

**I**



## **Trinity Centre for Medieval and Renaissance Studies 2017-2018**

### **In brief...**

#### **I. Conferences:**

1. 26-28 April 2019: Borderlines XXIII
2. 26-28 September 2019: **CALL FOR PAPERS**- Political Poetry and the Poetical Muse: European Political Poetry of the Renaissance
3. 29-30 October 2019: The Freak and its Discontents
4. 1-2 November 2019: Decoding the Past: Critical Editions and their Editors

#### **II. Seminars:**

1. TCMRS Medieval and Early-Modern Studies Research Seminar (March-May 2019)
2. TCMRS Montaigne Reading Group (Michaelmas Term 2019)
3. The Chaucer Seminar

### **In more detail...**

#### **I. CONFERENCES**

##### **1. 26-28 APRIL 2019, TRINITY LONG ROOM HUB: BORDERLINES XXIII**

Borderlines XXIII: 'Sound and Silence in the Medieval and Early Modern World'

Borderlines is a conference for researchers in Medieval and Early Modern Studies held on a rotating basis in Belfast, Dublin, and Cork. Trinity College Dublin will host the twenty-third annual Borderlines conference on the theme of 'Sound and Silence.' This conference is co-organised by Trinity's Schools of English, Histories and Humanities, and Languages, Literatures and Cultural Studies, as well as the Trinity Centre for Medieval and Renaissance Studies. It will be held at the Trinity Long Room Hub on 26-28 April 2019. **For further details**, see the designated website: [www. borderlinesxxiii.wordpress.com](http://www.borderlinesxxiii.wordpress.com)

## 2. 26-28 SEPTEMBER, TRINITY LONG ROOM HUB:

### CALL FOR PAPERS

#### POLITICAL IDENTITY AND THE POETICAL MUSE:

#### EUROPEAN POLITICAL POETRY OF THE RENAISSANCE

A three-day symposium organised by the Trinity Centre for Medieval & Renaissance Studies, Trinity College Dublin

**26-28 September 2019**

(Trinity Long Room Hub)

A somewhat neglected area of Renaissance studies is the political dimension of much early-modern ‘occasional poetry’, that is, poetry celebrating particular events and individuals.<sup>[1]</sup> Whilst studies in the field have tended to focus very usefully on individual authors, there remains a somewhat fragmented understanding of the genre at a European level. Moreover, a more conceptual approach to the notion of political identity (notably its construction and projection) is currently lacking. This conference aims to address this lacuna by bringing together scholars from across the disciplines to present 30 minute papers on any aspect of European political poetry written in the Renaissance. The following are some of the questions we hope to engage with:

- how do individual poets write political identity?
- how may we theorise the relationship between identity and political poetry?
- what are the markers of a political poem?
- what is the relationship between the poet and the subject?
- what is the relationship between the private self and the public self?
- what distinction (if any) may be discerned between propaganda and encomium?
- what is the relationship of political poetry to prevailing concepts of morality?
- how stable is the poetically-constructed identity?
- what role does political poetry play in diplomacy?

Proposals are invited for papers of 30 minutes duration on any aspect of European political poetry of the Renaissance. Contributions may be in any modern European language. **Abstracts (max. 200 words) should be sent to Dr Sarah Alyn Stacey, FTCD, at [salynsta@tcd.ie](mailto:salynsta@tcd.ie) by 17 May 2019.**

Further details of the symposium will be posted on the Centre’s site ([https://www.tcd.ie/Medieval\\_Renaissance/](https://www.tcd.ie/Medieval_Renaissance/))

<sup>[1]</sup>This point was highlighted most eloquently in a recent volume of edited essays, *La Muse de l'éphémère: formes de la poésie de circonstance de l'Antiquité à la Renaissance*, ed. Aurélie Delattre and Adeline Lionetto (Paris, 2014).

### **3. 29-30 OCTOBER 2019, TRINITY LONG ROOM HUB: THE FREAK AND ITS DISCONTENTS: AN INTERDISCIPLINARY CONFERENCE CALL FOR PAPERS**

‘There’s a quality of legend about freaks. Like a person in a fairy tale who stops you and demands that you answer a riddle. Most people go through life dreading they’ll have a traumatic experience. Freaks were born with their trauma.’ -Diane Arbus

The symbol of ‘the freak’ is a transcultural allegory that exists across boundaries of nation and discipline. It serves to inform both the pejorative representation of the other and our understanding of the mainstream society which deems the ‘freak’ as a form of otherness. A cross-disciplinary study of what society finds shocking illuminates the cultural norms that the hegemony considers its constituent pieces. A curiosity or willingness to study the heteroglossia outside of this constituency offers a unique opportunity to expose elements of such hegemonic structures that might otherwise be taken for granted and raise a critical awareness of the processes that define ‘normalcy’ and freakishness. A cross-disciplinary approach allows us the vantage point of multiple academic perspectives into what exactly it is about the freak that frightens society and what elements of society are incompatible with the freak. What elements of cultural consciousness function to define the other as ‘freakish’? To what extent is the apparent freak both exiled from society and an extension of society itself? Which elements of the freak are defined by society, and which are self-imposed? Is the freak simply a caricatured exaggeration of ‘the other’, or is it something separate?

This conference, organised by a postgraduate committee under the aegis of the Trinity Centre for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, will explore the concept of the freak in relation to Literature, Cultural Studies, Film, Philosophy, Literary Theory, History, Anthropology, History of Art, Drama, Theology, and Folklore.

We welcome papers in relation to such themes as the following:

- Psychology and Sociology
- Gender Studies
- Film Studies
- History and Social Studies
- Architecture (e.g. gargoyles, grotesques, etc.)
- Social, religious, and cultural identity
- Biography and autobiography
- Ethics in Biology, Immunology, and Medicine
- Literary Theory: (e.g. Bakhtin and the carnivalesque, Rabelais and the grotesque, etc.)
- Ostracised and marginalised figures in literature and history
- Language Studies

**Please send an abstract of 250-300 words along with a short biography to Alexandra Corey & Jason Marrott at [thefreakconference@gmail.com](mailto:thefreakconference@gmail.com) by: 30 April 2019**

#### **4. 1-2 NOVEMBER 2019, TRINITY LONG ROOM HUB: DECODING THE PAST: CRITICAL EDITIONS AND THEIR EDITORS**

Members of the Trinity Centre for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, Department of History, and the Manuscript, Book and Print Cultures Research Theme are organising a conference on critical editions. Collaboration between senior academics and early career researchers will focus on the techniques and methodologies involved in making critical editions, as well as the interactions of computer science and web-hosting specialists with scholars in the digital humanities. The conference will be held in the Trinity Long Room Hub 1-2 November 2019. **ALL WELCOME.**

For further details, please see the designated website: <https://decodingthepast2019.wordpress.com>

#### **II. SEMINAR SERIES**

##### **1. TCMRS MEDIEVAL AND EARLY-MODERN STUDIES RESEARCH SEMINAR (12 MARCH, 26 MARCH, 9 APRIL, 7 MAY AT 5 P.M.)**

In Hilary Term 2019 the Trinity Centre for Medieval and Renaissance Studies (TCMRS) will be launching a seminar series for researchers (established and early career) working within the medieval and early modern periods. Each session consists of an informal paper presented to a small interdisciplinary audience comprised of both staff and students. Papers (of 20-minutes duration) will focus in particular on two aspects of emerging research: 1) primary sources and 2) methodology. The Centre welcomes presentations from any discipline.

If you are interested in presenting, please contact Alexandra Corey at [coreya@tcd.ie](mailto:coreya@tcd.ie).

12 March: Alexandra Corey (Department of French): ‘Emmanuel-Philibert de Pingon: A Biography and Critical Edition’. Room: 4047 in the Arts Building.

26 March: Ariana Malthaner (Department of Irish and Celtic Studies): ‘Dialects of Old Irish: Problems & Approaches’. Room: 4047 in the Arts Building.

9 April: Julia O’Connell (Department of English) “‘The greef aboute myn herte so sore swal’’: Loss of the Emotional Community in Thomas Hoccleve’s Complaint and Dialogue’. Room: 4047 in the Arts Building.

7 May: Joanna Poetz (Department of French): ‘Waldensian Texts and Their Sources: An Editor’s Problem’. Room: AP.204 in Aras and Phiarsaigh.

##### **2. TCMRS MONTAIGNE READING GROUP (MICHAELMAS TERM 2019)**

The Centre is delighted to announce the launch of the Montaigne Reading Group in Michaelmas Term 2019. This is open to readers of Montaigne who have no French and to staff, students and members of the public. Further details will be published on the website later in the year. To register your interest, please contact the Director of the Centre (salynsta@tcd.ie).

### **3. THE CHAUCER SEMINAR**

The Centre for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, in conjunction with The Chaucer Hub, is delighted to announce its seventh series of The Chaucer Seminar. This Seminar will be led, as previously, by Dr Gerald Morgan, Director of the Centre's Research Network Chaucer in Context and Director of the Chaucer Hub. Although it is aimed primarily at post-graduates, undergraduates\* and members of the public with a good knowledge of Chaucer are most welcome to attend. The Seminar will focus on close textual analysis, sources and recent criticism. The Seminar will run on a weekly basis in Michaelmas Term and Hilary Term. NB\*Trinity undergraduates should note that this programme is not a substitute for courses run by the School of English.

To attend, please contact Dr Sarah Alyn Stacey, French Department/Centre for Medieval and Renaissance Studies; salynsta@tcd.ie; tel. 896 2686

\*\*\*\*\*