

John Slater's research examines the production and transmission of knowledge during the Spanish baroque, with a particular focus on literature as a means to disseminate ideas about health and healing. Problems of scale particularly fascinate him and this has led him to focus on print genres with particularly high degrees of cultural diffusion. He has published about alchemy and early chemistry in sermons (perhaps the most widely disseminated prose genre of the seventeenth century), and the ways in which drama (Spain's first mass medium) influenced people's understanding of the natural world. His current research shows that Jesuits, Franciscans and other religious orders had their own practices related to healing and healthcare; these theologically informed healing practices initially led to conflict with physicians and surgeons and later became the foundation of medical reforms. John Slater joined the faculty of Colorado State University in 2020, after working at the University of California, Davis, the and University of Colorado.