Center for Renaissance Studies

Research Skills Workshop for Early-Career Graduate Students

Johannes de Sacro Bosco’s *De Sphaera*
from the Thirteenth through the Seventeenth Centuries

Directed by Kathleen Crowther and Peter Barker,
both of University of Oklahoma

This workshop will focus on the *Sphere* (*De sphaera*) of Johannes de Sacro Bosco (c. 1200–c. 1250). Sacro Bosco, an Englishman who taught in the Arts Faculty of the University of Paris in the early thirteenth century, composed the *Sphere* sometime around 1230 as an introductory astronomy textbook for university students. The book became the basis for introductory astronomy lectures at universities throughout Europe through the end of the seventeenth century. As astronomy was part of the basic arts curriculum which all students had to complete before advancing to any of the higher faculties, a very high percentage of university-educated men were exposed to this text. Moreover, the *Sphere* was used outside of the university context and was translated into many vernacular languages. Thus a broad swath of educated Europeans, both men and women, were interested in and had access to Sacro Bosco’s *Sphere*. The book describes a model of the cosmos that was familiar not just to that small number of people who studied astronomy, but to poets, artists, writers, historians, physicians and farmers. Participants will discuss the contents of this text in order to elucidate the model of the cosmos shared by most medieval and early modern Europeans.

This workshop will be relevant to early-career graduate students in a range of fields and disciplines, including Comparative Literature, Cultural Studies, History, History of Science, and Literature in English or other relevant languages.

*Enrollment is limited to 12. Graduate students in a terminal master’s program and those who have not yet completed comprehensive exams in a PhD program may apply. No language prerequisites. Students from Newberry Center for Renaissance Studies consortium institutions have priority.*

Workshop: Friday, March 15, 2013, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Enrollment deadline: Friday, February 22, 2013

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