Margaret Abruzzo, University of Alabama

Residential Fellow at the NDIAS (Spring 2015)

“Good People and Bad Behavior: Changing Views of Sin, Evil, and Moral Responsibility in the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries”

Margaret Abruzzo is Associate Professor of History at the University of Alabama. She specializes in American intellectual, cultural, and religious history, with a focus on the history of morality. Her current research project historicizes sin by tracing shifts in how Protestant and Catholic theologians, ministers, philosophers, reformers, novelists, and ordinary people answered enduring questions: Given that nobody is perfect, what does it mean to be a good (or bad) person? Why do “good” people do bad things?

She is the author of Polemical Pain: Slavery, Cruelty, and the Rise of Humanitarianism (2011). She has also written several articles on slavery, humanitarianism, and religious liberty.

Professor Abruzzo is the recipient of a year-long fellowship from the National Endowment for the Humanities (2014-2015). Her current research on changing conceptions of wrongdoing and moral responsibility has also been supported by a summer stipend from the National Endowment for the Humanities (2013) and research grants from the Beinecke Library at Yale University, the American Antiquarian Society, the Southern Historical Collection at the University of North Carolina, the Library Company of Philadelphia and Historical Society of Pennsylvania, and the Cushwa Center for the Study of American Catholicism at the University of Notre Dame.

Clifford Ando, University of Chicago

Residential Fellow at the NDIAS (Spring 2015)

“Roman Social Imaginaries”

Clifford Ando is David B. and Clara E. Stern Professor at the University of Chicago, where he is also Professor of Classics,
History, and Law as well as co-director of the Center for the Study of Ancient Religions. He is also a Research Fellow in the Department of Classics and World Languages at the University of South Africa. He specializes in the history of government, law, and religion in the Roman empire.

He is the author of five monographs: Imperial Ideology and Provincial Loyalty in the Roman Empire (2000; corrected paperback 2013); The Matter of the Gods (2008); Law, Language and Empire in the Roman Tradition (2011; a French translation, under the title L'Empire et le Droit. Invention juridique et réalités politiques à Rome, appeared in 2013); Imperial Rome AD 193 to 284. The Critical Century (2012); and Religion et gouvernement dans l'Empire romain (2014). He has also published more than 100 articles, chapters and reviews.

Professor Ando’s first monograph won the American Philological Association’s Charles J. Goodwin Award of Merit. He is also the recipient of a Friedrich Wilhelm Bessel Research Prize from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation. He has been a Junior Fellow and a Frederick Burkhardt Fellow of the American Council of Learned Societies; a Fellow of the Huntington Library; a New Directions Fellow of the Mellon Foundation; a Fellow of the Max Weber Kolleg of the University of Erfurt; and a Canterbury Fellow at the University of Canterbury, New Zealand. He has held visiting positions in the Faculty of Classics, University of Oxford; the Collège de France; the École Pratique des Hautes Études; the Université Panthéon-Assas; the University of Münster; the American Academy in Rome; and the University of British Columbia.

Professor Ando is editor of the series Empire and After, associate editor of Bryn Mawr Classical Review, and serves on the editorial boards of Classical Philology, Critical Analysis of Law, and the Oxford Series in the History and Theory of International Law.

Lewis Ayres, Durham University, UK

Residential Fellow at the NDIAS (2014-2015)

“Resting in the Word: The Origins and Future of the Catholic Scriptural Imagination”

Lewis Ayres is Professor of Catholic and Historical Theology at Durham University in the United Kingdom. He specializes in the study of early Christian theology, especially the history of Trinitarian theology and early Christian exegesis. He is also deeply interested in the relationship between the shape of early Christian modes of discourse and reflection and the manner in which renewals of Catholic theology during the last hundred years have attempted to engage forms of modern historical consciousness and sought to negotiate the shape of appropriate scriptural interpretation in modernity, even as they remain faithful to the practices of classical Catholic discourse and contemplation.
His publications include *Augustine and the Trinity* (2010) and *Nicaea and Its Legacy: An Approach to Trinitarian Theology* (2004). He is co-editor of the *Cambridge History of Early Christian Literature* (2004) and of the *Oxford Handbook of Catholic Theology* (forthcoming). Professor Ayres has co-edited the *Blackwell Challenges in Contemporary Theology* series (since 1997), the *Ashgate Studies in Philosophy and Theology in Late Antiquity* series (since 2007), and has just co-founded with Fortress Press the *Renewal: Conversations in Catholic Theology* series. He serves on the editorial boards of *Modern Theology*, the *Journal of Early Christian Studies*, and *Augustinian Studies*. He has also served on the board of the North American Patristics Society.

Professor Ayres is the recipient of grants from the Association of Theological Schools, a Henry Luce IIIrd Fellowship (2006-2007), and the Christopherson/Knott Fellowship at Durham University’s own Institute for Advanced Study (2012).

**Hilary Davidson, University of Notre Dame**

*Graduate Student Fellow at the NDIAS (2014-2015)*

“Searching for the Good Life: How Cultural Narratives Anchor the Aspirations of Emerging Adults”

Hilary Davidson is a Ph.D. candidate in sociology at the University of Notre Dame. Her dissertation explores aspirations during times of transition and uncertainty. Specifically, she draws on longitudinal and nationally representative in-depth interview and survey data to examine how cultural narratives and material opportunities shape what Americans coming of age aim to achieve with their lives in the midst of precarious economic conditions. Her research interests include cultural sociology, emerging adulthood, generosity and altruism, religion, gender, social movements, and social class.

Ms. Davidson’s work appears in the *Journal for the American Academy of Religion* and *Sociology of Religion*. She is also the co-author of two books, *Lost in Transition* (2011) and *The Paradox of Generosity* (2014). She regularly presents her work at academic conferences and shares her work with the broader public.

As an aspiring teacher-scholar Ms. Davidson has benefitted greatly from the Gender Studies Predoctoral Teaching Fellowship as well as the opportunities to teach Introduction to Gender Studies and Introduction to Social Problems at the University of Notre Dame.

Ms. Davidson is the recipient of an Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts American Dream grant and the William V. D’Antonino award for graduate student excellence in the sociology of religion.
Thadious M. Davis, University of Pennsylvania

Director’s Fellow at the NDIAS (2014-2015)

“Imagination and the Space of Freedom”

Thadious M. Davis is Geraldine R. Segal Professor of American Social Thought and Professor of English at the University of Pennsylvania. Her scholarship focuses primarily on issues of race, gender, and region with attention to geography, history, and law, as well as to literary modernism, visual culture, and contemporary theory. Her special areas include the Harlem Renaissance and William Faulkner.

She is the author of Games of Property: Law, Race, Gender, and Faulkner’s Go Down, Moses (2002); Faulkner’s “Negro”: Art and the Southern Context (1982); and Nella Larsen, Novelist of the Harlem Renaissance (1994; 1996). Her most recent work is Southscapes: Geographies of Race, Region, and Literature (2011). She has written over sixty scholarly articles and edited or co-edited nine reference texts.

Professor Davis’s research has been supported by major fellowships and grants from the Rockefeller Foundation, the Ford Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the National Research Council, and the American Council of Learned Societies. She has been a fellow at the Newberry Library in Chicago, the DuBois Institute at Harvard University, the Program in African American Studies at Princeton University, the Cullman Center for Scholars and Writers at the New York Public Library, and the Huntington Library as the R. Stanton Avery Distinguished Fellow. Her critical biography of Nella Larsen received the College Language Association Award for Creative Scholarship and the Anna Julia Cooper Award for Feminist Scholarship from Spelman College. Co-editor of the University of North Carolina Press series Gender and American Culture, she has served on a number of editorial boards, including American Quarterly, Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society, The Southern Literary Journal, Black American Literature Forum (now African American Review), American Literary History, Southern Cultures, Callaloo, The Canadian Review of American Studies, Women’s Studies, and Palimpsest: A Journal of Women, Gender, and the Black International. One of the founders of the Modern Language Association’s Division of Black Literature and Culture, she has served elected terms on the National Council of the American Studies Association, the Advisory Council of the American Literature Section of MLA, and the Executive Committee of the MLA Division of Twentieth-Century American Literature. She has been honored with a year-long Fulbright Distinguished Chair, the Walt Whitman Chair in American Civilization at the University of Leiden in the Netherlands.
Sabine Doering, University of Oldenburg, Germany

*Residential Fellow at the NDIAS (2014-2015)*

“Concepts of Blessing in Hölderlin’s Poetic Work”

Sabine Doering is full professor (chair) for modern German literature at the University of Oldenburg and specializes in the history of German classicism and romanticism, and contemporary literature as well. Since completing her Ph.D. thesis, much of her research is dedicated to the work and life of Friedrich Hölderlin (1770–1843).

Her monographs include *Aber was ist diß? Formen und Funktionen der Frage in Hölderlins dichterischem Werk* (1992); *Die Schwestern des Doktor Faust. Eine Geschichte der weiblichen Faustgestalten* (2001); *Klassik. Geschichte und Begriff* (with G. Schulz, 2003); and *Heinrich von Kleist. Literaturwissen für Schule und Studium* (new edition 2009). She has more than 80 articles and scholarly writings, 30 critical reviews, and more than 150 literary reviews in the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*. She is co-editor of the *Hölderlin-Jahrbuch* and has served as a co-editor of the *Kleist-Jahrbuch* for more than ten years. She co-edited several books, among them *Hölderlin and Leopardi* (2011), *Orpheus und Sappho auf Lesbos* (2011), and *Aus der Klinik ins Haus am Neckar. Der ‘Fall’ Hölderlin* (2013).

Professor Doering serves as the president of the international Hölderlin Society (since 2010). She is a member of the executive board of the ‘Forschungszentrum Klassik’ (Weimar) and a member of several juries for literary awards. In spring 2013, she served as Max Kade Distinguished Visiting Professor at the University of Notre Dame.

Naomi Fisher, University of Notre Dame

*Graduate Student Fellow at the NDIAS (2014-2015)*

“Natural Reason: Rationality as Emerging out of Animal Nature”

Naomi Fisher is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Philosophy at the University of Notre Dame. Her research explores connections between the philosophy of science, philosophy of perception, and the history of philosophy. In particular, she focuses on how conceptions of the relationship between rationality and nature evolved in post-Kantian philosophy. Her dissertation examines themes of cognition, experience, and action in Kant and Schelling, particularly with respect to how these philosophers accommodate animal cognition and behaviors into their systems. She then applies the lessons learned from this period to contemporary philosophy.
Ms. Fisher has presented her research at several conferences in the areas of the history of philosophy and the philosophy of science, and has received funding for and coordinated an ongoing interdisciplinary workshop series at Notre Dame, focusing on the relationship between philosophy and history. In addition, she has served as an editorial assistant for the *Internationales Jahrbuch des deutschen Idealismus*.

Ms. Fisher has received several grants, including a Nanovic Institute Travel and Research Grant for research in Germany, an Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts-Mellon Grant for interdisciplinary workshops, and several other research and language training grants.

Alyssa Dinega Gillespie, University of Notre Dame

**Residential Fellow at the NDIAS (Fall 2014)**

**“Dangerous Verses: Alexander Pushkin and the Ethics of Inspiration”**

Alyssa Dinega Gillespie is Associate Professor of Russian Language and Literature at the University of Notre Dame. She specializes in Russian poetry of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, with a particular focus on understanding the workings of poets’ creative psyches: why and how they come to write what they do, how they experience poetic inspiration and poetic responsibility, and how that experience is encoded, mythologized, or otherwise inscribed in the literary texts they produce.

She is the author of *A Russian Psyche: The Poetic Mind of Marina Tsvetaeva* (2001), which was named an Outstanding Academic Title by *Choice* magazine. It is forthcoming in a Russian-language edition in 2014. She is the editor of *Russian Literature in the Age of Realism* (2003) and *Taboo Pushkin: Topics, Texts, Interpretations* (2012). In addition, she has authored more than 30 articles and scholarly writings that have appeared in numerous journals, including *Slavic Review, Slavic and East European Journal, Russian Literature, Russian Review, Canadian-American Slavic Studies*, and *Pushkin Review*. She has also published her translations of more than 35 Russian poems. She is the founding editor of the series *Myths and Taboos in Russian Culture* for Academic Studies Press and has served on the editorial boards of *From the Other Shore: Russian Writers Abroad Past and Present, Canadian-American Slavic Studies*, and *The Unknown Nineteenth Century*.

A faculty fellow in Notre Dame’s Nanovic Institute for European Studies and co-director of Notre Dame’s Program in Russian and East European Studies since 2008, Professor Gillespie was the recipient of a fellowship from the National Endowment for the Humanities in 2005-2006. She has received recognition in several international...
competitions for her translations of Russian poetry into English, including first prize in the 2012 Compass Awards, second prize in the 2011 Compass Awards, and joint third prize in the 2011 Joseph Brodsky/Stephen Spender translation competition.

Catherine Kavanagh, Mary Immaculate College (University of Limerick), Ireland

Residential Fellow at the NDIAS (Fall 2014)

“Eriugena’s Trinity: A Framework for Intercultural and Interreligious Dialogue”

Catherine Kavanagh is Senior Lecturer in the Department of Philosophy at Mary Immaculate College. Her interests include Medieval philosophy, Medieval theology and patristics, especially the systematic areas of Christology and Trinitarian theology, and the relation of these to contemporary developments in philosophy and theology.


She has held the Irish Research Council for the Humanities and Social Sciences Fellowship in Early Medieval Thought in the School of Classics and worked at the Società Internazionale per lo Studio del Medioevo Latino, Florence, funded by the Italian Ministero degli Affari Esteri. She was elected President of the Irish Philosophical Society in 2011, having previously served on the Committee for several years. She has also served on the Royal Irish Academy’s Committee on Philosophy and Ethics on behalf of the Irish Philosophical Society and on behalf of the Department of Philosophy, Mary Immaculate College, and she is External Examiner in Philosophy for All Hallows College, Dublin.

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Susannah Monta, University of Notre Dame

Residential Fellow at the NDIAS (2014-2015)

“Sacred Echoes: Repetitive Prayer and Reformation-Era Poetics”

Susannah Monta is John Cardinal O’Hara, C.S.C., and Glynn Family Honors Associate Professor of English at the University of Notre Dame and the editor of Religion and Literature. Monta specializes in Renaissance and Reformation literature.

Her research focuses on the relationships between Reformation-era religious changes and literary culture. Her first book, Martyrdom and Literature in Early Modern England (2005, hardback, and 2009, paperback), which won the Book of the Year award from the MLA-affiliated Conference on Christianity and Literature, focuses on the impact of competing Protestant and Catholic martyrlogies on major (Shakespeare, Donne) and traditionally non-canonical (Southwell, Copley) authors. Her current research project examines the devotional and aesthetic uses of repetition in early modern prayer, poetry, and rhetoric, arguing that contestations over repetitive devotions illuminate early modern understandings of the nature of authentic prayer, the boundaries and character of Catholicism, the recuperation or rejection of the religious past, and literary creativity itself.

Professor Monta has published over twenty articles on topics such as history plays, early modern women writers and patronesses, martyrlogy, hagiography, devotional poetry and prose, and providential narratives. She is the co-editor of Teaching Early Modern English Prose (with Margaret W. Ferguson; 2010), and edited Anthony Copley’s A Fig for Fortune (1596), the first published response to Edmund Spenser’s Faerie Queene, for Manchester University Press’s series on Spenser. She is currently completing (with Earle Havens and Elizabeth Patton) an edition of the manuscript lives of St. Philip Howard, Earl of Arundel, and Anne Howard, Countess of Arundel, two of Elizabethan England’s most prominent lay Catholics. She edited a special issue of Religion and Literature (41.2; summer 2009) comprising essays from thirty-three international contributors reflecting on the state of scholarship in the field and has served as editor of the journal for seven years.

Mark A. Noll, University of Notre Dame

Residential Fellow at the NDIAS (Spring 2015)

“The Bible and American Public Life, 1789-1876”

Mark Noll is the Francis A. McAnaney Professor of History at the University of Notre Dame. His books and most of his courses treat subjects related to the history of Christianity in the United States, Canada, and the modern world.

Professor Noll is a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and serves as advisory editor for *Books and Culture: A Christian Review*. From 2004 to 2005 he served as the Maguire Fellow in American History and Ethics at the Library of Congress. In November 2006 he received the National Humanities Medal, and he has been the recipient of three year-long fellowships from the National Endowment for the Humanities. *(Photo taken by William Koechling; cropped with permission.)*

Daniel John Sportiello, University of Notre Dame

**Graduate Student Fellow at the NDIAS (2014-2015)**

“The Primacy of the Practical in Alasdair MacIntyre”

Daniel John Sportiello is a Ph.D. candidate in philosophy at the University of Notre Dame. His research explores the relationship between theoretical and practical reason—and the relationship of both to the culture in which they are taught and exercised, especially insofar as that culture has changed through time. His dissertation, “The Primacy of the Practical in Alasdair MacIntyre,” stresses that theories are always the products of theorization, a practice—and so every theory must presuppose some way for theorization to lead to truth or else give up the very idea of truth. Just so, one can judge among contradictory and incommensurable theories by judging which theories least contradict themselves when put into practice. He is also interested in the philosophy of science, especially the philosophy of biology.

Mr. Sportiello has participated in international conferences and has delivered invited talks at Notre Dame—one before the Philosophy and History Workshop and another before the Department of Philosophy. With Jessica Hellmann—professor of biology at Notre Dame and former NDIAS Fellow—he is author of “Branches of the Same Tree: Toward a Scientific Reflection upon Value,” forthcoming in the revised edition of the NDIAS anthology, *The Idea of a Catholic Institute for Advanced Study*. With the Notre Dame Evolution Working Group, he has published reviews of Brian Boyd’s *On the Origin of Stories* and Elliott Sober’s *Did Darwin Write the Origin Backwards?* He has another review—one of Stanley Cavell’s *This New Yet Unapproachable America*—forthcoming in *American Political Thought*. 
Mr. Sportiello has received both the Outstanding Graduate Instructor Award from Notre Dame’s Graduate Student Union and the Outstanding Graduate Student Teacher Award from Notre Dame’s Kaneb Center for Teaching and Learning. He has received a Notebaert Professional Development Award from Notre Dame’s Graduate School and a Graduate Student Professional Development Award from Notre Dame’s Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts. He is a member of the International Society for MacIntyrean Enquiry.

Kimba Allie Tichenor, University of Chicago

Residential Fellow at the NDIAS (2014-2015)

“Trouble with Women: The Catholic Church and Gender Politics in Northern Europe, 1959-2000”

Allie Tichenor is an historian at the University of Chicago. She specializes in twentieth-century German history, gender and sexuality, and twentieth-century Catholicism. She is currently under contract for the German to English translation for the third volume of the Cambridge History of the Second World War.

Her article “Defending Unborn Life in the Secular Age: The Catholic Church and the West German Abortion, 1969-1989” will appear in the Journal of European History (September 1, 2014). She has written numerous scholarly reviews for H-German Net, as well as completed German to English translations for several edited volumes.

Dr. Tichenor’s research has been supported by grants from the Mellon Foundation, the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), and the Institute for European History in Mainz, Germany (IEG). She has previously organized panels and presented papers at the annual conferences of the German Studies Association (GSA), the PCA/ACA, and the Nineteenth Century Studies Association, as well as given an invited presentation at the Ruhr-Universität Bochum.