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Education

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

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

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: Teaching Positions

Professor of Italian, Department of Romance Languages and Literatures, Boston College, March 1, 2012-present.

Associate Professor (with tenure) of Italian, Department of Romance Languages and Literatures, Boston College, September 2000-March 1, 2012.

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

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

Boston College Departmental Service

Chairperson, Department of Romance Languages and Literatures, Boston College., June 1, 2012- present.

Section Head, Italian Studies, Department of Romance Languages and Literatures, Boston College, January 2010-May 2012.

Acting Chair, RLL Dept. (during absence abroad of Chair O. Mostefai), entire month of April 2010.

Member, Faculty Review Committee (RLL Chair's Advisory committee), Fall 2009-May 2012.

Member, RLL Curriculum Committee, September 2010-December 2010).

RLL Ad Hoc Committee on Adjunct Professor Promotions, Spring semester, 2008 (to review dossiers of three adjunct colleagues eligible for promotion).

Director, Senior Honors Program, Department of Romance Languages and Literatures,
Boston College, September 2005-May 2009.

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

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

Official Dept. Liaison with the Office of the Consul General of Italy in Boston, Fall 2005-
present.

Publications

Books:

author of *Bernini: His Life and His Rome*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2011. (The
first full-length, English-language biography of the artist.)

author, editor, and translator of *Domenico Bernini's "Life of Gian Lorenzo Bernini:" An English
Translation and Critical Edition with Introduction and Commentary*. University Park: Penn
State University Press, 2011.

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; distributed 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.

Chapters in Scholarly Books:

"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.

"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.

"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, 24-49.

"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, 55-84.

Articles in 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.

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

"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.

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

"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:

"Bernini's Assistants." An edited excerpt from my *Bernini: His Life and His Rome* published in the *Boston College Magazine*, Fall 2011, 51-52.

"Christ in the Garden: An Easter Reflection on Lavinia Fontana's *Noli Me Tangere*," in *America*, v. 200, no. 13 (2009): 27-28.

"Of Clowns and Christian Conscience: The Art of George Rouault" (review of McMullen Museum of Art exhibition, Boston College), "Mystic Masque: Semblance and Reality in Georges Rouault, 1871-1958", in *America*, v. 199, no. 17 (2008): 18-20.

"The Painted 'Visions' of Fra Angelico: An Enchanting Exhibition at the Metropolitan Museum of Art," in *America*, v. 193, no. 20 (2005): 8-11.

"Run Away: How to Avoid the Plague," *Boston College Magazine*, Winter, 2005, 16-17 (on the bubonic plague in Renaissance Europe).

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

"The Hands of Joseph O'Connell" (sculptor) in *America*, v. 182, no. 7 (2000): 12-13.

"Lazarus Raised Again: A Tintoretto Masterpiece is found at a Jesuit Residence in Pennsylvania," *America*, v. 181, n.19 (1999): 11-13.

"The 'Jesuit Caravaggio' Comes to America," *America*, v. 180, no. 4 (1999): 9-14.

Exhibitions

Was originator and co-curator of three scholarly exhibitions of fine art, rare books and prints:

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., Spring semester, 2006. Was asked to conceive and mount this exhibition at the request and under the patronage of the Jesuit Institute, Boston College in honor of the Xavier anniversary year.

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.

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).