



Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences (AHSS)

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NEWS & EVENTS

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NEWS & EVENTS

Faculty Spotlight

Check out the work pioneered by AHSS faculty members. Tell us about a faculty member that you want to see in the spotlight by [email](#).

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR BEGINS SIX-MONTH FELLOWSHIP AT THE NEWBERRY

Rachel Walsh loves working with "dusty old books," so it's fitting that this assistant professor of Italian in the department of languages and literatures will spend the next six months perusing rare books as a fellow of the Newberry, Chicago's independent research library. Walsh was awarded the coveted fellowship for her project "Annotating Arcadia: The First Scholarly Edition of 'La bellezza della volgar poesia' (1700)."

"I am deeply honored to have been selected as a long-term fellow in residence at the Newberry library," said Walsh, who will conduct research January through June, 2013. "Not only will I have the precious time that all faculty desire in order to complete a research project, I also will enjoy all of the intellectual benefits of being an active member of the Newberry community"



Walsh anticipates spending most of her days in the Special Collections reading room. "I will step away from my work periodically to collaborate with my colleagues on their projects and to attend and present at special programming for the Newberry community and the greater-Chicago area," she said. Walsh hopes her completed project will resuscitate an extraordinary text and allow scholars in the humanities unprecedented access to the world of Arcadia, one of Europe's most influential early modern academies.

"Congratulations to Rachel on this much deserved fellowship," said Anne McCall, dean. "Newberry fellowships represent a great national honor and opportunity. I wish her well during this treasured period in which she can dedicate herself fully to research."

Walsh's interest in Italian began with a year-long high school study abroad experience and morphed into a deep and continuous inquiry into Italian cultural ideals. She received a PhD in Romance Languages and Literatures - Italian from the University of Chicago, and has been teaching at DU since 2007. Her research interests include 18th- and 19th-century Italian literature, Italian theatre, canon formation and literary histories. She will return to teaching in fall, 2013.

"My most enjoyable teaching experiences are when I can share my passion for old texts that we as a society all-too-frequently, and systematically, push aside for 'newer' models. Put simply, I enjoy watching my students make connections and discover first-hand how relevant early modern Italian texts actually are in today's American society," Walsh said.

"I also look forward to bringing back to campus in 2013 a new understanding of how a

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collective can truly sustain and nurture the life of the mind following my residency at a facility renown world-wide for this very phenomenon."

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