



The Lilly Fellows Program seeks to strengthen the quality and shape the character of church-related institutions of higher learning. Three closely related initiatives have been designed to accomplish this mission: a National Network of Church-Related Colleges and Universities that sponsors a wide variety of activities and publications that explore the Christian character of the academic vocation; a Graduate Fellowship Program that supports graduate students who are exploring vocations in church-related higher education, and the two-year, residential Postdoctoral Teaching Fellowship. As of 2021-2022 the Program has awarded eighty-two two-year postdoctoral fellowships to teacher-scholars who seek to renew and enrich their intellectual and spiritual lives while preparing for teaching and leadership roles at institutions of church-related higher education. Fellows teach in the honors college (Christ College) and departments of the College of Arts and Sciences at Valparaiso University. In addition, Fellows conduct scholarship or creative work, participate in a two-year colloquium, and interact with representatives from a national network of 99 church-related colleges and universities.

Abigail Gomulkiewicz earned her PhD in History from the University of Cambridge in May 2021. In both her research and teaching, she engages with the significance of identity and values.

Abigail's scholarship employs an interdisciplinary methodology, combining written sources with objects and historical reconstruction, and draws on art history, court studies, and the history of science. At the University of Cambridge, she co-convened the interdisciplinary seminar, 'Things', held at the Centre for Research in the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities (CRASSH). This seminar brought together scholars and students from history, philosophy of science, anthropology, and medicine.

Abigail's current book project, *The Ambitious Age: The Value of Cloth and Clothing in Early Modern Britain*, explores the centrality of cloth and clothing during Britain's formation into a maritime power with an extensive trading network and overseas territories in North America, the Caribbean, and India. This project stems from her doctoral research on the different fabrics, colors, styles, and decorations worn within the household of William Cecil, Lord Burghley, who acted as chief advisor to Queen Elizabeth I. By using material culture to investigate political economy, this work offers new insights into early modern debates about the rise of the merchant class and how the crown should uphold civil and material wellbeing. Abigail's article in *Gender & History*, for example, demonstrates the role merchant and court men had alongside women in shaping both economics and fashion in early modern England as they gave innovative, novel gifts to Queen Elizabeth I.

Abigail has also done research into religious identity in an English context. Her work uses small household objects, such as spoons, goblets, and jewelry, to expand knowledge of religious practices in post-Reformation England, especially the substantial role objects played in forming an English Protestant religious identity increasingly built around remembrance and memory. Part of her research, based on an analysis of over 11,000 Elizabethan Essex wills, was published in the interdisciplinary journal *Material Religion*. Her current research expands this investigation beyond England and considers the significance of smaller household objects in the American colonies.

Abigail's interdisciplinarity also extends to her pedagogy. Her teaching provides students with an intellectual toolbox and frameworks to critically analyze and challenge what they already know and value. Using this toolkit, she enjoys working with students to engage with classical and contemporary texts in a variety of diverse contexts ranging from large lectures to tutorials. Abigail's passion for teaching history extends to students young and old. She is committed to outreach and public humanities. During her doctoral studies, she coordinated the History Faculty's *History for Schools Programme* which provides workshops for primary age children on a range of history-related topics. She also taught Cambridge community members at the *Festival of Ideas* on topics such as on "Extreme Fashion in Early Modern Europe" and "A Monarch in Fashion: Elizabeth I, William Cecil, and Constructions of Power and Authority through Dress at the Elizabethan Court".

