

Robin L. Thomas

Curriculum Vitae

Associate Professor
Department of Art History
The Pennsylvania State University
240 Borland
University Park, PA 16802
(814) 865-4884
rlt18@psu.edu

Education

PhD Columbia University, 2007

Dissertation Title: "Charles Bourbon's Naples: Architecture and Urbanism"

MPhil Columbia University, 2002

Major Concentration: Baroque Architecture

Minor Concentration: Byzantine Architecture

MA Columbia University, 2000

BA, summa cum laude, Emory University, 1999

Honor's Thesis Title: "The Counter-reformation Art of Santa Cecilia in Trastevere, 1599-1602."

Professional Positions

Associate Professor, The Pennsylvania State University, 2014-present

Assistant Professor, The Pennsylvania State University, 2008-2014

Post-Doctoral Fellow, Fox Center for Humanistic Inquiry, Emory University, 2007-2008

Adjunct Instructor, Emory University, 2006-07

Articles and Books

Translation: Vico, Giovanni Battista. "In Memory of Lady Angela Cimmino." *New Vico Studies* 25 (2007): 1-33.

"Luigi Vanvitelli as Reader and Author." *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians* 69, no. 4 (2010): 508-533. (peer reviewed)

“Building the Monarchy: The Teatro di San Carlo in Naples, 1737.” *The Court Historian* 17 (2012): 35-60. (peer reviewed)

Architecture and Statecraft: Charles of Bourbon's Naples 1734-59. Penn State Press, 2013. (peer reviewed)

Reviews: Michael J. Levin, *Bulletin for Spanish and Portuguese Historical Studies*, vol. 38, pp. 260–261

Daniel McReynolds, *caa.reviews*, April, 2014 (online)

Jörg Garms, *The Burlington Magazine*, vol. 147, pp. 35–36

“Propagandizing Nolli in Naples.” In *Giambattista Nolli, Rome and Mapping: Before and After the Pianta Grande*. Eds. Allan Ceen and Ian Verstegen (Rome: Studium Urbis, 2014), 134–144.

“The Royal Palace of Capodimonte: the Early Years.” *Napoli Nobilissima*. 7th series, vol. 2, issue 3 (2016): 23–32. (peer reviewed)

“Architects’ Libraries.” *The Companions to the History of Architecture, Volume II, Eighteenth-Century Architecture*. Eds. Caroline van Eck and Sigrid de Jong (Wiley Blackwell, 2017), 33–53.

“Albergo dei Poveri” *The Companions to the History of Architecture, Volume II, Eighteenth-Century Architecture*. Eds. Caroline van Eck and Sigrid de Jong (Wiley Blackwell, 2017), 603–606.

“Royal Palace at Caserta” *The Companions to the History of Architecture, Volume II, Eighteenth-Century Architecture*. Eds. Caroline van Eck and Sigrid de Jong (Wiley Blackwell, 2017), 607–611.

“Convent and Crown: Redecorating Santa Chiara in Naples 1741–59” *1650-1850: Ideas, Aesthetics, and Inquiries in the Early Modern Era* (forthcoming)

“The *pacte de famille* and a *famille des palais*: Architecture and the Bourbons in the Eighteenth Century” *Cheiron* (forthcoming 2018)

“Symbols of Royal Power: the Bourbon Royal Palaces of Naples” *Lo Stato moderno napoletano e l'Europa Borbonica: storiografia e fonti: atti del convegno internazionale dicembre 2016*, ed. Giuseppe Cirillo (forthcoming 2018)

“Slavery and Construction in Eighteenth-Century Naples” *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians* (under review)

Reviews

Costanza Caraffa. Gaetano Chiaveri (1689–1770). Architetto romano della Hofkirche di

Dresda. *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians* 67, no. 4 (2008): 606-608.

“New Studies of Vico and Tiepolo.” *New Vico Studies* 26 (2008) 170-172.

Heather Hyde Minor. The Culture of Architecture in Enlightenment Rome. *European Architectural History Network Newsletter* 4 (2010): 38-41.

Research Projects

Palaces of Reason: the Royal Architecture of Bourbon Naples (Book project in preparation)

“Towers of Power: the Rhetoric of Height in Naples” (article in preparation)

Lectures and Conference Presentations

“Spain, Rome, and the Planning of Capodimonte,” *Napoli, Museo e Real Bosco di Capodimonte in un contesto mondiale*, Naples, Italy, October 2017.

“Luigi Vanvitelli as Active Reader” 30th International Seminar in the History of Architecture: the Architect as Reader, Palladio Museum, Vicenza, Italy, June 2017.

“Francesco de Mura and Bourbon Naples” Invited by The University of Wisconsin, Madison, February 2017.

“The Healing Power of Art” Invited by the Princess Theatre, Decatur, AL, December 2016.

“Il Segno del potere monarchico. Le reggie dei Borbone di Napoli,” Invited by conference *Lo Stato modern napoletano e l'Europa Borbonica: storiografia e fonti*, Seconda Università di Napoli, Caserta, December 2016.

“Palaces and Political Economy in 18th Century Naples” Invited by Cambridge University, January 2016.

“Planning Portici: Architecture and Diplomacy between Naples and Spain 1734–49” *Neapolitan Network*, Universitat de Barcelona, October 2014.

“Staging Gothic: Luigi Vanvitelli’s Designs for Milan Cathedral” Society of Architectural Historians Annual Meeting, April 2014.

“The Bourbon Theater of State and Architecture of Eighteenth-Century Naples” Invited by Princeton University, December 2013.

“The Bourbon Redecoration of Santa Chiara in Naples” American Society of Eighteenth-Century Studies Annual Meeting, Cleveland, April 2013.

“Reading Spanish Architectural Influence in Bourbon Naples: Portici and La Granja de SanIldefonso” Invited by The Geography of Southern Baroque Architecture Conference, Northwestern University, May 2012.

“The Bourbon Theater of State: Decorating the Royal Palace at Portici (1744-1745),” College Art Association Annual Conference, Los Angeles, 2012.

“Space and Spectacle at the Court of Charles Bourbon,” Invited by Delirious Naples: For a Cultural, Intellectual, and Urban History of the City of the Sun Conference, Hofstra University/New York University, November 2011.

“Charles Bourbon’s Theater of State from Naples to Madrid,” Metropolitan Museum of Art, March, 2011.

“Luigi Vanvitelli: Reader and Author,” Renaissance Society of America Annual Conference, Venice, April 2010.

“To Protect and to Serve: Giovanni Battista Piranesi’s Rome,” Invited by Lebanon Valley College, Arnold Art Gallery Exhibition Keynote Speaker, April 2010.

“From Naples to Madrid: Charles III and Civic Architecture of Reform,” American Society of Eighteenth-Century Studies Annual Conference, Albuquerque, March, 2010.

“Cosmopolitanism at the Coffehouse on the Quirinal Hill in Rome,” Pennsylvania State University, IAH Moments of Change Salon, March 2010.

“Southern Italian and Spanish Colonial Urban Planning: Grids and Civic Identity,” Invited by Muhlenberg College, April 20, 2009.

“Structure and Statecraft: The Reale Albergo dei Poveri in Bourbon Naples,” Invited by Emory University, February 2008.

“For Music and Monarchy: The Teatro di San Carlo in Naples,” Invited by The Ohio State University, Columbus, October, 2007.

“Changing Music and Propagating Form: The Teatro di San Carlo of Naples,” Society of Architectural Historians Annual Conference, Pittsburgh, April, 2007.

“Rome and the Bourbons: the Reale Albergo dei Poveri and the Roles of the Church and King in Enlightenment Naples,” American Society of Eighteenth-Century Studies Annual Conference, Atlanta, March, 2007.

“For Music and Monarchy: The Teatro di San Carlo in Naples,” Invited by The University of Washington, April, 2006.

“Politicizing Nolli in Naples: The Duca di Noja Map,” Giambattista Nolli, Imago Urbis and Rome Conference, Rome, May, 2003.

Conference Panels

Roundtable Participant, “Teaching Southern Italy,” Renaissance Society of America Annual Conference, New Orleans, March 2018.

Respondent, “Naples Reconsidered,” American Society of Eighteenth-Century Studies Annual Conference, Vancouver, March, 2011.

Fellowships, Awards, and Honors

Award for Outstanding Teaching, College of Arts and Architecture, The Pennsylvania State University, 2014

Andrew W. Mellon Fellowship, Metropolitan Museum of Art, 2010-11

Post-Doctoral Fellowship, The Bill and Carol Fox Center for Humanistic Inquiry, Emory University, 2007-08

Mrs. Giles Whiting Foundation Fellowship in the Humanities, 2005-06

J. William Fulbright Grant, Italy, 2004-05

Columbia University Traveling Fellowship, 2004-05 (declined)

Rudolf Wittkower Dissertation Fellowship, Columbia University, 2003-04

Teaching Fellow, Columbia University, 2002-03

Presidential Fellow, Columbia University, 2000-01, 2001-02

Marion Luther Brittain Service Award Honoree, Emory University, 1999

Phi Beta Kappa, 1997

Omicron Delta Kappa (Service Honor Society), 1997

Phi Sigma Iota (Foreign Language Honor Society), 1997

Constantinian Award in Byzantine History for essay: “Byzantine Trade Concessions the Genoese,” 1996

Service

Reviewer of manuscripts: *Art Bulletin*, Penn State University Press, University of Pennsylvania Press, *Memoirs of the American Academy in Rome*, *Boletín de arte*, *Arris: the Journal of the Southeast Society of Architectural Historians*

Reviewer of grant applications: Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada

Director of Undergraduate Studies, Department of Art History, The Pennsylvania State University, 2017-present

Chair, Search Advisory Committee, Tenure Track Assistant Professor of Early Modern Art History

Committee for Early Modern Studies, The Pennsylvania State University
Steering Committee Member. 2012-13
Director, 2013-15
Co-Director, 2016-present

Faculty Adviser, Penn State Quiz Bowl Team, 2014-present

Promotion and Tenure Committee, College of Arts and Architecture, The Pennsylvania State University, 2017-present

College of Arts and Architecture Faculty Advisory Council, The Pennsylvania State University 2011-2013

Promotion and Tenure Committee, Department of Art History, The Pennsylvania State University, 2014-15

Search Committee, Renaissance and Baroque Architecture One-year Replacement, Department of Art History, The Pennsylvania State University 2009

Staff Award of Distinction Selection Committee, College of Arts and Architecture, The Pennsylvania State University, 2009.

Graduate Initiatives Committee, Department of Art History, The Pennsylvania State University, 2009-10, 2011-12, 2014-15

Institute for the Arts and Humanities Director Search Committee, The Pennsylvania State University, 2009-10

Committee on Scholarships and Awards for Undergraduates, College of Arts and Architecture, The Pennsylvania State University, 2013-15

Alumni Scholarship Selection Committee, College of Arts and Architecture, The Pennsylvania State University, 2008-10

Golumbic Award Selection Committee, College of Arts and Architecture, The Pennsylvania State University, 2008-10

Undergraduate Initiatives Committee, Department of Art History, The Pennsylvania State University, 2008-09

Undergraduate Advisor, Department of Art History, The Pennsylvania State University

Emory University Alumni Board, 2003-09

Panelist, Graduate Student Grant Writing Workshop, Emory University, 2007

Co-Chair, Annual Fund, Emory University Libraries, 2005-07

MA Students

Adviser:

Hagen, Emily, Department of Art History, M.A. degree in progress

Burch, Nathan, Department of Art History, M.A. degree in progress

Second reader:

Surrena, Abbey, Department of Art History, M.A. degree completed, Spring 2014

Betz, Tim, Department of Art History, M.A. degree completed, Spring 2013

Kim, Allison, Department of Art History, M.A. degree completed, Spring 2013

Brown, Marlise, Department of Art History, M.A. degree completed, Summer 2011

Ph.D Students

Adviser:

Kutasz Christensen, Theresa, Department of Art History, Ph.D. degree in progress

Petersen, Elizabeth, Department of Art History, Ph.D. degree in progress

Tokushige, Kenta, Department of Art History, Ph.D. degree in progress

Committee Member:

Millard, Robert, Department of Art History, Ph.D. degree completed, Summer 2017

Zins, Katie, Department of Art History, Ph.D. degree completed, Fall 2016

Kulpa, Pierette, Department of Art History, Ph.D. degree completed, Spring 2015

Olson-Rudenko, Jennifer, Department of Art History, Ph.D. degree completed, Spring 2011

Costanzo, Denise, Department of Art History, Ph.D. degree completed, Summer 2009

Goad Davis, Laurin, Department of Art History, Ph.D. degree in progress

Saralouise Howells, Department of Art History, Ph.D. degree in progress

Professional Organizations

American Society of Eighteenth-Century Studies

College Art Association

European Architectural History Network

Italian Art Society

Neapolitan Network

Renaissance Society of America

Society of Architectural Historians