

Program Director

Liesl Olson
*Director of Chicago Studies,
Newberry Library*

Visiting Faculty

Naomi Nelson
*Rubenstein Library,
Duke University*

Chris Prom
University of Illinois Library

Melissa Barton
*Beinecke Rare Book and
Manuscript Library, Yale University*

More Information:

Information—including the syllabus—will be available soon at newberry.org/chicago-studies

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To Apply:

Please upload your CV and a brief statement (250 words) describing your research and interest in the seminar to SlideRoom.
newberry.slideroom.com

Applications Due:

Monday, May 21, 2018

Notification:

Monday, June 4, 2018

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Seminar for Graduate Students in the Humanities

Fridays, October 5 – December 7, 2018 (No meeting Nov. 9 & 23)
9:30am – Noon

The Newberry Library, Chicago, Illinois

The Newberry Library invites graduate students in the humanities to apply for a seminar that will explore the theoretical, critical, and practical methods necessary to negotiate historical and literary archives. The seminar will be held on eight Fridays from October 5 - December 7, 2018 (with no meeting on November 9 & 23). The course will be led by Liesl Olson (Director of Chicago Studies, Newberry Library) and a team of Newberry archivists and curators and will include guest presentations by Naomi Nelson (Rubenstein Library, Duke University); Chris Prom, (University of Illinois Library); and Melissa Barton (Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University).

The seminar will provide graduate students with a set of tools essential to doctoral research in any archive. Students will learn to approach their own research with an attention to fundamental methodological questions; such as: how do taxonomies shape our critical understanding of a field? How do we organize information and knowledge? Students will acquire skills that will also broaden their opportunities for career diversity by exposing students to archival work at an independent research library. In collaboration with Newberry staff, students will conceive and write a processing plan for an unprocessed collection at the Newberry (in lieu of a research paper). This methodological work will be buttressed by a deep engagement with conceptual issues raised through a discussion of readings from historians, literary scholars, and theorists.

This 2018 seminar is part of a larger Newberry Library initiative which will culminate in 2020 with a symposium that will bring together seminar faculty, students, invited archival specialists, humanities scholars, and directors of graduate study at major universities to make public a larger discussion of the seminar, the findings of our work, and potential avenues for integrating archival practice more fully into doctoral programs in the humanities.

The course is ideal for PhD candidates in or beyond their third year of doctoral studies. The expectation is that students will spend at least one



The Ben Hecht papers as they arrived at the Newberry and after being archived.

other day per week at the Newberry pursuing their own archival projects. A cohort of 15 graduate students will be selected to participate, and lunch will be provided each session. Travel funding for students outside of the Chicago area is available. The seminar will be offered again in fall 2019 and fall 2020.

Liesl Olson is Director of Chicago Studies at the Newberry, where she has also been a long-term fellow (2009) and Director of the Scholl Center for American History and Culture (2012–2015). Her research interests include twentieth-century literature, modernism, theories of the archive, feminism, critical theory, and the visual arts. She is the author of *Chicago Renaissance: The Midwest and Modernism* (Yale U P, 2017), a history of the literary and cultural centrality of Chicago in the first half of the twentieth century; and *Modernism and the Ordinary* (Oxford U P, 2009), which examines a broad range of twentieth-century works that represent the habitual and unselfconscious actions of everyday life. From 2005–2009 Olson taught at the University of Chicago as a Harper-Schmidt Fellow in the Humanities Division. She has received fellowships from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Newberry, and the American Council of Learned Societies. Olson completed her doctorate in English and Comparative Literature from Columbia University, and her BA from Stanford University.

