

The University of California Italian Studies MRG is happy to announce that **Corinne Wieben** is the winner of the first **CICIS Graduate Student Paper Prize** (\$ 1,000) for her paper entitled “**As men do with their wives’: Domestic Violence in Fourteenth-Century Lucca,**” delivered at the 2008 CICIS meeting at UC Santa Cruz. Corinne is a doctoral student in History at UC Santa Barbara. Congratulations Corinne!

The committee, composed of CICIS members John Marino (UCSD), Marla Stone (Occidental College) and Laura Wittmann (Stanford University) wrote the following about Corinne’s paper:

*Corinne Wieben’s analysis of a case of domestic violence in fourteenth-century Lucca is an excellent example of the genre of microstoria, from setting the case as the frame, its argument relating to the conference theme of violence, its clear exposition of sources, its explanation of the law and legal procedures, its exploration of the implications of the case from three points of view (husband, wife, and judge), and its explication of the verdict as a middle ground compromise that is neither true or false but rather a modus vivendi in terms of the cultural constraints of the law, society, and gender of the time.*

*Corinne’s paper does an excellent job of proposing a social history of domestic violence, of mobilizing and reading the available sources from the episcopal court records, to paint as broad a picture as possible. She carefully puts events in their social context, and acts as a cautious interpreter of the world she enters. Her sensitivity to context and to the voices within her texts makes the paper particularly creative. She is especially good, but subtle, at drawing out the gendered aspects of the arguments presented. Corinne’s detailed and thorough historical reconstruction, as well as her honesty at depicting a situation that is complex and ambiguous—she does not rush to any easy conclusion—make a convincing case for the study of the often impenetrable silence that lies at the heart of cases of domestic violence.*