OBJECTS: INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACHES TO MATERIAL CULTURE

My primary goal in compiling this bibliography is to explore ways that scholars use objects to learn about people, their ideas, and their experiences. Objects are defined broadly to include things, buildings, and landscapes. Works have been chosen to represent a wide range of approaches and their disciplinary development over the last fifty years. I have organized works by academic field to emphasize cross-disciplinarity but my intention is to find commonalities between categories. With these commonalities in mind, I will ask comparative questions: What are the most successful approaches and methodologies? Why? What are the advantages and disadvantages of each? And finally, which approaches do I hope to employ in my future work? The section called “Issues” serves two functions. First, each question serves as a case study to highlight different ways to approach a single question. Second, these questions serve as lenses through which I will read all the works on the bibliography.

NOTE: The ways that geographers study material culture will also be considered and are listed on the accompanying “Landscape and Sense of Place” bibliography.

Important Interdisciplinary Works in Material Culture


**Cross list with borders/boundaries


** Cross-Listed with Architecture


** Cross-listed with Landscape


**Art History**


** Cross-Listed with Landscape


**Anthropology / Archaeology / Social Science**


** History**


** Having trouble getting my hands on this one…


**English / Comparative Literature**


**Visual Culture and Cultural Theory**


**Pick one of the essays…


**Design History**
Generally interested in why things look the way they do rather than in reading objects as evidence. They tend to follow the long chain of negotiations with the process of producing serially or mass-produced objects – from designers and managers through specialized makers to marketer to distributor to wholesale buyer to consumer to user.


**ISSUES**

*Why do things change?*


**How do Style and Taste Work?**

** Cross-listed with Architecture and Landscape


**Cross-listed with Architecture


How Do We Understand Creativity?


Interdisciplinary studies are increasingly widely recognised as being among the most fruitful approaches to generating original perspectives on the medieval pas...Â The main focus is on material culture, but also includes insights into the compositional techniques of Bede and the Beowulf-poet, and the strategies adopted by anonymous scribes to record information in unfamiliar languages. Contributors offer fresh insights into some of the most iconic survivals from the period, from the wooden doors of Sta Sabina in Rome to the Ruthwell Cross, and from St Cuthbertâ€™s coffin to the design of its final resting place, the Romanesque cathedral at Durham.