

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY  
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
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In collaboration with Paris1 (Sorbonne), St. Louis University (SLU), Columbia Reid Hall, and sponsored by Columbia Alliance Joint Project Grant, Columbia European Institute, and the Center for Iberian Historical Studies (SLU).

## **The Lives of Early Modern Librarians: Actions, Networks, and Emotions (1400s-1800s)**

**Dates:**

December 12-13 (Friday, Saturday), 2025

**Location:**

Columbia University, Reid Hall, Paris, France

Paris 1, Pantheon-Sorbonne, Paris, France

**Organizers:**

Pier Mattia Tommasino, Columbia University, Italian, [pmt2114@columbia.edu](mailto:pmt2114@columbia.edu)

Fabien Montcher, Saint Louis University, History, [fabien.montcher@slu.edu](mailto:fabien.montcher@slu.edu)

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**December 12, 2025**

**Reid Hall, 4 rue de Chevreuse, Paris**

*Salle de conférence, Ground Floor*

**9:00-9:30: Introductions**

- **Pier Mattia Tommasino** (Columbia University) and **Fabien Montcher** (St. Louis U. – CIHS)

**9:30-10:30: Sabina Loriga** (EHESS), “Is Biography an Individualistic Genre?”

**10:30-11:00: Coffee Break**

**11:00-12:30: Becoming a Librarian**

**Chair: TBC**

**Presenters:**

- **José Luis Gonzalo Sánchez-Molero** (U. Complutense de Madrid) “Guardians of Knowledge and Power: Librarians in Sixteenth- and Seventeenth-Century Spain.”

- **Chiara Petrolini** (U. di Bologna) “Reticence and the Margins: The Elusive Life of Sebastian Tegnagel.”
- **Alessandra Russo** (Columbia University) “Looking after and handling. Sebastiano Biavati’s portraits at the roots of curatorship.”

- **12:30-2:00pm: Lunch**

**2:00pm-3:30pm: Librarians’ Mobilities and Networks**

**Chair:** Joseph Howley (Columbia University, Classics, and II&I Fellow)

**Presenters:**

- **Hülya Çelik** (Ruhr U. Bochum) “Sebastian Tegnagel and Derviş İbrahim: Multilingual Knowledge-Making in Early Seventeenth-Century Vienna.”
- **Guillaume Gaudin** (U. Toulouse Jean Jaurès – FRAMESPA, UMR 5136) “Taking One’s Books as Far from the World as Possible: Fragments of Hispanic Libraries in the Philippines around 1600.”
- **Claire Gilbert** (Saint Louis U. – CIHS) “A Librarian Abroad: Book Collecting, Language Learning, and Diplomatic interventions between Spain and Morocco at the End of the Eighteenth Century.”

**3:30-4pm: Coffee Break**

**4:00-5pm: Q&A and Discussion**

**7:00pm: Dinner**

**December 13, 2025**

**U. Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, 14 rue Cujas, Paris**

**Bibliothèque du CRHM, Salle G678, 2<sup>e</sup> étage, escalier R Centre Sorbonne, Université Paris 1**

**9:00-10:30: Librarians’ Challenges: Fears and Moods**

**Chair:** Guillaume Calafat (Paris 1-Sorbonne)

**Presenters:**

- **Seth Kimmel** (Columbia University) “The Index and the Catalogue: Early Modern Censorship in the Seville Cathedral Library.”
- **A. Tunç Şen** (Columbia University) “Scholars as Librarians, Librarians as Scholars: Three Cases from the Ottoman World in the Long Sixteenth Century.”
- **Paola Molino** (U. of Padua) “Does the Librarian’s Bad Mood Have a History?”

**10:30-11:00am: Coffee Break**

**11:00-12:00, Maria Pia Donato** (CNRS-IHMC, Paris)

“Concluding Remarks: How Early Modern Librarians Connected Worlds (or did not).”