Research Workshop

Trans Historiography
and the Problem of Anachronism

This methodological paper explores the question of how (if at all) one can do trans historiography when studying pre-modern societies. The paper argues that we ought to view trans persons first and foremost as subjects: subjects of received cultural narratives, subjects of their particular embodiment, and subjects with agency who must creatively dialogue with these given conditions. The intelligible roles available to us vary from culture to culture and, accordingly, we must expect that what a trans person looks like in each culture will likewise differ; we cannot expect to find trans persons in the historical record in any way that is straightforwardly imitative of our modern categories.

Tuesday, October 9
3-4pm
339 O’Shaughnessy

Presenter:
Rebecca E. Wiegel

Rebecca is a Ph.D. candidate in Theology, majoring in Early Christianity and the New Testament, and minoring in Early Judaism and the Hebrew Bible as well as in Gender Studies (with a particular interest in transgender studies). Additionally, she holds two degrees — an MA and a ThM — from St Vladimir’s Orthodox Theological Seminary.