

Michaelmas Term 2022

Early Modern English Literature Seminar

Convenors: Lorna Hutson, Joe Moshenska, Emma Smith, Bart Van Es

Time: Tuesdays, 5.15-7.15 (but note below change of time and venue, week 7)

Venue: T. S. Eliot Lecture Theatre, Merton.

Week 1 (11 October)

Professor Peter McCullough, Professor Adam Smyth, Dr Noël Sugimura

'Meet the Faculty'

Abstract: We're kicking off the academic year with a chance for graduate students new and continuing and early modernists in general to hear three/four English Faculty members speak informally and briefly about their research. Discussion will open out to enable the graduate and research community to put questions to the speakers.

Week 3 (25 October)

Dr Sophie Read

Christ's College, Cambridge

Title: 'Modernist Metaphysics: Empson, Donne and the Science of Feeling'

Abstract: This paper concerns, in a roundabout sort of a way, the effect of the publication of Herbert Grierson's influential anthology, *Metaphysical Lyrics and Poems* (1921). In particular, I'm interested in what Grierson's pioneering scholarship does for the reception and study of John Donne - its leading light - in the decades that follow. T. S. Eliot is an early adopter, and an influential proponent and disseminator of Grierson's vision of a dynamic modernist Donne, but he quickly loses interest - unlike William Empson, to whose career as both poet and critic Donne remains central for more than half a century. The main task of the paper will be to read Empson's Donne, then Donne and Empson together, in an attempt to find lines of sympathy and mutual illumination. It will feature bracelets, soap, compasses, bicycles, globes, puppies, space travel, relativity theory and puddles.

Week 5 (8 November)

Professor Susanne Wofford, New York University

Title: 'Marina, Perdita, *Eunuchus* and *The Rope*: Slavery, Race and Genre in Shakespeare's Mediterranean'

Abstract: [to follow]

Week 7 (22 November)

NB time and venue change: 12.30-2.15 in the Mure Room, Merton College.

Reading Group: We will ask graduate students to nominate recent criticism for us to discuss in this final seminar of term. Please note change of time and venue. Tea, coffee and biscuits provided.

All are welcome. Pre-circulated reading will be available through CEMS.