

## University of Minnesota Vagantes Application 2018

### A. Name of university (can be a joint application with more than one university):

University of Minnesota – Twin Cities

### B. Names of departments, institutes, and student organizations potentially involved

**Departments:** Art History; Classical and Near Eastern Studies; English; French and Italian; German, Scandinavian and Dutch; History; Religious Studies; Spanish and Portuguese

**Centers/Institutes:** Center for Austrian Studies, Center for Early Modern History; Center for German and European Studies; Center for Jewish Studies; Center for Medieval Studies; Institute for Global Studies; Consortium for the Study of the Premodern World

**Student Organizations:** Association of Graduate Students of French and Italian, Council of Graduate Students, Graduate and Professional Student Assembly, History Club, History Graduate Association, Medieval and Early Modern Research Group

### C. Short statement of interest (Why would your school be a good location? What resources do you have available – student interest, funding possibilities, museums, libraries, special exhibitions, etc.? Why would your school be a good venue – accessibility, accommodations, transportation options, etc.?)

The University of Minnesota has a large and vibrant community of medievalist graduate students that is housed in a number of departments/centers. We convene regularly for interdisciplinary workshops, for presentations sponsored by the Center for Medieval Studies and the Center for Early Modern History, and most recently for the programs offered by the Consortium for the Study of the Premodern World (CSPW). This consortium was given a \$600,000 grant by the Mellon Foundation to explore new approaches to the study of the world before 1700. Its establishment has brought not only new energy into the study of the Middle Ages, but also financial backing for student-led workshops, colloquia, and conferences. During the academic year 2015-16, CSPW showed its willingness to support student-led conferences on campus as the primary sponsor of an interdisciplinary graduate student conference called "Fault Lines: Rethinking Temporal and Disciplinary Traditions in African Studies." The creation of CSPW has thus stimulated student interest in setting up venues and events that promote interdisciplinary scholarship and conversations focused on the Premodern World.

The University of Minnesota is well equipped to host a conference the size of Vagantes. With a total student population of over 50,000 students, the UofM Twin Cities campus has an array of facilities to cater to the diverse needs of Vagantes - large lecture halls, small classrooms, nearby areas for prepping food, and adequate support staff for technology and logistical needs. The organizers of the "Fault Lines" conference this year had no problems arranging necessary venues at the UofM. In addition, a number of other smaller graduate-led programs including the Skeiron Synod have arranged their workshops without difficulty.

The UofM is also the home to several libraries and special collections that will enhance the

Vagantes conference. Our primary repository for medieval documents is the James Ford Bell Library, which houses several portolan charts from the 15th century, early prints, as well as a number of manuscripts. In addition, the Andersen Library Special Collections Unit possesses a collection of manuscript leaves and a variety of incunabula. Aside from these repositories, the nearby Minneapolis Institute of Arts has a number of medieval artifacts and paintings on permanent display, which is free and open to the public. Finally, the Hill Museum and Manuscript Library (HMML) is only about an hour's drive outside of Minneapolis. This well-known institution has a close relationship with the Center for Medieval Studies, as the two organizations annually sponsor graduate students to visit the HMML for a weeklong manuscript workshop in the summer.

Minneapolis and Saint Paul form one of the largest metro areas in the United States. As a result, the location provides a number of conveniences and amenities. The international airport is a major hub for Delta Airlines and is also serviced by Southwest, Spirit, and other U.S. carriers. The airport is connected to the downtown area and the university by light rail and bus lines, which provide an easy and convenient way to get around the cities. In addition to the numerous hotels throughout the Twin Cities, there are two of them located on or next to the university that would provide a convenient housing for attendees of the Vagantes Conference. Similarly, the area houses a rich variety of restaurants, breweries, and bars that offer a relaxing atmosphere for continuing discussions and networking events in the evenings.

D. The costs associated with hosting Vagantes have varied over the years, but on average have required an investment of about \$10,000. How does your institution plan to raise this sum? Please name the chief sources of funding you plan to rely upon to pay for the conference.

After preliminary discussions with several department and center chairs, we secured a verbal promise of \$X,000-\$X,000 from the Consortium for the Study of the Premodern World, with additional but non-specific pledges from the Center for Medieval Studies, the Center for Early Modern History, and the Department of History. We should be able to secure further funding from multiple other departments, centers, and organizations on campus to allow us to successfully meet the financial obligation of hosting the conference in 2018.

Signatures and institutional affiliations of 5 graduate students who, by signing, will undertake the serious commitment of time to organize the conference if chosen. Please indicate (and provide an e-mail address for) one of the students who, if your university is chosen, will become the official host representative and immediately take up a three-year position on the Vagantes Board of Directors.

[Enter at least five names and departmental affiliations here]

Name of a faculty advisor who has agreed to be involved with Vagantes

[Enter name and title of faculty member here]