

# Catholic Studies Newsletter

Department of Religious Studies

Spring 2014

Keeping you up to date on our graduate students, the Tipton Visiting Professor, and the Catholic Studies lectures, conferences, and events here at UCSB.



## Greetings from the Chair

Ann Taves, Cordano Professor of Catholic

Dear Friends of Catholic Studies at UCSB,

We are pleased to bring you the fourth issue of our Catholic Studies Newsletter to update you on some of the things that have been going on here at UCSB and generally showcase the flourishing state of Catholic Studies at UCSB. In the pages that follow you can read about this year's student planned Catholic Studies conference –“Experience and Authority” – and the visit of historian Amy Hollywood, this year's Tipton Distinguished Visitor in Catholic Studies, plus updates on activities both faculty and students. In that regard, we are particularly saddened to announce the departure of Professor Stefania Tutino, a mainstay of Catholic Studies here at UCSB, for a position at UCLA. Through her courses in the history of Christianity from the late medieval to early modern period and her numerous books on early modern Catholicism, Stefania made an enormous contribution to Catholic Studies. In addition, she was always a willing collaborator in our programming ventures, organizing some events herself and providing behind the scenes assistance with others. At the same time that she will be sorely missed, we wish her well in this new position -- an unsolicited opportunity that turned out to be too good to refuse!

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## Catholic Studies Conference 2014: Experience and Authority



On Friday, May 23 the University of California Santa Barbara once again held its annual Catholic Studies conference. The theme for this year was “Experience and Authority,” and we were honored to have several distinguished scholars from around the country present their work. In light of the fiftieth anniversary of the Department of Religious Studies at UCSB, several faculty members from the department and affiliated with it served as respondents.

After a welcome and introduction from Professor Ann Taves, Chair in Catholic Studies, the morning session had a global and transnational focus. P.J. Johnston from the University of Iowa presented work from a forthcoming dissertation on Catholic and Hindu boundary crossing at Saint Mary’s Co-Cathedral in Chennai, India. Then, Patrick Polk, the curator at the Fowler Museum of Cultural History at UCLA gave an engaging and personal overview of their recent exhibit on Latino folk saints entitled “Sinful Saints and Saintly Sinners at the Margins of the Americas.”

After lunch, Professor Charles Gallagher, S.J. from Boston College gave a fascinating paper on Emmanuel H. Chapman, a Jewish convert to Catholicism in the mid-Twentieth century and the anti-Judaism that surrounded his social activism. Kolby Knight, doctoral student at UCSB and Virgil Cordano Fellow, then presented on “American

Catholic Cultural Engagement from Orestes Brownson to Rick Santorum.” The last session focused on popular Catholicism, opening with a sixty minute documentary titled “Pope Michael” was shown about a traditionalist Catholic from Kansas who broke away from the Roman Church and was eventually voted pope by members of his own family. Professor Joseph Laycock from Texas State then presented work from his forthcoming book on a Marian visionary from New York to be published by Oxford University Press titled *The Seer of Bayside: Veronica Lueken and the Struggle to Define Catholicism*.

The day concluded with a keynote talk from Robert Ellwood, notable author and professor emeritus from USC. Professor Ellwood’s talk on “Non-Conventional Catholicism as the Past in the Present” brought together many of the themes of the afternoon as he described Catholic visionaries and traditionalists as those attempting to return to an imagined pre-Vatican II past.

The 2014 conference was made possible by its graduate student organizer Philip Deslippe, the help of Professor Ann Taves, and the sponsorship of the Virgil Cordano Endowment in Catholic Studies in the Religious Studies

By Philip R. Deslippe



Spotlight:  
Lecturer  
Nicole  
Archambeau

Nicole Archambeau received her PhD from UCSB in 2009, and this year she is back in Santa Barbara teaching classes in both the Religious Studies and the History Department that explore medicine, magic, and miracle in the pre-modern world, including "Saints and Miracles in the Catholic Tradition," "World History from 1000-1750," and "Plague in the Pre-Modern World."



Nicole's research focuses on the intersection of medicine and faith in the medieval West and Mediterranean. Her research questions emphasize the sufferer in moments of crisis, exploring the use of Christian prayer, ritual, and saintly intervention in integrative/alternative healing practice. Along with her PhD in History, Nicole has an MA in Applied Linguistics, which also influences her research.

Nicole's publications explore how sufferers used multiple healing options available for problems, such as plague and war, that they faced in the fourteenth century. In her essay "God Helps Those Who Help Themselves: Negotiating a miracle in the fourteenth-century canonization inquest of Delphine de Puimichel," Nicole looked at how people used the failure of medical treatment to receive the miraculous touch of the countess Delphine - a holy woman who was beatified but never canonized. She is currently working on a book project, *Souls Under Siege: Surviving Plague, War, and Confession in the Fourteenth Century*. In this work, Nicole is looking at how witnesses in the canonization inquest for Delphine de Puimichel turned to her during times of crisis. Surprisingly, witnesses identified confession as a main

concern alongside bubonic plague and war. While Delphine helped individuals deal with these catastrophes, Nicole is most interested in how people thought of Puimichel as helping them with their doubts of conscience.

In some exciting news, Nicole has been selected as a Residential Fellow at the



Davis Center for Historical Studies at Princeton University for the 2014/15 academic year! The Davis Center's topic for this upcoming year is "In the Aftermath of Catastrophe." Beginning in the fall, Nicole will be participating in some exciting conversations on this topic as well as finishing up her book project. We look forward to following Nicole's work and continued success.

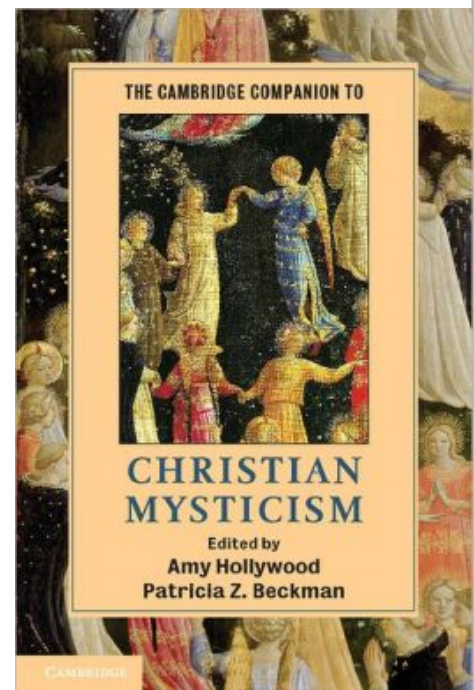
By Kolby Knight

## AMY HOLLYWOOD

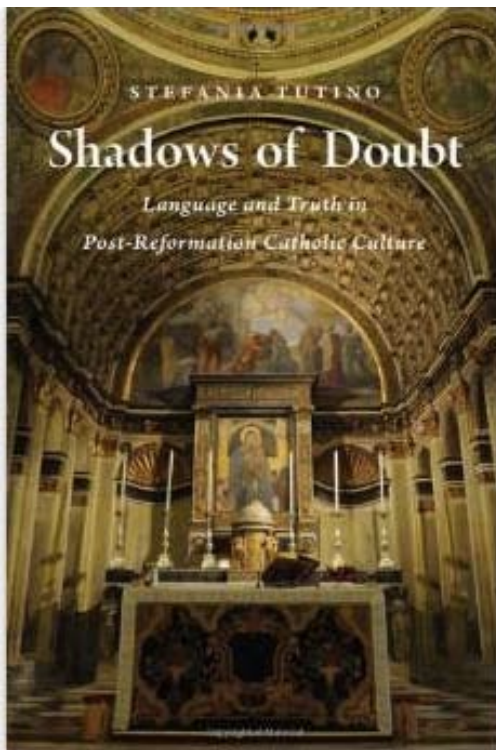
### Tipton Visiting Professor in Catholic Studies for Winter 2014

Amy Hollywood, the J.E. and Lillian Byrne Tipton Distinguished Visiting Professor in Religious Studies at UC Santa Barbara for winter 2014, is the Elizabeth H. Monrad Professor of Christian Studies at the Harvard Divinity School. She is the author of *The Soul as Virgin Wife: Mechthild of Magdeburg, Marguerite Porete, and Meister Eckhart*, which received the Otto Grundler Prize for the best book in medieval studies from the International Congress of Medieval Studies; *Sensible Ecstasy: Mysticism, Sexual Difference, and the Demands of History*; and, forthcoming from Columbia University Press, *Acute Melancholia and Other Essays*. She is also the co-editor, with Patricia Beckman, of *The Cambridge Companion to Christian Mysticism* (2012). Professor Hollywood is currently exploring the place of the mystical, often redescribed as enthusiasm, within modern philosophy, theology, and poetry.

In January, Prof. Hollywood presented her research in a talk entitled “Apophysis and Ecstasy, At the Limits of Gender.” She discussed the longstanding convention that men’s religious writings are more intellectual and speculative than those of women, which are commonly said to be rooted in the emotional experiences of their female authors. Although almost any serious scholar of Christianity will insist that this convention is wrong, it constantly reappears in scholarly as well as popular works. Hollywood continues the project of debunking the claim, but also shows why it has been around for so long and remained so persistent. In her talk, she explored what is at stake for historians of Christianity, theologians, and practitioners in maintaining this gender divide and asked what might be gained by undoing it.



The J.E. & Lillian Byrne Tipton Distinguished Visiting Professorship in Catholic Studies enables the Department of Religious Studies to bring outstanding scholars and public figures to UCSB for a quarter or longer to teach, present public lectures, and conduct research.



Professor Tutino will be missed, but we wish her the best of luck at UCLA!

In her new book, *Shadows of Doubt: Language and Truth in Post-Reformation Catholic Culture*, Stefania Tutino shows that the hermeneutical and epistemological anxieties that characterize our current intellectual climate are rooted in the early modern world. Showing that post-Reformation Catholicism did not simply usher in modernity, but indeed postmodernity as well, her study complicates the well-established scholarly view concerning the context of the Protestant Reformation and the Catholic response to it.

The book provides a collection of case-studies centered on the relationship between language, the truth of men, and the Truth of theology. Most of these case-studies illuminate little-known figures in the history of early modern Catholicism. The militant aspects of post-Tridentine Catholicism can be appreciated through study of figures such as Robert Bellarmine or Cesare Baronio, the solid pillars of the intellectual and theological structure of the Church of Rome; however, an understanding of the more enigmatic aspects of early modernity requires exploration of the demimonde of post-Reformation Catholicism. Tutino examines the thinkers whom few scholars mention and fewer read, demonstrating that post-Reformation Catholicism was not simply a world of solid certainties to be opposed to the Protestant falsehoods, but also a world in which the stable Truth of theology existed alongside and contributed to a number of far less stable truths concerning the world of men. Post-Reformation Catholic culture was not only concerned with articulating and affirming absolute truths, but also with exploring and negotiating the complex links between certainty and uncertainty.

By bringing to light this fascinating and hitherto largely unexamined side of post-Tridentine Catholicism, Tutino reveals that post-Reformation Catholic culture was a vibrant laboratory for many of the issues that we face today: it was a world of fractures and fractured truths which we, with a heightened sensitivity to discrepancies and discontinuities, are now well-suited to understand.



Father John Love of St. Mark's University Parish leads students, professors, and community members in a time of prayer and reflection at the memorial sites of those killed and injured in Isla Vista.

Continued thoughts and prayers go out for all the families who lost students in this tragedy and for the eternal repose of those killed.



Photos from St. Marks University Parish  
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/St-Marks-University-Parish-Isla-Vista-CA/148463848514875>



## Mary Through The Ages in Text and Tradition

The Catholic Studies Associate's Course  
with Lauren Horn Griffin

Catholic Studies provides opportunities for students who have advanced to candidacy to teach a course in Catholic Studies at the upper division level.

This course – offered in Spring 2014 -- explored the many variations of Mary in different times and places and considered a variety of questions surrounding the stories of her appearances and the material culture associated with them. The course examined Roman Catholic Mariology as well as conceptions of Mary in Protestant traditions, Judaism, and Islam and explored Mary's image around the world as well as the reconsideration of her role as a cultural icon by non-Christians. Using Marian images/manifestations as windows into particular societies and cultures – the course offered students a chance to see the self-fashioning of culture through the (re)casting of Mary.

Throughout the course, the class focused on three recurrent themes: Mary and Nationalism, Mary and Women, and Mary and Modernity. How has Mary played a political role? Does the figure of Mary empower or suppress? What can we make of modernity's denial of "magic" or the miraculous, yet its return to the lure of figures such as Mary?



During his first year at UCSB, Kolby has continued his engagement with the study of Catholicism in the United States. He has received travel grants to present at conferences in Montreal and Los Angeles on his work on theoretical issues in the study of material Catholicism. In this work entitled “Sanctioned Objects, Unsanctioned Rituals: Material Catholicism and the Power of Popular Symbolic Representation,” he analyzed the use of symbols in the relationship between ‘popular’ and ‘institutional’ Catholicism. Most recently, he presented a paper entitled “Shifting Teleologies: Church/State Separation from Orestes Brownson to Rick Santorum” at the annual Catholic Studies conference at UCSB. During the next year, Kolby will continue his research on anti-Catholicism in the legal battles concerning the public funding of parochial schools in the nineteenth century. Relying on political speeches, court records, and theories of secularization, Kolby is looking especially at the ways Catholicism and secularism were conceived and articulated as threats to Protestants in the context of the public school debates. Kolby will be presenting this work next year at the national meeting of the American Catholic Historical Association.

Lauren Horn Griffin spent the Fall Quarter in Oxford as a Research Fellow at Corpus Christi College and the Winter Quarter at UCLA’s Clark Library as Short-Term Research Fellow. After conducting archival research at the Bodleian Library, the British Library, and the Jesuit Archives in London, she is currently finishing her dissertation entitled “The Battle for Bede: The Uses of Christian Origin Narratives in Early Modern England.” She will present chapters of this work this fall at the annual meetings of the American Academy of Religion, the American Catholic Historical Association, and the American Society of Church History. Along with Rico Monge, a UCSB graduate and now Assistant Professor at the University of San Diego, she is the co-president of a new Exploratory Session on comparative hagiography at the AAR meeting. She has recently submitted her article, “Profane Uses of Sacred History: Henrician Evangelicals and the Construction of a Protestant Past” for publication.



With the support of a Cordano Catholic Studies travel grant, Kristy Slominski gave a paper on “Catholicism and Sex Education Controversies: A Global Comparison” at the American Catholic Historical Association conference in January in Washington, DC. This presentation provided a

brief comparison of the role of Catholicism in national sex education controversies in America, Canada, the Philippines, and Croatia. These case studies highlighted a range of variables that influence the interaction between Catholics and public sex education, including: the relationship of Catholicism to the country’s government and school system; the position of Catholics as a minority or majority within the country; the organized strength of bishops and their dedication to sexual issues; the degree to which Catholics in the country have developed their own versions of sex education; and the content of the particular sex education program. Based on her presentation at a previous

American Catholic Historical Association conference, she has been invited to contribute an article on “James Cardinal Gibbons as an Early Supporter of American Sex Education” to the *U.S. Catholic Historian*.

