

Winner of the 2009 Graduate Prize

Noah Millstone (Stanford), “Evil Counsel: The ‘Propositions to Bridle the Impertinency of Parliament’ and the Crisis of 1629”

In his essay, “Evil Counsel: The ‘Propositions to Bridle the Impertinency of Parliament’ and the Crisis of 1629,” Noah Millstone investigates a surprisingly early and sophisticated example of political disinformation. His essay is clear, well researched, and well written. His deft analysis of a document designed to inflame fears of the Caroline regime’s supposed intention of governing despotically illuminates the subtlety of some of the methods employed by the opposition at this critical juncture. The role of “user publication,” in this case preceding rather than following commercial printing, is especially interesting. Millstone expertly deploys archival evidence and the historiographical tradition surrounding this incident to make a persuasive case for the provenance, dissemination and intended impact of this document. We are delighted to name him as the winner of the 2009 PCCBS graduate student prize!