



THE COALITION OF MASTER'S
SCHOLARS ON MATERIAL CULTURE

Symposium Call for Papers: *Tools of the Trade*

Symposium Date: Saturday, April 23, 2022 at 11am ET (Via Zoom)

On behalf of the Coalition of Master's Scholars on Material Culture (CMSMC), the Symposium Committee is circulating a call for papers for their Spring 2021 online symposium, *Tools of the Trade*. How do the mechanisms we use to teach, uncover, and study material culture affect the work that we do? How do our educational backgrounds, theoretical approaches, and industry experiences influence the way we interpret objects? How do our "tools" act as a catalyst for our work of uncovering the past? *Tools of the Trade* focuses on what we use to delve deeper into the analysis of material culture, and how those tools are intrinsic pieces of material and immaterial culture themselves.

The symposium will consist of 5 presentations from emerging scholars and one keynote speaker.

CMSMC welcomes papers discussing material culture grounded in historical, archaeological, art historical, and/or museum studies approaches. We are drawing from various types of works, including works in progress, book chapters, interdisciplinary approaches, and more. Proposals for the symposium will be accepted until **Friday, March 18, 2022**.

Submission Guidelines

In order to submit a proposal to CMSMC, you will need to provide an abstract (up to 350 words) as well as a partial bibliography, and CV. Please submit materials via this [Google Form](https://forms.gle/4568QXepuNDZfZmM7) (<https://forms.gle/4568QXepuNDZfZmM7>). All submissions must be cited in the [Chicago Manual of Style](#). Applicants will be notified of acceptance or rejection during the week of March 28, following a review of all submissions.

Criteria

All pieces for the Spring 2021 symposium must revolve around the theme *Tools of the Trade*. The presentation **should be roughly, but not exceed, 15 minutes and have a visual component** (Powerpoint, Google Slides, etc.); this equates to roughly a 2,000 - 2,500 word paper (or 10 pages double spaced).

Topics may include, **but are not limited to**, the following:

- Tools used by material culture scholars (historians, art historians, archeologists, museum professionals, and more)
 - Pen, paper, archives, computers, optivisors, UV light, trawls, dental picks, brushes, GIS, GPR, DNA, data management software, citation management softwares, photography, Twitter/other social media
- Unpaid internships, paid internships, fellowships, contract work, adjunct faculty (exploitation of labor in the material culture field)



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- Conservation
- Auction houses and selling art tools
 - Flash lights, photography, catalogues, gavels
- History of tools
 - Farming, agricultural revolution
 - Medical and scientific instruments
 - Other specialized professions' tools
- History of fashion and millinery
- Materiality of certain labor movements
- Production of material culture for trade
- Theory as tool or interpretation
- Materiality of economy - Numismatics, etc
- The commodification of tradespeople and craftspeople
- History of workshop production (apprentices, journeyman)

CMSMC looks forward to receiving proposals in response to the call, and is happy to respond to inquiries from interested parties. Questions may be emailed to admin@cmsmc.org. Please visit our website, cmsmc.org, for more information about the Spring 2022 Symposium and registration.