LMC Distinguished Lecture Series, 2014-2015: *Mobilities*

If we may believe our colleagues in cultural semantics, there is no better indicator of the conspicuous changes between the Middle Ages and Modernity than the welling up of terms denoting the recognition of human-made historical development and movement in the first half of the nineteenth century. Whether we look at the entries in the *New English Dictionary* or *Oxford English Dictionary* or Grimm’s *Deutsches Wörterbuch*, more than 100 terms expressing various kinds of process, change, and movement (for example, “formation,” “duration,” “epoch,” “event”) enter the daily lexicon of the European languages, including manifold “-ism” terms (for example: “democratism,” “feminism,” “socialism,” “communism”), which all signal a foundational experiential shift in the qualifying and conceptualizing of time and point towards a future open to choice and various social, political, and artistic paths.

This year, our School focuses many of its events and discussions on and around not only the role of “cultural movement” in the past, but also in the present and future. The goal is, of course, to create a foundation for collegial discussion, areas of collaborative convergence, and a year-long “red thread” for our students. Two conferences provide the larger framework within which our themed approach will happen:

In late October, *Medievalisms on the Move* (the 29th Intl. Conference on Medievalism) unites more than 100 scholars from eight countries on our campus who investigate the reception of medieval culture in postmedieval times, how certain ideas, recreations, and reenactments of the Middle Ages travel from genre to genre, Old Europe to the New World, and Renaissance to Postmodernism. Plenaries at this conference will discuss the reception of Dante Alighieri in the North America (Kathleen Verduin, Hope College) and the “Social Life of African Things in Postcolonial Middle Ages” (Sylvie Kandé, SUNY Old Westbury).
students. For more information, please visit http://medievalisms.lmc.gatech.edu

In late April 2015, we will host the (INCS) Interdisciplinary 19th-Century Studies Conference, entitled **Mobilities**. The conference theme will explore the various movements and exchanges of the nineteenth century, an era of major industrial growth, scientific discovery, technological innovation, and imperial expansion. What did it mean to be mobile (or immobile) in this period? How were political, scientific, and cultural ideas exchanged in new ways? How did people maintain and create new networks and affiliations? How might notions of a more mobile, networked sense of nature, the world, and the self influence our understanding of this era? Confirmed keynote speakers include Priscilla Wald (Duke University) and Philippa Levine (University of Texas at Austin). The conference will be held at the Loews Hotel in midtown from April 16-19, 2015 and the call for papers deadline is November 15, 2014. There is still plenty of time to prepare a proposal or propose a panel, roundtable, or special session for the conference. For more information please visit http://incs2015.lmc.gatech.edu.

In addition to these two major events, we will have two additional speakers, one our very own **Chris Le Dantec**, who will speak to us about his research related to **Cycle Atlanta in the spring of 2015**, another one SF author **Ted Chiang** (in partnership with the GT Freshmen Reading Program), who spoke to us on “Mobile Technologies and New Narrative of Self” on September 30, 2014.