

Call for Papers

Baroque Latinity



a conference organized by
The Society for Neo-Latin Studies (SNLS) / The Cambridge Society for Neo-Latin Studies (CSNLS)

Friday 11th – Saturday 12th September 2020
Churchill College, Cambridge

This conference will address the distinctiveness of Latin in the Baroque era (c. 1590 – c. 1725). Although the term 'Baroque' post-dates the art to which it is applied, it is a useful label that can be affixed to an identifiable style – one that involves the breaking of classical rules to produce effects of grandeur, richness, and exuberance, and that occurs across all the arts and across the known world of the time. While there are many early modernists involved in researching topics dealing with 17th-century Latin, there has been little effort to amalgamate findings to detect patterns in the progress of Latin writing after the shift in emphasis away from the Humanist educational/cultural movement.

We are seeking proposals for 30-minute papers dealing with (but not limited to) the following questions:

Epoch & Culture

- What does the concept of the Baroque entail, and how does writing in Latin relate to it? How does a consideration of the aesthetic sophistication of the Baroque expressed in other arts – music, architecture, painting, for example – inform that of the literary?
- Is there a unity to be found in the corpus of Neo-Latin texts that spans the 'waning' of the Renaissance and the emergence of the Neo-Classical age? Is Baroque Neo-Latin part of the notion of the 'modern'? (Implicit is also an interrogation of the term 'early modern' in relation to the 'Renaissance'.)
- How successful is Latin at maintaining its dominance as an international language at this time? How does Neo-Latin relate to the vernacular at this time?
- What is the relationship of Neo-Latin to religion?
- How does the scientific revolution relate to the mutation of Latin culture?
- How do young women and men learn Latin during this period?
- How does Latin relate to emerging and developing literary genres, as well as to continuing genres?

Aesthetics & Style

- What are the stylistic characteristics of Baroque Latinity?
- How can we define the style of Baroque Latin, and are there ancient models for it?
- What are the pedagogical methods and materials for learning Latin during this period? How does the imitation of the classics change now?
- How expressive and flexible is Baroque Neo-Latin?
- Is there a perceived ostentation in Baroque Latinity? Is there a Neo-Latin Mannerism (cf. the baroque Latinity of the classical 'Silver Age')?

Please send proposals of up to 250 words by 31 July 2019 to: Dr Jacqueline Glomski (j.glomski@ucl.ac.uk), Professor Gesine Manuwald (g.manuwald@ucl.ac.uk), or Dr Andrew Taylor (awt24@cam.ac.uk). We hope to have funding to assist with speakers' accommodation and maintenance.