



DUMBARTON OAKS

RESEARCH LIBRARY AND COLLECTION

Landscape Matters: News from GLS @ Dumbarton Oaks

Garden and Landscape Studies saw an unprecedented level of activity in 2015-2016, an expression of both existing and new initiatives. We continued to host the fellowships, public programs, and academic events that are the core missions of the program, while generating several major new publications and launching the first full year of our program in urban landscape studies, funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation through their initiative in "Architecture, Urbanism, and the Humanities." We are pleased to share with you the following news about the past academic year, and announcements regarding 2016-17 fellows, fellowship applications, forthcoming events and symposium, and new publications.



"Landscape and the Academy" symposium speakers, May 2016

Garden and Landscape Studies: 2015-16 in Review

Academic events and public programs: The **annual spring symposium**, held May 6-7, 2016, and organized by Garden and Landscape Studies director John Beardsley and Boston University architectural history professor Daniel Bluestone, was on the subject of "[Landscape and the Academy](#)."

Universities are custodians of some of the world's most significant designed landscapes. Historical campuses are the centers of academic life, but universities also manage gardens, botanical gardens, arboreta, farms, forests, biotic reserves, and even far-flung environmental research stations. The

symposium explored how and why universities have come to be responsible for so many different kinds of landscapes, and what role they play today in academic life, pedagogy, and cultural politics. Organized on the occasion of the seventy-fifth anniversary of Dumbarton Oaks, which certainly counts among the most significant cultural landscapes in any university's care, the symposium addressed both the history of academic landscapes and their prospects and perils as universities go global and digital.

The **fall colloquium**, "[Frontiers in Urban Landscape Research](#)," was held on November 20, 2015; an element of the Mellon-funded Initiative in Urban Landscape Studies, it took the form of a graduate workshop. Doctoral candidates in advanced stages of writing dissertations on topics in the history and design of urban landscapes were invited to share selected aspects of their work with each other and with senior designers and scholars in the field. This colloquium was an opportunity to bring together early-career scholars pursuing cross-disciplinary work and shaping new approaches to the urban

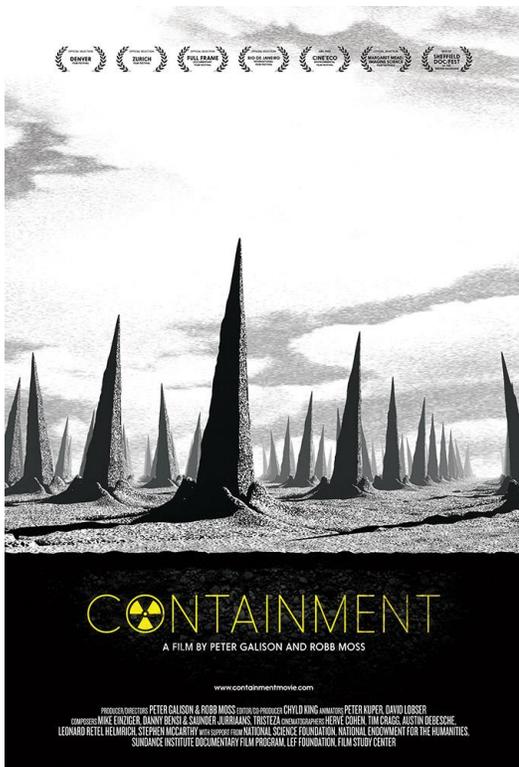


2016 symposium in the Music Room

environment. It was intended to generate greater awareness of the urban humanities, while helping an emerging generation of scholars advance their work across a range of relevant fields.

This year, Garden and Landscape Studies collaborated with the Zentrum für Gartenkunst + Landschaftsarchitektur (CGL) at the Leibniz Universität Hannover on a **three-day symposium** “Reisen und Gärten (Travels and gardens),” held on February 24–26, 2016 in Hannover, Germany, in the city’s newly restored Schloss Herrenhausen at the head of a celebrated Baroque garden. A follow-up to the colloquium “Travel and Translation,” hosted by Dumbarton Oaks on November 1, 2013, this event aimed to further our understanding of the role of travel in the exchange of ideas about landscape design, botanical knowledge, and horticultural techniques, while strengthening the long-standing intellectual ties between our two institutions.

In recognition of the seventy-fifth anniversary of Dumbarton Oaks, observed during the 2015-2016 academic year, Garden and Landscape Studies organized **panels on landscape history** at the annual meetings of the **College Art Association** (CAA) on February 4, 2016, and the **Society of Architectural Historians** (SAH) on April 7, 2016. The CAA panel, “Landscape into History,” was organized by John Beardsley with Jennifer Raab, a former fellow now teaching at Yale. Characterized by distinct outlooks cultivated in different academic departments, art history and landscape studies nevertheless have a common origin. The CAA session looked both forward and back, exploring the connections between the histories of art and landscape while investigating the potential for more productive interchange between the two disciplines in the twenty-first century. The SAH panel, “Reframing Landscape History,” organized by John Beardsley and GLS assistant director Anatole Tchikine, reflected on the history and the current disciplinary status of garden and landscape studies, addressing the different methodological approaches, institutional frameworks, and individual visions that have informed the field’s past and are shaping its future.



Screening of the film *Containment* in conjunction with the Environmental Film Festival, March 2016

Other academic events during the year included an April 14, 2016, lecture, “Olympic Landscapes: Green and Greenest,” by **Mary Margaret Jones**, president and senior principal of Hargreaves Associates in San Francisco and Cambridge, Massachusetts, and Hargreaves Jones Landscape Architecture in New York. Ms. Jones has led a number of the firm’s award-winning projects around the globe, including the master concept design for the 2000 Sydney Olympics and the parklands for the 2012 London Olympics, which were the subject of her talk. [A video of Mary Margaret Jones’ lecture may be viewed here.](#) Another lecture, “The Monster in the Garden: Early Modern Landscape Design and the Grotesque,” was delivered by **Luke Morgan** of Monash University, Australia, on October 15, 2015. We also hosted a March 23, 2016, screening in conjunction with the Environmental Film Festival of the film *Containment* by Harvard professor in history of science and physics **Peter Galison** and filmmaker and chair of the Harvard department of Visual and Environmental Studies **Robb Moss**, about the effort to manage and warn future generations about repositories of nuclear waste. Jane Padelford, program coordinator, continued in her role of skillfully managing all the department’s academic events and

public programs, as well as its many short-term academic visitors, including research stipend recipients and pre-doctoral residents.



Actors performing *Arcadia* on the Arbor Terrace, in conjunction with the Graduate Workshop, June 2016

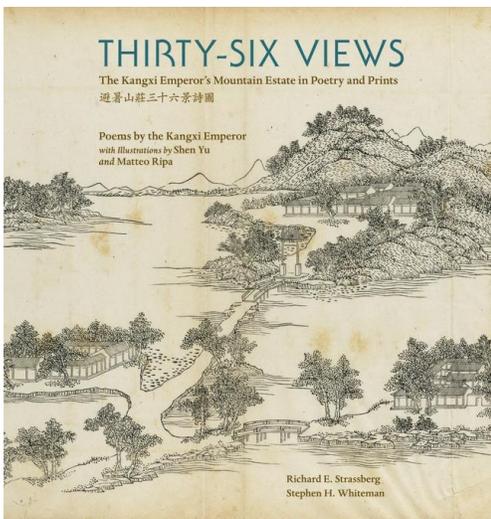
In the summer of 2016, in place of the summer fellowship program, Garden and Landscape Studies offered an intensive, experimental two-week [Graduate Workshop](#). Held on June 6–18, its aim was to develop the field of garden and landscape studies across different disciplines, promoting the depth and breadth of future landscape scholarship. The workshop brought together an international group of eight doctoral candidates pursuing cross-disciplinary research on landscape-related topics from a variety of academic departments—including art history, architecture, landscape, and literary studies—who were invited to share among themselves and with Dumbarton Oaks staff and invited scholars selected aspects of their work. The program also focused on key sites, figures, and texts in garden and

landscape design and history, investigating the historical origins, theoretical underpinnings, and methodological implications of such concepts as nature, ecology, sustainability, and design. The workshop was supplemented by a visit to Mount Vernon and a staged reading of Tom Stoppard’s play *Arcadia* one evening in the gardens. Encouraged by the overwhelmingly positive feedback about this workshop, we hope to develop similar cross-disciplinary initiatives in the future.



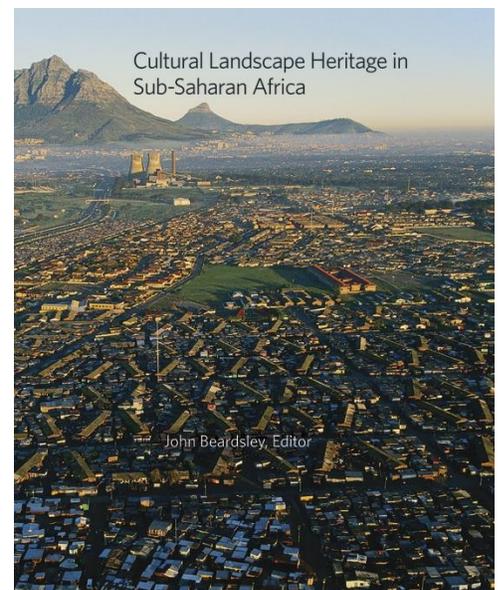
Publications: New publications in the past year included the proceedings of the 2013 symposium, *Cultural Landscape Heritage in Sub-Saharan Africa* and two titles in our recently launched translation series, *ex horto*. Sub-Saharan Africa is one of the longest occupied and least studied landscapes on earth; the symposium volume is a contribution to a small but growing effort to address this gap in scholarship. Its essays present a range of

landscapes: pathways and cairns used by nomadic peoples to navigate through and mark significant places; anthropogenic or managed forests consecrated for ritual purposes of various kinds; tombs or palaces with significant landscape orientations and components; even monumental ceremonial and urban spaces, as at Great Zimbabwe or Djenné. They explore what we know of precolonial and later indigenous designed landscapes, how these landscapes were understood in the colonial era, and how they are being recuperated today for nation building, identity formation, and cultural affirmation.

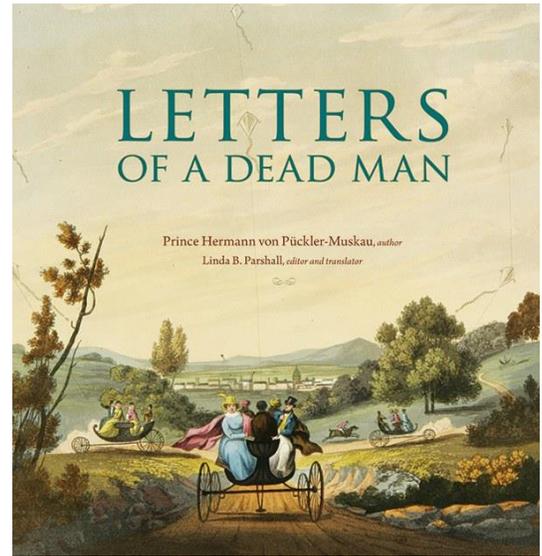


Estate in Poetry and Prints, the first translation into English of the Kangxi emperor’s poems and prose descriptions of the “Thirty-Six Views” of the Bishu Shanzhuang, his early eighteenth-century mountain estate to escape the summer heat in Chengde, China. The translations, by Richard Strassberg, with introductions by him and art historian Stephen Whiteman, are published together with the first side-by-side reproductions of the complete woodblocks and copper plate engravings commissioned by the emperor, which were instrumental in bringing knowledge of Chinese gardens to Europe. The other is the first complete translation into English of Prince Hermann von Pückler-Muskau’s *Letters*

The new titles in *ex horto* include *Thirty-Six Views: The Kangxi Emperor’s Mountain*



of a *Dead Man*, composed while on a lengthy tour of England beginning in September, 1826. Pückler's main purpose in making this journey was to find a wealthy wife, in order that he might complete his elaborate plans for transforming two thousand acres near the southwest corner of his vast estate in Germany into an ideal landscape park. His letters are of interest not only for their many descriptions of landscape, architecture and gardens, but also for the ways in which they situate these places in the context of the social, political and cultural life of late Enlightenment Europe. This publication was launched with a presentation by translator Linda Parshall at the German Embassy on April 13, 2016; the book has received exceptionally positive reviews in a number of publications, including *London Review of Books* and *The Washington Post*.



Mellon Initiative in Urban Landscape Studies: This was the first full year of the Mellon Initiative in Urban Landscape Studies, which aims to bring together landscape architects and historians to explore how urban environments have come to be the way they are and how best to manage them today. This grant is one of fifteen made so far to major institutions of higher education and research by the Mellon Foundation, which are aimed to foster the joint contributions that the humanities and the design and planning disciplines may make to the understanding of the processes and effects of burgeoning urbanization. To this end, the initiative at Dumbarton Oaks hosts two **Mellon Fellows** each semester, one designer and one scholar, and encourages them to work together and with other fellows in the Dumbarton Oaks community. It also invites distinguished practitioners to reside at Dumbarton Oaks for briefer terms. In 2015-2016, the **Mellon Senior Practitioner Resident** was landscape architect Gary Hilderbrand, a founding partner of Reed Hilderbrand, Cambridge and New Haven.



Midday Dialogue by Bruno Carvalho, Princeton University. Vila Autódromo / Olympic Park (Rio de Janeiro), 2015. Photo by Ava Hoffman

Hilderbrand, a committed designer, teacher, critic, and writer, is professor in practice at the Harvard Graduate School of Design, where he has taught since 1990. The Mellon Fellows were David Wooden and Christina Milos (Fall 2015), and Kara Schlichting and Alpa Nawre (Spring 2016). Jeanne Haffner, a historian with special interests in urban planning history and theory, the history of science and technology, cultural geography, and environmental history, was engaged to help manage the program as the Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow in Urban Landscape Studies.

Developing synergies between Mellon fellows and other fellows at Dumbarton Oaks is a key focus of the Mellon Initiative. Discussions among fellows and practitioners are fostered through weekly “**Midday Dialogues**” with invited speakers, landscape-related field trips, and the presentation of works-in-progress. During the 2015-2016 academic year, invited Midday Dialogue speakers touched upon a wide variety of urban landscape topics, from an urban history of the idea of “informality” in Brazil to contemporary environmental design in Mumbai, India.) Field trips to the Washington Aqueduct and Blue Plains Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant inspired alliances between fellows working on water-related topics, including Wooden, who is writing a history of water treatment in the District, and Tyler fellow John Davis, who is researching the Army Corps of Engineers. In spring 2016, Schlichting, a historian, and Nawre, a designer, joined forces to augment their shared interests in the history, evolution, and management of urban water systems. Nawre was inspired through discussions with Schlichting to “reconsider the values that she ascribes to the design of any space.” Schlichting, for her part, attested to the

benefits of working with a practitioner such as Nawre, because it reminded her of the importance of the physical and social attributes of lived space.



Students from the Design Apprenticeship Program, National Building Museum visiting the gardens for a workshop organized as part of the Mellon Urban Landscape Initiative, May 2016

8—perhaps the most economically disadvantaged area of the District. The Mellon Initiative also hosted a Teen Council meeting for high school students in the Design Apprenticeship Program of the National Building Museum, introducing them to the different design elements and management strategies of the Dumbarton Oaks gardens and adjacent Dumbarton Oaks Park, managed as a urban forest by the National Park Service (May 14th). We also initiated discussions with the Urban Studies Curator at the Anacostia Community Museum, Smithsonian Institution, about potential future collaborations, such as public programming around a forthcoming exhibit on neighborhood change in Washington, DC.



2015/16 Garden and Landscape and Mellon Urban Landscape Fellows

In addition to fellowships, an important dimension of the Mellon Initiative in Urban Landscape Studies is providing **outreach to underserved high school students** in the District. This aspect of the program was launched in April and May 2016, with a series of field trips to Dumbarton Oaks. A group of landscape and architecture students from the Phelps Architecture, Construction, and Engineering High School in Northeast DC, for example, visited the historic garden at Dumbarton Oaks to explore principles of landscape art and the design and construction of plant beds, which led to a discussion of the importance of biodiversity in cities. In May, the program offered workshops on urban vegetation, focusing on tree identification at Dumbarton Oaks (“Tree Notebooks,” May 3rd and 9th), and ways of bringing nature into the city (“City of Trees,” May 11th). Two of these programs involved students from Ward 8—perhaps the most economically disadvantaged area of the District. The Mellon Initiative also hosted a Teen Council meeting for high school students in the Design Apprenticeship Program of the National Building Museum, introducing them to the different design elements and management strategies of the Dumbarton Oaks gardens and adjacent Dumbarton Oaks Park, managed as a urban forest by the National Park Service (May 14th). We also initiated discussions with the Urban Studies Curator at the Anacostia Community Museum, Smithsonian Institution, about potential future collaborations, such as public programming around a forthcoming exhibit on neighborhood change in Washington, DC.

Scholars in Residence: Garden and Landscape Studies benefitted this year from an unusually strong contingent of scholars in residence. The community included two full-year fellows, two one-term fellows, and two full-year junior fellows in addition to the four one-term Mellon fellows. We also hosted two William R. Tyler fellows, Harvard graduate students who divided their time between their own dissertation research and an institutional project. Deirdre Moore helped plan, design, and implement a pollinator garden as an experiment in bringing additional biodiversity to the gardens, while John Davis created a digital “water atlas” revealing where water comes from and goes to in the city, from the Washington Aqueduct to the Blue Plains treatment plant. In addition to expanding the institution’s research in the digital humanities, the

project created a bridge between the activities of our fellows and the Mellon Initiative in Urban Landscape Studies. We were also fortunate this year to have an extended stay from visiting scholar Alison Hardie, a specialist in Chinese garden history, who came to complete work on the long-term project to publish an anthology of translations of Chinese garden literature. Instigated nearly two decades ago, the translations were edited for publication several years ago by Duncan Campbell. Professor Hardie was able to complete the introductory essay,

introductions to the nine chapters of the book, and header notes for each of the hundreds of translated texts. We hope that her efforts will finally bring this project to conclusion, signaling our commitment to sustaining the level of activity and achievement in publications we have been aspiring to in recent years. See the complete list of [fellows and visiting scholars for 2015-16](#).

Looking Ahead to 2016-17

Scholars in residence: The following Garden and Landscape Studies, Mellon, Tyler Fellows and Visiting Scholar will be in residence at Dumbarton Oaks in the 2016-17 academic year.

Visiting Scholar

- Elizabeth Meyer (University of Virginia)

Fellows

- Verena Conley (Harvard University), “Theory and Practice of the *Jardin d’Essai*”
- Jan Haenraets (Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Fall), “Planting Paradise: Mughal Garden Networks in Kashmir, India”
- Hartmut Troll (Heidelberg University, Spring), “Nature as Model, Taste and Convenience as Measure: Position of Skell within Garden Theory”

Junior Fellow

- Alexander Brey (Bryn Mawr College), “The Caliph’s Prey: Hunting and the Landscape in Umayyad Visual Culture”

William R. Tyler Fellows

- Abbey Stockstill, “Crafting an Identity: Landscape and Urbanism in Almohad Marrakech”
- John Davis, “The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the American Landscape, 1865–1904”
- Deirdre Moore, “Indigenous Knowledge and Breeding of Cochineal Insects in Eighteenth-Century Colonial Mexico”



2016/17 Garden and Landscape and Mellon Urban Landscape Fellows

Mellon Fellows in Urban Landscape Studies

- Megan Asaka (University of California, Riverside, Fall), “The Unsettled City: Migration, Race, and the Making of Seattle’s Urban Landscape”
- Sara Carr (University of Hawaii at Manoa, Spring), “The Topography of Wellness: Health and the American Urban Landscape”
- Peter Ekman (University of California, Berkeley, Spring), “Suburbs of Last Resort: Vitality and Ruin on the Edges of San Francisco Bay”
- Burak Erdim (North Carolina State University), “The Academy and the State: Situating Land Economics and Development Planning in the Cold War Middle East”

2016-17 academic events:

The annual [fall colloquium](#) this year was a collaboration between Dumbarton Oaks and the Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts (CASVA) at the National Gallery of Art. In conjunction with the exhibition *Hubert Robert, 1733-1808*, on view at the National Gallery from June 26 to October 2, 2016, Dumbarton Oaks hosted a series of presentations on September 27 on Robert's work and its artistic and cultural contexts. We were particularly interested in highlighting Robert's contributions to landscape architecture and garden design in the second half of the eighteenth century, important aspects of his activities that are often overlooked in discussions of his other artistic accomplishments.

Forthcoming academic events:

We are collaborating this fall on a **one-day colloquium** called "[Landscapes of Housing](#)" that will take place at Harvard University on October 14, 2016. Jointly organized by Jeanne Haffner, Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow in Urban Landscape Studies, with the Harvard Mellon Urban Initiative, the event will bring together humanities scholars and landscape practitioners to re-examine ways of thinking about landscapes of dwelling, both historically and at present. Housing programs lie at the very center of socio-spatial relations and the politics of space. *Landscape*—broadly defined to include ecology, topography, energy infrastructures, aesthetics and ideology—is part of this complex but its role has largely been ignored in housing studies. The aim of this one-day colloquium is to explore how housing shapes landscape and is, in turn, shaped by it.



The Fall public lecture by Denis Ribouillault on this representation of the city of Turin, produced in 1583 by Girolamo Righettino. Image courtesy Turin Biblioteca Antica dell'Archivio di Stato

The **fall lecture**, November 9th, 2016 will be given by **Denis Ribouillault**, Associate Professor, Department of Art History and Film Studies, University of Montreal, Canada, who will speak on "Glorifying the City in Counter-Reformation Italy: Girolamo Righettino Rediscovered." The lecture will offer new interpretation of one of the oldest and most enigmatic representations of the city of Turin situated in a real and symbolic landscape, which was produced in 1583 by Righettino—an Italian theologian as well as an amateur cartographer and draughtsman—and is now preserved in the city's archive. An announcement is forthcoming and registration will open in October.

The [spring symposium](#), May 5-6, 2017, is being planned in conjunction with the Mellon program in urban landscape studies, and will

focus on "Landscapes of Pre-Industrial Cities." The use of the word "landscape" to describe the formation and infrastructure of cities—as reflected, for example, in current theories of landscape urbanism—largely seems to express contemporary preoccupations with the post-industrial urban condition. Indeed, the Industrial Revolution is often seen as a turning point in the emergence of the urban landscape of the modern metropolis. The large city as commonly experienced today in the world—whether vertical or horizontal, congested or diffused, and divorced from productive nature—is certainly dependent on a range of recent (or quite recent) breakthroughs in construction technology, climate control, communication, and transportation. In this view, urban landscapes appear as a historically late development and are therefore seen to embody an essentially modern and Western concept.

Yet, features associated with contemporary urban landscapes—most notably the forms of human adaptation to and reshaping of the sites where cities develop and expand—can also be found in pre-industrial contexts in different time periods and across the globe. Pre-industrial urban settlements generally occupied land that had been used for other, mostly productive, purposes, and their development involved complex and dynamic relationships with the management of natural resources, especially food and water. While ancient cities are traditionally studied as the centers of commerce, trade, and artisan production as well as the seats of secular and religious authorities, other questions will receive analysis and discussion at the symposium: how the original clusters of agrarian communities evolved into urban formations; how they were spatially organized; what their specific landscape characteristics were; and how environmental factors and the presence or lack of particular natural resources enabled this process of urbanization.

Fellowship and Project Grant applications and deadlines

Dumbarton Oaks continues to offer [residential fellowships](#) in three areas of study: Byzantine Studies, Pre-Columbian Studies, and Garden and Landscape Studies; opportunities include Academic Year Fellowships, Academic Year Junior Fellowships, and Summer Fellowships. **The deadline for all residential fellowships is November 1.** In selecting fellows, the Garden and Landscape Studies program at Dumbarton Oaks seeks a balance between historical research and investigations of current practice, between inquiries at the scale of the garden and those addressing larger landscapes. The program invites consideration of all aspects of this interdisciplinary and international field; applicants are encouraged to consider topics from a variety of perspectives.

[Mellon Fellowships in Urban Landscape Studies](#) are offered by the Garden and Landscape Studies program, and are intended for scholars and designers to pursue research on the history and current conditions of urban landscapes. Mellon Fellowships will be awarded for either the fall term (September 12, 2016 to January 6, 2017) or the spring term (January 23 to May 12, 2017). **Applications must be submitted electronically by February 1, 2016.**

Dumbarton Oaks also offers a limited number of [project grants](#). Garden and Landscape Studies grants are intended to support primary research of a specific site. Project grants may be used for a broad array of projects including field research, site analysis, botanical surveys, heritage conservation and restoration planning, with the goal of promoting the preservation and understanding of historic gardens and other significant designed landscapes. Applicants must contact the Director of Studies at landscape@doaks.org no later than **October 1, 2016**, to determine if the project is within the purview of Dumbarton Oaks. **Application deadline is November 1, 2016.**



Project Grant 2014/15: “Ethnobotany, Symbolism, and Property Rights Institutions in Tropical Agrarian Societies” awarded to Michael Sheridan, Middlebury College