

# VISUAL STUDIES RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Please see [dornsife.usc.edu/vsri/upcoming-events/](https://dornsife.usc.edu/vsri/upcoming-events/) for updated information.

SPRING 2021

## Images Out of Time Seminar



**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22**  
5-6:30pm PST

*"He used small lines to find the greatest truths": Diagrams in the Latin West*

**JEFFREY HAMBURGER**  
Kuno Francke Professor of German Art & Culture, Harvard University

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14**  
12:30-2pm PST

*People inside Ruins: Heritage and Counter Archives*

**MIRJAM BRUSIUS**  
Research Fellow in Colonial and Global History, German Historical Institute

**TUESDAY, MARCH 16**  
12:30-2pm PST

*The Lives of Objects and the Frustrations of Memorialization in Early Christianity*

**MAIA KOTROSITS**  
Assistant Professor of Religion, Classics, and Queer Studies, Denison University

Co-sponsored by USC School of Religion

"The old light of dead or distant stars. . . reaches us only in the present. Many historical events, like astronomical bodies, also occur long before they appear." — George Kubler, *The Shape of Time: Remarks on the History of Things* (1962).

This seminar considers how images travel through time, dropping in and out of linear histories and reshaping perception, institutions, and social practices along the way. We will study images and objects that are at odds with the moment of their appearance, whether they outlived their initial function or lost contact with their original cultural contexts. Monuments to unjust pasts; icons manifesting fallen gods; ancient ruins in modern structures; replicas and forgeries; old images restored by new technologies: these images force a paradox into view.

While they endure within continuous histories, they also remain stubborn signs of vanished worlds, out of step with the present. Images in the wrong place at the wrong time have justified the civilizing mission of empire and acts of iconoclasm. They continue to structure debates about repatriating artifacts, dismantling monuments and museums, and preserving cultural heritage destroyed by war or exploitation. When "images out of time" suddenly upset our faith in the march of history, they challenge our ability to measure our distance from the past, to understand ourselves, and to imagine collective futures.

Events include speakers, reading groups and writing workshops that intersect art history, religious studies, history, anthropology, literature, and film, and cut across divisions separating pre-modern and modern, as well as European, Atlantic, and Pacific spheres.

*This seminar is open to all interested participants and is organized by Prof. Megan R. Luke (Art History) with Prof. David Albertson (Religion) and Prof. Nancy Lutkehaus (Anthropology).*

*For inquiries or suggestions for future programming, please contact [mluke@usc.edu](mailto:mluke@usc.edu).*

*Image Credit: Carola Giedion-Welcker, Stonehenge (ca. 1936).*

**RSVP**

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**[vsri@usc.edu](mailto:vsri@usc.edu) for  
Zoom information  
or to be added to  
our Slack channel.**

