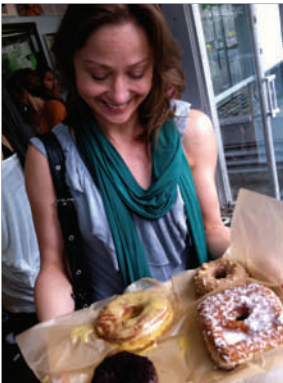


Professor Roberts invited to Columbia University Workshop and lecture

By Erin Roberts

Erin Roberts attended a residential research workshop at Columbia University from May 23rd to June 10th, 2011. The workshop, "Psychology for Ancient and Medieval Historians" was for historians specializing in any field from archaic Greece to approximately 1400 CE. The workshop was funded by the Mellon Foundation and organized by W.V. Harris and the History Department at Columbia. The small research group included 14 participants, representing Canada, Japan, Germany, Poland, Italy, The UK, and the US.

The workshop was timely, given that ancient and medieval historians, like many others, have been turning in recent years to topics that involve emotions and psychological predispositions. The workshop was targeted toward young scholars working on such matters as crowd behavior, the nature of the self, mental health, depression, revenge, friendship, shame, criminality, religious conversion, or any emotion.



Donut Plant donuts

The group convened each morning to discuss various topics related to psychology and history, including ancient theory of the mind and emotions, mental illness, depictions of the passions in art, literature, religion, and theology. Participants spent the afternoons doing library research or collaborating together on research topics of mutual interest.

During the time there, Erin was able to discuss aspects of her dissertation, *Anger, Emotion and Desire in the Gospel of Matthew*, with the team and received valuable feedback about revising it for publication as a book.

Of course three weeks in New York also included several fun outings. Some of the highlights were being atop the Empire State Building at night, scrutinizing every item on display at the Pierpoint Morgan Library, taking a double-decker bus tour in the rain, eating Ethiopian food several times a week, seeing the New York Public Library reading room, drinking freshly brewed espresso, and visiting the world-famous Donut Plant.

Erin has been invited to give a talk at Columbia's Center for the Ancient Mediterranean on January 27, 2012. Her presentation, "Constructing a Christian Concept of Sin," showcases her most recent research concerning the peculiar translation practices of New Testament scholars.



Midnight viewing of city.



Erin speaking at the Workshop.



The double decker bus tour, just before rain begins.