Michelle Dolinski, Adam Knowles and Jacob Lahne

### Academic presentations

- 2014 “‘Because I go about exorcizing here and there’: Exorcism and authority in early modern Italy,” *Scientiae* 2014 (Vienna)
- 2013 “The Friar Who Heals: Witchcraft, Possession, and Exorcism in Early Modern Europe,” Medieval, Renaissance, and Reformation Studies program, St. Joseph’s University (Philadelphia, **invited**)
- 2013 “The Exorcist as Expert,” University of Southern California – Huntington Library Early Modern Studies Institute conference “Proving the Supernatural: Belief and Nature in Early Modern Europe” (San Marino, Cal., **invited**)
- 2013 “In Defense of Exorcism,” Sixteenth Century Society Conference (San Juan, P.R.)
- 2010 “Inquiring After Witchcraft: Medicine, Science and the Supernatural in Early Modern Venice,” Philadelphia Area Center for History of Science Regional Colloquium (Philadelphia, **invited**)
- 2008 “Clerical Cures: Demonic Causation and Naturalistic Treatments in Exorcist Theory and Practice,” Devil in Society in the Pre-Modern World conference, Centre for Reformation and Renaissance Studies, University of Toronto (Toronto)
- 2008 “Exorcists, Physicians and Wise Women: Evaluating Expertise in Venetian Witchcraft Trials,” First International Conference on Inquisition Studies (Springfield, Mo.)

### Invited public presentations and lectures

- 2016 “What Does Ben Franklin Have to Do with Galileo?” presentation for EU Cultural Day Celebration (Philadelphia)
- 2015 “What is a Vatican for?” presentation for Drexel alumni association in connection with the exhibition *Vatican Splendors* at the Franklin Institute (Philadelphia)
- 2015 “Witchcraft in History,” public presentations in connection with Vulcan Lyric’s production of the opera *Maren of Vardo: Satan’s Bride* (Philadelphia)
- 2014 “Tools for the Supernatural in Early Modern Europe,” lecture for Drexel’s Great Works Symposium (Philadelphia)
- 2013 “Black and White Smoke: Resignations, Pope Francis, and Vatican Struggles,” presentation for International Area Studies Program, Drexel University (Philadelphia)
- 2013 “The Science of Divination,” presentation for Philadelphia Science Festival (Philadelphia)
- 2011 “The Science of Demonology,” lecture for Science on Tap series (Philadelphia)
- 2011 “Scenes from Science Past,” panel for Philadelphia Science Festival (co-presenter; Philadelphia)

### Media

- 2017 Interviewed for and featured in *Popular Science* article “We’ve been predicting eclipses for over 2000 years. Here’s how.”
- 2016 Interviewed for KYW television news segment on the history of Lent
- 2014 “Newt Eyes and Dragon Scales: A Halloween Q+A on the History of Witchcraft,” profile for *Drexel Now*

2013 Interviewed and quoted by various media outlets as an expert in early modern religion following the election of Pope Francis

## **COURSES TAUGHT**

---

### **History Department**

Themes in World Civilization I (to 1200)  
Themes in World Civilization II (1200 – 1800)  
Technology in Historical Perspective  
History of Science: Ancient to Medieval  
History of Science: Medieval to Enlightenment  
Venice and the Mediterranean from the Middle Ages to Napoleon  
Coexistence and Conflict: Jews, Christians and Muslims in the early Mediterranean  
Believers, Infidels, Heretics in Rome & Venice (intensive course abroad)  
The Reformation Age  
History of Witchcraft  
Research Methods in History  
The Study of History (historiography and theory)  
The Historiography of Science (graduate seminar)  
History of European Ceremonial Magic (independent study course)  
Italy before Italy (independent study course)

### **Pennoni Honors College**

Celebrity Science: The Lives of Heretics and Geniuses (co-taught)  
Galileo in Italy (intensive course abroad; co-taught)  
Haunted Histories and Ghost Stories (co-taught)  
Science and Religion in History

### **Other**

Evaluation and Presentation of Experimental Data (tDEC history section)

## **SERVICE**

---

### **Profession**

Reviewer for Oxford University Press, *Catholic Historical Review*, *Renaissance Quarterly*, *Preternature*, National Science Foundation  
Co-convener, Early Sciences Working Group, Consortium for History of Science, Technology, and Medicine (2012 – 2013)  
Reviewer for Consortium for History of Science, Technology, and Medicine fellowship program (2011 – 2013)  
Co-organizer, interdisciplinary Mellon Foundation Workshop on “Power and Machines in the Early Modern Period” (University of Wisconsin – Madison, 2005 – 2006)

### **College of Arts and Sciences and Drexel University**

Italian Studies program working group (2016 – present)  
BA Revision working group (2015 – present)  
National History Day working group (2015 – present)  
Judaic Studies Program advisory committee (2015 – present)  
Emerging Scholars Program advisory committee (2014 – present)  
CoAS Assessment steering committee (2011 – present)  
Senate Committee on Academic Affairs – Undergraduate Subcommittee (2017)  
Judge for University Research Day (2011 – 2015)  
Off-Campus Learning committee (2015 – 2016)  
Science, Technology, and Society Program advisory committee (2011 – 2012)

**Department of History**

Assistant Department Head (2015 – present)  
Curriculum committee (2017 – present)  
Co-Curricular committee (2016 – 2017)  
Bylaws Revision committee (2015 – 2016)  
Curriculum committee (2011 – 2016)  
Lorantas Scholarship in World History committee (2007 – 2016)  
Hiring committee (2015)  
Director of Undergraduate Studies for History & Politics Department (2011 – 2015)  
Chair, Dr. Jonson Miller Promotion committee (2012 – 2013)

**LANGUAGES**

---

Italian (reading and conversational speaking knowledge)  
French (reading and conversational speaking knowledge)  
Latin (reading knowledge)

**PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

---

Renaissance Society of America