

Seeing the rapidly growing number of studies on the topic of passions, emotions or affectivity in the historiography of early modern religion, literature, drama, law, political thought and culture, a need to confront larger questions about early modern understanding and valuation of passion, the connections between passion, cognition and embodiment and the relation between affective experience and subjectivity is becoming increasingly apparent. While much recent literature has analysed early modern passion within the framework of Galenic physiology or that of faculty psychology, this workshop aims to investigate the passions from a variety of perspectives, choosing an expressly interdisciplinary approach that situates reflection on the nature of human passions on the interstices of political thought and ethics, literature and epistemology, religious belief and social praxis. The conference will set out by focussing on cultural and literary practices that reflect early modern conceptions of the affective nature of human beings, such as devotional practices, (auto)biographic writing, as well as notions of selfhood and interiority in literature and moral philosophy. The analysis of literary and cultural praxis of affective writing are placed against the background of a broader debate on the relation between language, epistemology and the passions, while the discussion on the experience of interiority is framed by several papers discussing the limits of the self.

Sunday 23 October

14:00 Opening address
 Freya Sierhuis (LMU)

Intersubjectivity, Ethics, Agency

14:30 – 15: 20
 Brian Cummings (Sussex)
Passionate Agency in Donne

15:20 – 16:10
 Russ Leo (Princeton)
Theories of Affect and Passion in Early Modern Rhetoric

16:10 - 16:40 Tea break

16:40 - 17:30
 Christopher Tilmouth (Cambridge)
The Passions and Intersubjectivity in the Early Modern Period

19:00 Conference Dinner

Monday 24 October

Embodiment, Memory, Identity

9:30 – 10:20
 Angus Gowland (UCL)
Melancholy, Passions, and Identity in the Renaissance

10:20 – 10:40 Coffee break

10:40 – 11:30
 Katharine Fletcher (Sussex)
Blind Vision, Uncertain Knowing and Active Passivity: Cognition and Subjectivity in Milton's Epistemology

11:30 – 12:20
 Isabel Karremann (LMU)
A Passion for the Past: Nostalgia on the Early Modern Stage

12:20 – 14:30 Lunch
 (free to make own arrangements)

Religion, Devotion, Theology

14:30 – 15:20
 Katrin Ettenhuber (Cambridge)
'Selfe-love is the Roote of All Sins': Regulating the Devotional Subject in Donne and Augustine

15:20 – 16:10
Joseph Moshenska (Cambridge)
A Sensible Feeling, Touching and Groping: Metaphor and Sensory Experience in the English Reformation.

16:10 – 16:40 Tea break

16:40 – 17:30
Adrian Streete (QUB)
Religion, Politics, and Subjectivity in Phillip Massinger's 'The Emperor of the East'

17:30 Reception (CAS)

Tuesday 25 October

Politics, Affects, Friendship

9:30 – 10:20
Ioannis Evrigenis (Tufts)
Not Truth but Image Maketh Passion: Hobbes on Instigation and Appeasing

10:20 – 10:40 Coffee break

10:40 – 11:30
Freya Sierhuis (LMU)
Sovereign Subjects: Friendship in the Work of Fulke Greville

11:30 – 12:20
Felicity Green (Cambridge) *Montaigne's Soul: Passions and Freedom in the Essais*

12:20 – 13:30 Lunch (CAS)

Philosophy & the Early Modern Passions

13:30 – 14:20
Daniella Jancsó (LMU)
Passionate Reasoning in Shakespeare and Wittgenstein

14:20 – 15:10
Björn Quiring (LMU)
'The Greatest Share of Endless Pain': The Spectral Sacramentality of Pain in Milton's 'Paradise Lost'

15:10 – 15:30 Tea break

15:30 – 16:20
Stephan Laqué (LMU/Heidelberg)
Not Passion's Slave: Hamlet, Emotion and Agency

16:20 – 17:15
Concluding Discussion

19:30 Conference Dinner

International Conference
Passions and Subjectivity in Early Modern Culture



23 – 25 October 2011
Organized by Freya Sierhuis (LMU)

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