

CAROLINE E. MURPHY

Curriculum vitae

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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2024– Clarence H. Blackall Career Development Assistant Professor, Department of Architecture, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- 2023–24 Lecturer, History, Theory, and Criticism of Architecture and Art, Department of Architecture, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- 2022–23 Assistant Professor, Department of History, Villanova University

EDUCATION

- 2023 Ph.D. in History, Theory, and Criticism of Architecture and Art, MIT
Dissertation: “Waters and Welfare: Rivers, Infrastructure, and the Territorial Imagination in Grand Ducal Tuscany, 1549–1609”
- 2016 S.M.Arch.S. in History, Theory, and Criticism of Architecture and Art, MIT
- 2014 B.A. in Architectural Studies, *high distinction*, University of Toronto

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AND PRIZES

External

- 2023 Alan Reinerman Prize for Best Unpublished Manuscript in Italian History, Society for Italian Historical Studies
- 2021–22 Carter Manny Writing Award, Graham Foundation for Advanced Studies in the Visual Arts
- 2019–22 Doctoral Fellowship, Kunsthistorisches Institut in Florenz – Max-Planck-Institut
- 2017–21 Joseph-Armand Bombardier Canada Graduate Scholarships (CGS) Doctoral Fellowship, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada

- 2014 Joseph-Armand Bombardier Canada Graduate Scholarships (CGS) Master's Scholarship, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (declined)
Ontario Graduate Scholarship, Department of Art, University of Toronto (declined)

MIT

- 2019 GSC Travel Grant, Graduate Student Council
Kristen Ellen Finnegan Memorial Fund Award for Outstanding Female Third-Year Doctoral Student in History, Theory, and Criticism of Architecture and Art, Department of Architecture
- 2018 Royal-Anderson Research Grant, Department of Architecture
- 2017 MISTI Travel Grant, MIT Science and Technology Initiatives
- 2016–17 Walter A. Rosenblith Presidential Fellowship, Office of the Dean for Graduate Education
- 2016 Thesis Prize, Master of Science in Architecture Studies, Department of Architecture
- 2015–16 Tuition Merit Fellowship, Department of Architecture
- 2015 Schlossman Research Award, Department of Architecture
Julian Beinart Research Award, Department of Architecture

University of Toronto

- 2014 Academic Merit Award, Faculty of Architecture, Landscape, and Design
- 2011–14 Dean's List Award, Faculty of Arts and Sciences
- 2011–12 In-Course Scholarship, St. Michael's College

PUBLICATIONS

Books

- In Preparation* *Forged in Flood: Rivers and the Design of Territory in Renaissance Italy*. Provisional agreement with Harvard University Press/I Tatti Series.
- Under Review* *Environment and Economy in the Global Renaissance*. Under contract with University of Delaware Press. Co-editor, with Robert Fredona and Sophus A. Reinert.

Peer-Reviewed Articles and Book Chapters

- 2025 “Giovanni Botero and the Commercial Resource Waterscape.” *Renaissance Quarterly* 78 no. 1 (Winter 2025), Special Issue: “Resource Landscapes.”
- “Drawing the Disordered River in Late-Renaissance Tuscany.” *Grey Room* 100 (Summer 2025): 6–35.
- 2024 “Flood Mitigation, Territory, and Time: Girolamo di Pace da Prato in Early Ducal Florence.” In *Land, Air, and Sea: Environment and Architecture in the Early Modern Period*, edited by Jennifer Ferng and Lauren Jacobi. Brill: New York (2024): 81–102.
- In Preparation* “Reason of State, Foolish and Bestial: Giovanni Botero on Commerce and Contamination.” In preparation for Robert Fredona, Bernard Harcourt, and Sophus A. Reinert eds., *A Bestiary of Political Economy*.
- Under Review* “Environment and Economy in the Global Renaissance.” Introduction to *Environment and Economy in the Global Renaissance*. Co-authored with Robert Fredona and Sophus A. Reinert.
- “Writing, Transmission, and the Ideology of Knowledge in Early Modern Handbooks of Water Management and Hydraulics.” In preparation for *Galilaana. Studies in Renaissance and Early Modern Science*. Co-authored with Santiago Gorostiza, Maria Antònia Marti Escayol, and Davide Martino.

Reviews and Catalogue Essays

- 2019 “Learning from the Survey.” A review of *Drawing after Architecture: Renaissance Architectural Drawings and their Reception* by Carolyn Yerkes. Venice: Marsilio, Centro Internazionale di Studi di Architettura Andrea Palladio. 2017. Reviews Winter 2019. *Architectural Histories* 7 (1): 2, 4–7.
- 2015 “Danciger Building–Laboratory for the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering”; “Club Med Housing Camp”; “Bat Yam Town Hall and Civic Center”; and “Dubiner Apartment House.” In *Alfred Neumann* (Catalogue for exhibition, *Space Packing Architecture: The Life and Work of Alfred Neumann*, Ostrava, Czech Republic, 2015), edited by Tadeás Goryczka, Jaroslav Nemeč, Rafi Segal. Kabinet architektury, 2015.
- “Space Packing Architecture: The Life and Work of Alfred Neumann.” *Arch_Kiosk*. February 23.
- 2014 “SMArchS Colloquium – Deepak Aatresh on Computation in Architecture.” *Arch_Kiosk*. November 24.
- “Design technology: SMArchS Colloquium 2014.” *Arch_Kiosk*. October 10.

TALKS AND CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

Invited Talks

- 2026 “Ordering Water and Territory in Grand Ducal Tuscany.” Riviere: Hydrogeochronologies and Italian Perspectives in the Blue Humanities. Department of Italian Studies, Yale University, New Haven, March 27.
- “Drawing the Disordered River in Renaissance Tuscany.” School of Art, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, March 12.
- “Knowing Floods in Renaissance Tuscany.” School of Art, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, March 11.
- “Knowing Floods in Renaissance Tuscany.” Visual Culture, Caltech, Pasadena, January 27.
- 2024 “Designing the Waterscape: A Forgotten Project for the Plains of Pisa.” International Conference on the Church and Piazza of Santo Stefano dei Cavalieri. Scuola Normale Superiore, Pisa, December 13.
- “*Tal disordine è di grande importanza*: Drawing the Disordered River in Renaissance Tuscany.” Visual Representation, Materiality and the Medium Forum. Mahindra Humanities Center, Harvard University, October 3.
- “Early Modern Infrastructure.” Land from Water, in Architecture and Land in and out of the Americas Lecture Series. The Temple Hoyne Buell Center for the Study of American Architecture at Columbia University GSAPP, February 29.
- 2023 “Mills, Floods, and the Ecologies of Alluvial Machines.” Janson-La Palme Conference on The Lure of the Machine in the Medieval and Early Modern Centuries. Department of Art and Archeology, Princeton University, April 14–15.
- “Landscapes of Political Economy: Rivers, Infrastructure, and Power in the First Global Age.” Futures of Environmental History Lecture Series. Graduate School of Design, Harvard University, Cambridge MA, March 6.
- “The Architecture of Political Economy: Rivers, Infrastructure, and Power in the Early Modern World.” History Lecture Series. Department of Architecture, MIT, Cambridge MA, February 28.
- 2022 “Alluvial Cartography and Historical Climatology.” Italian Art History and the Global Climate Crisis. The Italian Art Society’s Emerging Scholars Committee Annual Meeting (Zoom), December 2022.
- “Arno: Engineering Ecologies.” Invited talk at Public Time: Monuments and Ghosts in Florence. Manifestiamo: Resistance, Creation, Reciprocity at Villa Romana. Rome (Zoom), June 7.
- “Designing Maps, Rivers, and Territory in Sixteenth-Century Tuscany.” Invited talk at Max Planck Society Institute Evaluation of Kunsthistorisches Institut in Florenz. Florence (Zoom), May 2–3.
- “Thinking with Floods: Environmental Engineering and State Formation in Early Modern Tuscany.” Invited talk at Villanova University, Department of History. Villanova PA, February 12.

“Pollution and Cleanliness: Public Health in the Renaissance City.” Villanova University, Department of History. Villanova PA, February 13.

2020 “Diagnosing Disorder: Aqueous Failure and Aqueous Improvement in Girolamo di Pace da Prato’s *Memoriale* (1558).” Invited paper for Failure: Understanding Art as Process, 1150–1750 at Kunsthistorisches Institut in Florenz–Max Planck Institut. Florence (Zoom), November 5–6.

“Infrastructure and Political Economy: The Architecture of Commerce and Communication in Late Renaissance Tuscany.” Invited paper for Economic Approaches to the Renaissance panel at Renaissance Society of America 66th Annual Meeting. Philadelphia, April 2–4 (cancelled due to COVID-19).

Conference Presentations

2026 “The Capomaestro at Work: Profiling a Sixteenth-Century Tuscan River Technician.” Early Modern Intersections of Knowledge panel at European Society for the History of Science/History of Science Society Joint Meeting. Edinburgh, July 12–16.

2024 “Projecting the Future: ‘*Imprese*’ and Environmental Engineering in Renaissance Tuscany.” The Politics of Environmental Engineering in Early Modern Italy panel at Scientiae. Brown University, October 25–26.

“Improvement as a *Via Media*: Ceseri Frullani’s Design for the Lake of Fucecchio.” Environment and Economy in the Global Renaissance panel at Renaissance Society of America 70th Annual Meeting. Chicago, March 21–23.

2023 “Reclamation and Reason of State in the Valdichiana.” The Water Cultures of Europe and the Mediterranean, 1500–1900. Venice, September 13–15.

“Aquatic Projectors, Circulatory Utopias, and Internal Development in the Italian States.” Early Modern Infrastructure panel at Renaissance Society of America 69th Annual Meeting. Puerto Rico, March 9.

2022 “River Straightening and the Utilitarian Imaginary in Ducal Tuscany.” Society of Architectural Historians 75th Annual International Conference. Pittsburgh, April 27–May 1.

2019 “Waters and Wealth: Giovanni Botero and Environmental Management in Late Renaissance Italy.” Society of Architectural Historians 72nd Annual International Conference. Providence, April 24–28.

2018 “Sensation and Sacred History: The Museo Sacro in Eighteenth-century Rome.” Universities Art Association of Canada / L’Association d’Art des Universités du Canada Annual Conference 2018, University of Waterloo. Waterloo, October 25–28.

“The Flow of Commerce: Waters and Wealth in Late Renaissance Theories of Government.” AHRC Conference 2018: Surface and Space, University of Cambridge. Cambridge, September 17–19.

“Taming Excess: Antonio Bosio’s *Roma Sotterranea* (1632) and the Problematic Evidence of Catacomb Paintings in Counter-Reformation Rome.” 34th Annual Graduate Symposium in the History of Art and Architecture, Boston University. Boston, March 2–3.

- 2016 “Delineating Sanctity in the *Monasticon Anglicanum*’s Architectural Prints (1655).” 7th Annual University of St. Thomas Art History Graduate Student Research Symposium: Sacred Space. St. Paul, October 8.
- “Artifacts and Relics: Accessing Architectural Origins in the *Monasticon Anglicanum* (1655).” 38th Annual New England Chapter of the Society of Architectural Historians Student Symposium. Boston, February 13.

Workshop Papers

- 2025 “Reason of state, foolish and bestial”: Giovanni Botero on Commerce and Contamination.” A Bestiary of Political Economy Conference. Harvard Business School, Harvard University, February 7–8.
- 2023 “Negotiating Aquatic Territorial Expertise in Early Ducal Tuscany.” Bodies of Water: Negotiating Urban and Rural Environment in Early Modern Europe, CRASSH (Centre for Research in the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities), University of Cambridge, Cambridge, January 15.
- 2021 “Defining the Alluvial Edge: The Hydraulic Technician at Work in Early Ducal Florence.” Ebb and Flow: Workshop for the Early Modern Period, Faculty of History, University of Cambridge, Cambridge (Zoom), August 23.
- “Of Rivers and Remedies: Thinking like a Hydraulic Engineer in Early Ducal Tuscany.” Water Ecologies: Interdisciplinary Currents in the Humanities Summer Institute, Bucknell University. Lewisberg (Zoom), June 21–July 2.
- “Seeing like a River Engineer: Envisioning Aquatic Territory in Early Ducal Tuscany.” Early Sciences Working Group, Department of the History of Science, Harvard University. Commentator: Pamela O. Long. Cambridge (Zoom), April 20.
- 2020 “Giovanni Botero on Infrastructure and Aquatic Navigation: Waters and Wealth in Late-Renaissance Italy,” Labor, Kunsthistorisches Institut in Florenz. Florence (Zoom), October 21.

Conferences, Panels, and Workshops Organized

- 2025 Governing by Design: Administrative Cartography in the Early Modern World. Panel at Renaissance Society of America 71st Annual Meeting, co-organized with Davide Martino. Boston, March.
- 2024 Global Architectural History Teaching Workshop: “Building and the Global Environment.” International Teaching Workshop at the Department of Architecture, MIT. Co-organized with Huma Gupta. Cambridge MA, October 12–13.

Under Construction: Architectural Histories of the Building Site. Panel at 77th Society of Architectural Historians Annual Conference, co-organized with Timothy Hyde. Albuquerque, April 17–21.

- 2021 Shifting Grounds: Visualizing, Materializing, and Embodying Environmental Change in the Early Modern European World (1400–1700). Panel at 109th College Art Association Annual Conference, co-organized with Chloé Pelletier. New York (Zoom), February 10–13.
- 2019 Beyond City Walls: Art, Architecture, and the Rural in Renaissance/Early Modern Europe. Panel at Universities Art Association of Canada / L'Association d'Art des Universités du Canada Annual Conference 2019. Québec City, October 25–26.
- 2018 40th Annual New England Chapter of the Society of Architectural Historians Student Symposium. Conference organized with Eliyahu Keller. Cambridge, March 3.

Invited Comments

- 2026 “Still There.” Presentation by Jane Mah Hutton for SMArchS Urbanism + LCAU Geo–Matters Lecture Series, Department of Architecture, MIT, April 21.
- 2025 “Environment in Practice.” Panel at Inaugural MIT-LUMA Lab Symposium, April 2–3.
- “Piazza dei Cavalieri in Pisa: Political, Artistic and Experiential Interactions in a Renaissance Urban Space.” Panel at the Renaissance Society of America 71st Annual Meeting, March 20–22.
- “Uncertainty Roundtable.” Session at HTC 50th Anniversary Graduate Colloquium: Uncertainty, March 14–15.
- 2024 “The Shapes of Water.” Panel at the Renaissance Society of America 70th Annual Meeting, March 21–23.
- Panel Chair, The Seventeenth Annual Harvard-Princeton Graduate Conference in Early Modern History, February 9–10.
- 2021 “Working in the Archives during the Pandemic: A Panel with Members of Harvard’s Early Modern Community.” Early Sciences Working Group, Department of the History of Science, Harvard University. Cambridge (Zoom), September 21.
- 2020 “Commercial Record-Keeping and Antiquarian Description in Early Renaissance Italy,” Lillian Datchev (Princeton University). Early Modern History Workshop, Department of History, Princeton University. Princeton (Zoom), November 11.

TEACHING

MIT Courses

- 4.606/4.656 Environmental Histories of Architecture (undergraduate/graduate)
 4.613 Designing Nature: Improvement and its Discontents in Early Modernity (graduate)
 4.615 The Architectures of Water (graduate)
 4.634/4.635 Renaissance Architecture (undergraduate/graduate)
 4.661 Theory and Method in the Study of Architecture and Art (graduate)

Villanova University Courses

- HIS 1165 Environmental Histories of the Early Modern World (undergraduate)
 HIS 4524 Science, Technology, and Society in the Early Modern World (undergraduate)
 HIS 1165 Environmental History in Early Modern Europe (undergraduate)
 HIS 3121 The Renaissance (undergraduate)

THESIS ADVISING

MIT Students

- 2024–25 Lina Bondarenko, SMArchS Urbanism Program, thesis: “Sensory Somatic Social Scores for Space, Soils, and Structures of Steep Slopes” (Reader)
 Evan Ortiz, MArch Program, thesis: “Dynamic Markers” (Reader)

SERVICE

MIT

- Annual Graduate Admissions Committee, History, Theory, and Criticism of Architecture and Art, Department of Architecture
 2024– Faculty Coordinator, HTC Forum
 Director, HTC Summer Institute, History, Theory, and Criticism of Architecture and Art, Department of Architecture

Villanova University

- 2022–23 Undergraduate Curriculum Committee
 Graduate Program Steering Committee
 Lepage Center for Public History Committee

MIT (as graduate student)

- 2019 Member, PhD Admissions Committee, History, Theory, and Criticism of Architecture and Art, Department of Architecture
- 2018–2019 Member, Student Art Awards Committee, Layla and Jerome B. Wiesner Student Art Awards and the Harold and Arlene Schnitzer Prize in the Visual Arts
- 2017–2018 Member, Creative Arts Council
Co-Chair, HTC Forum, Department of Architecture
RA President, The Warehouse Graduate Residence
- 2015–2017 Lori and Steven Lerman Arts Chair, The Warehouse Graduate Residence
- 2015 Student Coordinator, Uzbekistan Study Trip

ACADEMIC CERTIFICATIONS

- 2019 Reading Early Modern Italian Hands, Paleography Workshop, Centre for Renaissance and Reformation Studies, University of Toronto. Toronto, June.
Kaufman Teaching Certificate Program (KTCP), The Teaching + Learning Lab, MIT. Cambridge, May–June.
- 2018 Summer Seminar in Paleography and Archival Studies, The Medici Archive Project. Florence, June–July.

MUSEUM EXPERIENCE

- 2014–2015 Writer, exhibition texts for *Space Packing Architecture: The Life and Work of Alfred Neumann*, Kabinet Architektury.
- 2013–2014 Education and Public Programs Assistant, Varley Art Gallery, Markham.
Arts Educator, Justina M. Barnicke Gallery, University of Toronto, Toronto.

INVITED STUDIO JUROR

- 2024 SMArchS Urbanism Thesis Prep, Fall, Department of Architecture, MIT.
- 2023 Architecture Design Core Studio I, Fall, Department of Architecture, MIT.
- 2016 Architecture Design Core Studio III, Fall, Department of Architecture, MIT.

2015 Architectural Design III, Winter, Daniels Faculty of Architecture, Landscape, and Design, University of Toronto.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

2022– Society for Italian Historical Studies
2021– American Society for Environmental History
2020– Italian Art Society
2019– Society of Architectural Historians
College Art Association
2016– Renaissance Society of America

LANGUAGES

Italian Reading, writing, speaking – professional fluency
French Reading, writing, speaking – professional fluency
Latin Reading – moderate proficiency
German Reading – basic proficiency

REFERENCES

Arindam Dutta Professor of Architectural History
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
3-305H, 77 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge MA 02139
adutta@mit.edu

Niall S. Atkinson Associate Professor of Art History and of Romance Languages and Literature
University of Chicago
260 Cochrane Woods Art Center, 5540 S. Greenwood Avenue, Chicago IL 60637
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Sophus A. Reinert T.J. Dermot Dunphy Professor of Business Administration and of History
Harvard University
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Hannah Marcus John and Ruth Hazel Associate Professor of the Social Sciences
Harvard University

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