

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.

A collaboration between



This conference is open to the public with no charge.

Funding for this event is provided by
Villa I Tatti-The Harvard University Center for Italian Renaissance Studies,
Monash Arts Faculty and the University of Toronto,
with additional support from
the Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest Endowment Fund
and the Scholarly Programs and Publications Funds in the names of
Myron & Sheila Gilmore, Robert Lehman, Jean-François Malle,
Andrew W. Mellon, Craig & Barbara Smyth, and Malcolm Hewitt Wiener.

Villa I Tatti

Via di Vincigliata 26, 50135 Florence
+39 055 603251; info@itatti.harvard.edu
www.itatti.harvard.edu

Monash University Prato Centre
Via Pugliesi, 26, 59100 Prato, Italy
+39 0574 43691; info@monash.it
www.monash.it

Cover image: Gentile Bellini *La Predica di San Marco ad Alessandria d'Egitto*
With the Permission of the Ministero dei Beni e delle Attività Culturali
e del Turismo -- SBSAE di Milano

RENAISSANCE RELIGIONS: MODES AND MEANINGS IN HISTORY



4 - 5 JUNE 2015
VILLA I TATTI, FLORENCE
MONASH UNIVERSITY PRATO CENTRE



ORGANIZERS

Peter Howard ♦ Nicholas Terpstra

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Frances Andrews ♦ Peter Howard ♦ Jonathan Nelson
Lino Pertile ♦ Adriano Prospero ♦ Riccardo Saccenti
Nicholas Terpstra ♦ Michael Wyatt

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
- 10:10 **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
- 12:30 *Discussion followed by Buffet Lunch*
- 14:30 **INVESTIGATING THE RECONCILIATION OF DIFFERENCE**
Chair: Riccardo Saccenti (Istituto per le Scienze Religiose, Bologna)
- Valentina Prospero** (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 Prospero (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
- 10:30 **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 **Sible L. de Blaauw** (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 Daniello 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 Prospero**
Comments and replies
- 16:45 *Discussion*
- 17:15 *Conclusion*