This conference aims to take stock of the study of Renaissance Italian religion and to create a benchmark and path into the future.

It takes inspiration from a path-breaking conference held in 1972, which resulted in the important volume *The Pursuit of Holiness in Late Medieval and Renaissance Thought*. Essays in that volume by Natalie Davis, Richard Trexler, and Charles Trinkaus moved religion from the margins of Renaissance studies and helped drive what might now be termed the ‘Geertzian Turn’ in the study of religious phenomena. As Robert Scribner later wrote, “Religion is a newly fashionable subject among historians of early modern Europe, but it is a fashion with a difference, for the history of religion is approached with new aims, new methodologies and virtually a new subject matter.”

The conference explores how the field has advanced over the last thirty years, particularly in terms of methodology and theoretical framing. Revisionist approaches to humanism and humanists are forcing a re-evaluation of the framing of belief; the boundaries between Christianity, Judaism, and Islam are seen to be more fluid and porous; a keen interest in devotion and materiality has lent new voice to ‘subaltern’ elements in society; sermon studies has emerged as a distinct discipline; art history has undergone profound change; the role of the inquisition has moved to the foreground in the defining of early modern Catholic culture and identity; globalization, mass migration and issues surrounding social inclusion have re-positioned our understanding of reform in the late medieval and early modern period. Speakers will reflect on methodology and conceptual assumptions, and our discussions will focus on current and future directions.
Thursday 4 June 2015 - Villa I Tatti

09:00 Registration
09:30 Welcome and Introductions
   Lino Pertile (Villa I Tatti, Florence)
09:35 Grounding and Framing Renaissance Religions
   Chair: Lino Pertile
   Peter Howard (Monash University)
   Renaissance Religions: the sacred in the worldly
10:00 Frances Andrews (University of St. Andrews)
   Viri religiosi in urban Italy
11:00 Morning Coffee
11:30 Naming Textualities and Performance
   Chair: Nicholas Terpstra (University of Toronto)
   Sabrina Corbellini (University of Groningen)
   Scripto de mia propria mano: Urban Laity and the Construction of Religious Identities in Renaissance Italy
12:00 Jane Tylus (New York University/Villa I Tatti)
   Manifesting Faith and Doing Good Works in Renaissance Italy
12:00 Discussion followed by Buffet Lunch
14:30 Investigating the Reconciliation of Difference
   Chair: Riccardo Saccenti (Istituto per le Scienze Religiose, Bologna)
   Valentina Prosperi (Università degli Studi di Sassari)
   Lucretius as Religious Thinker. The Unpredictable Roots of ‘Misericordia’ in Renaissance Italy
15:00 Tamar Herzig (Tel Aviv University)
   Rethinking Jewish Conversion to Christianity in Renaissance Italy
15:30 Discussion followed by Afternoon Tea
16:30 Marking and Interrogating Boundaries
   Chair: Adriano Prosperi (Scuola Normale Superiore, Pisa)
   Neslihan Senocak (Columbia University)
   The Pastoral Landscape of Renaissance Italy through Episcopal Visitations, 1250-1450
17:00 Giorgio Caravale (Università degli Studi di Roma Tre)
   Preaching and Inquisition in Renaissance Italy
17:30 Discussion
17:55 Nicholas Terpstra
   Résumé of day

Friday 5 June 2015 - Monash University Prato Centre

09:45 Registration and Morning Coffee
10:15 Welcome and Introductions
   Cecilia Hewlett (Monash University Prato Centre)
10:20 Peter Howard
   Résumé of first day
10:40 Revisioning Space and Representations in the Quest for the Holy
   Chair: Jonathan Nelson (Villa I Tatti, Florence)
   Mary Laven (Cambridge University)
   Devotion and Domestic Space: Doing Miracles in Renaissance Italy
11:00 Sally J. Cornelison (University of Kansas)
   Art and Religion in Late Renaissance Italy: Reconsidering the Reformation in Arezzo’s Pieve
11:30 Sibe L. de Blauuw (Radboud Universiteit)
   Religious and Aesthetic Aspects of Liturgical Dispositions of Churches in Renaissance Italy
12:00 Discussion followed by Buffet Lunch
14:00 Reframing New Worlds and Reform
   Chair: Michael Wyatt (Independent Scholar)
   Nicholas Terpstra
   Pursuing Purity: Contagion, Purgation, and Community
14:30 Simon Ditchfield (York University)
   How the New World Converted the Old: Thinking with Danielo Bartoli SJ (1608-85)
15:00 Discussion followed by Afternoon Tea
16:00 Closing Session and Roundtable
   Chair: Peter Howard/Nicholas Terpstra
   Nicholas Watson (Harvard University)
   Concluding remarks
   Silvana Seidel-Menchi, Marco Pellegrini, Adriano Prosperi
   Comments and replies
16:45 Discussion
17:15 Conclusion

Organizers
Peter Howard • Nicholas Terpstra

Committee Members
Frances Andrews • Peter Howard • Jonathan Nelson
Lino Pertile • Adriano Prosperi • Riccardo Saccenti
Nicholas Terpstra • Michael Wyatt