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Education

S.T.L. (Licentiate in Sacred Theology. Area: Historical Studies), May, 1994, Jesuit School of Theology at Berkeley.

M.Div. (Masters of Divinity), May, 1992, Jesuit School of Theology at Berkeley.

Biennio di Filosofia, 1985-87, Gregorian University, Rome. Comprehensive, two-year, non-degree program of "first-cycle" philosophy studies.

Ph.D., June, 1983, Harvard University (Romance Languages and Literatures). Dissertation: "The Vernacular Sermons of San Bernardino da Siena, OFM (1380 1444): A Literary Analysis."

M.A., March, 1979, Harvard University (Romance Languages and Literatures).

B.A., May, 1977, Columbia University (French and Italian).

Honors

"Cavaliere" (Knight) in the honorary "Ordine della Stella della Solidarietà Italiana," title conferred by the President of the Italian Republic, October 12, 2005 in recognition of achievement in the promotion of Italian language and culture.

The Howard R. Marraro Prize for Distinguished Scholarship in Italian History, January 6, 2001, conferred by the American Catholic Historical Association for my book, *The Preacher's Demons*.

Certificate of Distinction in Teaching, Harvard University, University Committee on Undergraduate Education, December, 1983.

Travel-Study Prize for Excellence in Teaching, Harvard University, Dept. of Romance Languages, May, 1980.

Harvard University Fellowship, 1977-1981.

B.A., *Summa cum laude*, May 1977.

Bigongiari Award for Excellence in Italian Studies, Columbia University, May, 1977.

Phi Beta Kappa, Columbia College, March, 1977.

Columbia College John Jay National Scholar, 1973-1977.

Professional Employment

Associate Professor (with tenure) of Italian, Department of Romance Languages and Literatures, Boston College, Sept. 2000-present.

Chairperson, Department of Romance Languages and Literatures, Boston College, July 2001-July, 2006.

Assistant Professor of Italian, Department of Romance Languages and Literatures and Honors Program, Boston College, Sept. 1996-Aug. 31, 2000.

Director of Undergraduate Studies, Department of Romance Languages and Literatures, Boston College, Sept. 1997-June, 2000.

Adjunct Assistant Professor, Honors Program and Department of Romance Languages and Literatures, Boston College, Sept. 1994-Sept. 1996, full-time.

Adjunct Faculty member, Jesuit School of Theology, Spring/Fall 1993 (part-time).

Adjunct Assistant Professor, Dept. of Romance Languages, Boston College, September, 1987-May, 1989, full-time. Italian language and literature (medieval and Renaissance) courses.

Visiting Professor of Italian, College of the Holy Cross, Spring, 1985, part-time. Instructor of Italian, Harvard University, Summer, 1983.

Section Leader, Core Curriculum Course, "The Literary Mind of the Middle Ages," Harvard University, Fall, 1982.

Teaching Fellow, Harvard University, Department of Romance Languages, 1979-1983.

Assistant Senior Tutor and Fellowships Advisor, 1981-1983, North House (now Pforzheimer House), Harvard-Radcliffe Colleges.

Publications

Books:

co-editor of *Piety and Plague: From Byzantium to the Baroque*. Kirksville, MO: Sixteenth Century Essays and Studies, Truman State University Press, 2007.

co-editor of *Francis Xavier and the Jesuit Missions in the Far East: An Anniversary Exhibition of Early Printed Works in the Jesuitana Collection of the John J. Burns Library, Boston College*. Chestnut Hill, MA: The Jesuit Institute, 2006.

co-editor of *Hope and Healing: Painting in Italy in a Time of Plague, 1500-1800*. Exhibition catalogue. Worcester Art Museum; distr. by University of Chicago Press, 2005.

author of *The Preacher's Demons: Bernardino of Siena and the Social Underworld of Early Renaissance Italy*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1999.

editor of *Saints and Sinners: Caravaggio and the Baroque Image*. Exhibition catalogue, McMullen Museum of Art, Boston College, distributed by the University of Chicago Press, 1999.

Articles in Scholarly Books and Refereed Journals:

"*Nudus Nudum Christum Sequi*: The Franciscans and Differing Interpretations of Male Nakedness in Fifteenth-Century Italy," in *Fifteenth Century Studies*, 33 (2008): 171-97.

"Pestilence, Apostasy, and Heresy in Seventeenth-Century Rome: Deciphering Michael Sweerts' Plague in an Ancient City," in *Piety and Plague*, 237-321 (see above).

"The Making of the Second Jesuit Saint: The Campaign for the Canonization of Francis Xavier, 1555-1622" in *Francis Xavier and the Jesuit Missions in the Far East*, 9-22 (see above).

"Response to the Plague in Early Modern Italy: What the Primary Sources, Printed and Painted, Reveal" in *Hope and Healing* (see above), 1-44.

"Tintoretto's Recently Rediscovered *Raising of Lazarus*," *The Burlington Magazine*, 142 (2000): 624-29.

"Teaching the Faithful to Fly: Mary Magdalene and Peter in Baroque Italy," in *Saints and Sinners* (see above), 107-35.

"Just as your lips approach the lips of your brothers: Judas Iscariot and the Kiss of Betrayal," in *Saints and Sinners* (see above), 179-90.

"Virtual Death in the Middle Ages: The Apotheosis of Mary Magdalene in Popular Preaching" in *Death and Dying in the Middle Ages*, ed. Edelgard DuBruck and Barbara I. Gusick. New York: Peter Lang, 1999, 257-74.

"What Happens to Us When We Die?: The 'Four Last Things' in the Popular Preaching of Bernardino of Siena" in *Death and Dying in the Middle Ages* (see previous entry), 109-42.

"Bernardino of Siena, Popular Preacher and Witch-Hunter: A 1426 Witch Trial in Rome" in *Fifteenth Century Studies*, 24 (1998), 84-118.

"Bernardino of Siena, "Great Defender' or 'Merciless Betrayer' of Women?" in *Italica*, 75 (1998): 22-40.

"Signs of the Apocalypse in Late Medieval Italy: The Popular Preaching of Bernardino of Siena" in *Medievalia et Humanistica: Studies in Medieval and Renaissance Culture*, 24, ed. Paul M. Clogan. Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield, 1997, 95-122.

"An Early Renaissance Guide for the Perplexed: Bernardino of Siena's *De inspirationibus*" in *Through a Glass Darkly: Essays in the Religious Imagination*, ed. John C. Hawley. New York: Fordham University Press, 1996.

"To Persuade Is a Victory: Rhetoric and Moral Reasoning in the Sermons of Bernardino of Siena" in *The Context of Casuistry*, eds. James Keenan and Thomas Shannon. Washington, DC: Georgetown University Press, 1995.

"Bernardino of Siena's Campaign Against Sodomy: Emasculating Mothers as Culprits," *NEMLA Italian Studies*, 19 (1995): 17-32.

"Dilettissimo ed Onorando Messer Francesco: Guicciardini, Disciple and Critic of Machiavelli" in *Essays in Honor of Nicolae Iliescu*, ed. Emanuela Bertone. Cambridge: Harvard University, Dept. of Romance Languages, 1990.

"The Humanists, the Pagan Classics and Bernardino da Siena," *Laurentianum* (Rome) 27 (1986): 72-97.

Encyclopedia and Dictionary Entries:

"Bernardino of Siena" and "Prierias, Silvestro Mazzolini," in *The ABC-CLIO Encyclopedia of Witchcraft: The Western Tradition*, ed. Richard Golden, (respectively) 1:112-13 and 3:932-33. Santa Barbara: ABC-CLIO, 2006.

"Preaching and Preachers," in *Medieval Italy: An Encyclopedia*, ed. Christopher Kleinhenz, 2:931-33. New York: Routledge, 2004.

Articles, Non-Refereed Journals:

"Of Clowns and Christian Conscience: The Art of George Rouault" (review of McMullan Museum exhibition, "Mystic Masque: Semblance and Reality in Georges Rouault, 1871-1958") in *America* (vol. 199, no. 17, Nov. 24, 2008).

"The Painted 'Visions' of Fra Angelico: A Singular New Exhibition at the Metropolitan Museum of Art," *America*, December 19-26, 2005: 8-11.

"Art Responds to the Plague: Depicting Symptomatology, Identifying Remedies," in *Worcester Medicine* (organ of the Worcester District Medical Society), Spring 2005, 14-15.

"Lazarus Raised Again: A Tintoretto Masterpiece is found at a Jesuit Residence in Pennsylvania," *America*, December 11, 1999:11-13.

"The 'Jesuit Caravaggio' Comes to America," *America*, February 13, 1999: 9-14.

Book Reviews:

review of Charles Scribner, III, *The Shadow of God: A Journey through Memory, Art, and Faith* (Doubleday, 2006), reviewed in *America* 194/20: June 5, 2006, 24-25.

review of Sara Nair James, *Signorelli and Fra Angelico at Orvieto: Liturgy, Poetry and a Vision of the End-time* in *The Journal of Ecclesiastical History* 56 (2005): 586-87.

review of Giorgio Caravale, *L'orazione proibita. Censura ecclesiastica e letteratura devozionale nella prima età moderna*, in *The Catholic Historical Review* XX (2004): 790-91.

review of Eraldo Bellini, *Agostino Mascardi tra 'ars poetica' e 'ars historia'*, in *Italian Culture* 21 (2003): 185-87.

review of *Preachers and People in the Reformations and Early Modern Period*, ed. Larissa Taylor, in *Sixteenth-Century Journal*, 34 (2003): 181-83.

review of Sarah McPhee, *Bernini and the Bell Towers: Architecture and Politics at the Vatican* in *America*, April 21, 2003: 23-24.

review of Christopher Ocker, *Biblical Poetics Before Humanism and Reformation* in *Church History* 72 (2003): 881.

review of Brendan Dooley, *Morandi's Last Prophecy and the End of Renaissance Politics* in *America*, Sept. 23, 2002: 27-30.

review of Paolo Chiesa and Henry Yule, *The Travels of Friar Odoric: A 14th-Century Journal of the Blessed Odoric of Pordenone* in *America*, May 13, 2002:19.

review of Dava Sobel, ed. and trans., *Letters to Father: Suor Maria Celeste to Galileo, 1623- 1633* in *America*, May 6, 2002:30-31.

review of Garry Wills, *Venice, Lion City: The Religion of Empire*, in *America*, Oct. 15, 2001: 26-27.

review of John Drury, *Painting the Word: Christian Pictures and Their Meanings* in *America*, June 3-10, 2000: 27.

review of Corrie E. Norman, *Humanist Taste and Franciscan Values: Cornelio Musso and Catholic Preaching in Sixteenth-Century Italy* (New York: Lang, 1999) in *The Sixteenth Century Journal* 30.3 (1999): 571-72.

Academic Papers and Conference Presentations

"Raphael's *Disputa* at the Vatican: Neither Disputation nor Eucharist," presentation at UCLA Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, Mellon Foundation Sawyer Seminar Series on "Disputation: Arguing In and Out of the University," April 22, 2008.

"Nothing as It Seems: Annotations (Reconstructive and Deconstructive) upon Domenico Bernini's *Vita del Cav. Gio. Lorenzo Bernini*." Renaissance Society of America Annual Meeting, Chicago, April 4, 2008.

"Bernini's Religion." Sixteenth Century Studies Annual Conference, Minneapolis, October 2007.

"Pestilence, Apostasy and Heresy in Seventeenth-Century Rome: Deciphering Michael Sweerts' *Plague in an Ancient City*," Centre for Early Modern Studies, University of Aberdeen (Scotland), Conference on: "Icons and Iconoclasts, 1603-1714," July 20, 2006.

"Naked to Follow the Naked Christ: The Franciscans and the Late Medieval Destiny of Jerome's Ascetic Adage." Harvard University, Humanities Center Seminar on Medieval Studies, March 20, 2006.

"Michael Sweerts' *Plague in an Ancient City* (Rome, ca. 1650): Deciphering the Enigma." Fifteenth Biennial New College Conference on Medieval-Renaissance Studies, Sarasota, Florida, March 9, 2006.

"Ambiguous Baroque: The Sensual, the Sexual and the Sacred in Devotional Art of Seventeenth-Century Italy," The Luce Program in Scripture and Literary Arts, Boston University, Feb. 23, 2006.

"Using Art to Teach Italian Culture and History," presentation at the "Professional Development Course on AP Italian Language and Literature, for High School Teachers" sponsored by the Consulate of Italy in Boston and the National Italian American Foundation, Boston College, June 4, 2005.

"Michael Sweerts's *Plague in an Ancient City* (Rome, ca. 1650): Deciphering the Enigma," presentation at the Annual New England Renaissance Conference, "Piety and Plague in Renaissance and Early Modern Europe," Holy Cross College, April 23, 2005.

"Bernardino of Siena: The Dynamics of His Preaching Performance," paper given at conference, "Charisma and Religious Authority: Jewish, Christian and Muslim Preaching, 1200-1600," Queen Mary College, University of London, July 26, 2004.

- "Preaching in the Shadow of the Plague: A Sermon by Francesco Panigarola, Bologna, 1577." Renaissance Society of America Annual Meeting, April, 2004, New York.
- "Dante and Original Sin: the Poet's Great Theological Contradiction?" Second Annual Boston Dante Conference, Boston College, November, 2003.
- "Anatomy of Baroque Biography: The *Vita del Cavalier Gio. Lorenzo Bernini* written by his son Domenico." American Association for Italian Studies Annual conference, March, 2003, Georgetown University, Washington, DC.
- "The History Behind the Biography: Domenico Bernini's *Vita del Cavaliere Gio. Lorenzo Bernini*," Annual Meeting of the Renaissance Society of America, March, 2002, Scottsdale, Arizona.
- "'Heretic' Sues 'Saint' for Libel and Wins: Amedeo de Landis vs. Bernardino of Siena, 1437." Annual Meeting of the Renaissance Society of America, March, 2000, Florence, Italy.
- "A Recently Rediscovered Tintoretto: *The Resurrection of Lazarus* of 1555-56," Twelfth Biennial New College Conference on Medieval-Renaissance Studies, Sarasota, Florida, March 11, 2000.
- "Bernardino of Siena, Prophet of the Persecuting Society." The 25th New England Medieval Conference, Boston University, December 4, 1999.
- "Popular Preaching in Early Renaissance Italian Society," Symposium on "Preachers and Their Spaces: Bridging Medieval and Renaissance Society," Holy Cross College, November, 1998.
- "Before Homosexuality: The Late Medieval Understanding of Sodomy According to Popular Preacher, Bernardino of Siena," Given at "The Queer Middle Ages" conference sponsored by CUNY and NYU, November, 1998.
- "Popular Preaching in Late Medieval Italy," Symposium at the Higgins Armory Museum on "Pages Past and Present: Communication Arts from the Middle Ages to the Internet, Worcester, MA, March 21, 1998.
- "The Antisemitism of Bernardino of Siena: A Reappraisal," International Conference on "The Friars and the Jews in the Middle Ages and Renaissance," Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, St. Louis University, October 1997.
- "Carnal Showing: The Franciscans and the Fifteenth-Century Career of the Ascetic Adage, '*Nudus nudum Christum sequi*,'" Renaissance Society of America Annual Meeting, Vancouver, April 1997.
- "Women in Quattrocento Italy: The Teachings of Bernardino of Siena," American Association of Teachers of Italian Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, November, 1996.

- "The Sixteenth-Century Mary Magdalene: A Sermon by Bernardino Ochino, 1539,"
Sixteenth Century Studies Annual Meeting, St. Louis, October, 1996.
- "From Eros to Divine Ecstasy: The Conversion of Mary Magdalene in the Popular
Preaching of Bernardino of Siena," 31st International Congress on Medieval Studies,
Kalamazoo, Michigan, May, 1996.
- "Signs of the Apocalypse in Late Medieval Europe: The Popular Preaching of Bernardino of
Siena," Medieval Academy of America Annual Meeting, Kansas City, Missouri, April,
1996.
- "Bernardino of Siena, Popular Preacher and Witch-Hunter: A Witch Trial in Rome, 1424-
27," International Fifteenth Century Symposium, Kaprun, Austria, July, 1995.
- "Before Homosexuality: The Early Renaissance Understanding of Sodomy According to
Popular Preacher, Bernardino of Siena," American Association for Italian Studies
Convention, Tempe, Arizona, April, 1995.
- "Bernardino of Siena's Campaign against Sodomy: Emasculating Mothers as Culprits,"
Northeast Modern Languages Association Convention, Boston, April, 1995.
- "The Friar's Solution: Bernardino of Siena and the Jews," American Association of Church
Historians Convention, Chicago, January, 1995.

Other Public Lectures

- "The Other Side of the Italian Renaissance: Sin and Social Deviance in the Popular
Preaching of Bernardino of Siena," Florida Atlantic University, Oct. 2, 2008.
- "Why the World Went Baroque, Twice: The Triumph of the Italian Baroque, Then and
Now," Italian Cultural Society, Naples, FL, February 7, 2008.
- "The Missing Bell Towers of St. Peter's: Building the New Basilica, 1506-1667." Boston
College Club, Boston, MA, Sept. 26, 2006.
- "Hope and Healing: Painting in Italy in a Time of Plague," American Federation of Arts,
New York, New York, June 7, 2005.
- "Christianity and Art: Piety and Power. The Church Responds to Art." Museum of Fine
Arts, Boston, November 30 and December 2, 2004
- "Hope and Healing: Painting in Italy in a Time of Plague," Worcester Museum of Art,
Teachers Institute, June 30, 2004.
- "Dante's Ulysses: Canto 26, *Inferno*," Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, Boston, MA
(museum's centenary celebration, lecture series), April, 2003.

"The Architectural History and Iconography of St. John's Chapel," St. John's Archdiocesan Seminary, Brighton, MA., April 2003.

"The Power of Images: Caravaggio and Devotional Art in Baroque Italy." Loyola-Marymount University, Los Angeles, CA, February 9, 2003.

"Caravaggio and Baroque Art in Italy." Providence Athenaeum, Providence, RI, February 10, 2002.

"Celebrity-Saint of Early Renaissance Italy: Bernardino of Siena and His World in Art." Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, November 16, 2001.

"Who Was Judas Iscariot? And Why Did He Kiss Jesus? The Betrayer of Christ in Christian Art and Written Tradition." John Carroll University (Ohio), Center for Catholic Studies, Oct. 18, 2001.

"The Power of Images: Caravaggio and the Re-Birth of Catholic Devotional Art after the Council of Trent." Regis College, University of Toronto, Sept. 28, 2001.

"The Power of Images: The Role of Devotional Art in Baroque Italy." Ringling Museum of Art, Sarasota, Florida, March 8, 2000.

"Tintoretto's Recently Rediscovered *Raising of Lazarus*: Provenance and Meaning." Reading (PA) Public Museum, December 8, 1999 (at press conference announcing the rediscovery).

"Judas Iscariot and the Kiss of Betrayal in Christian Art and Tradition." The National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC, June 20, 1999.

Miscellaneous

Was originator and co-curator of two major art exhibitions:

Saints and Sinners: Caravaggio and the Baroque Image, at Boston College's McMullen Museum of Art, February 1-May 24, 1999, examining the theory, styles, and social functions of religious painting of the Italian Baroque and featuring the first North American appearance of Caravaggio's recently rediscovered *The Taking of Christ* (Dublin).

Hope and Healing: Painting in Italy in a Time of Plague, 1500-1800, April 3-Sept. 25, 2005, Worcester Art Museum, Worcester, MA, examining the role of art (Renaissance and Baroque) in times of social disaster and the influence of the bubonic plague on art, artists, and patrons.