

Research Grant – Fall 2014

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Unit: School of Art & Art History

Project/Proposal Title: *Book research in Berlin*

Abstract:

I am applying for funds to partially cover my research expenses from summer 2014. I spent two weeks in Berlin working at the Lipperheidische Kostümbibliothek (a unique library devoted to costume history) and the Staatsbibliothek (the main research library of Berlin), both of which own numerous manuscripts and costume books that I will include in my third book, *Dressing Empire: Ottoman Costume Books and Transculturation*. This was my first research trip to Berlin for this project.

Proposal:

I am applying for support to defray the costs of a research trip to Berlin during summer 2014. The research I completed during two weeks at the Lipperheidische Kostümbibliothek and the Staatsbibliothek was essential to advance my book project, *Dressing Empire: Ottoman Costume Books and Transculturation*. This study focuses on costume books (both print and manuscript) depicting the diverse peoples of the Ottoman Empire from the seventeenth to nineteenth centuries. It will be the first full-scale investigation of Ottoman costume albums in this period and the only one that connects Ottoman and European images in a systematic manner. I argue that costume books are transcultural objects that challenge art history's tendency to isolate cultural forms in national traditions.

The research I did in Berlin will allow me to apply for major external fellowships (ACLS, NEH), present my findings at national and international conferences (College Art Association 2015), and write an essay for an edited anthology, *Fashioning Identities*, due during fall 2014. I plan to complete my book within four years.

The outcomes of the research I completed in Berlin will raise the profile of our graduate program in art history and the research initiatives of the School of Art and Art History, CoTA, and USF. The topic of my article and book draws on the new field of global art history and is thus directly related to the university's strategic emphasis on globalism. The interdisciplinary thrust of my project is in keeping with the interdisciplinary goals of CoTA and USF.