Centre for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, Monash University

Is hosting an ANZAMEMS sponsored Postgraduate and Advanced Training Seminar

Sat. 25 October 2014 9.30-4.30pm

Premises of ACJC, 8th floor, Building H, Monash University (Caulfield Campus)

**Political ideas and medieval texts: methodologies and resources**

Historical, literary and religious texts are often embedded, implicitly or explicitly, with assumptions about the political order, thus defining issues of social class and gender. Even before the great flowering of political debate in the seventeenth century, there were ways of challenging the established the order or of responding to perceived threats to existing structures. This workshop offers an opportunity for postgraduate and early career researchers in Australia and New Zealand, whose work touches on the relationship between political ideas and various kinds of medieval or renaissance/early modern text (whether chronicle, letters, literature, sermons or speculative reflection) to share their research with three leading scholars, who will reflect on various methodologies and potential resources (both digital and non-digital) that they find useful. The seminar will also be of potential interest to those working more generally in issues of political criticism, gender, theory and culture. The emphasis will be on both providing a forum for postgrads to present their research and get feedback on what they are doing, and on learning about methodologies and resources from three established scholars, each engaged in different ways with political ideas in different universities in Australia and New Zealand.

ANZAMEMS is the professional association for all researchers involved in medieval and early modern studies within Australasia. The goal of this PATS is to promote interaction between postgrads and early career researchers in Australia and New Zealand, as well as to introduce them to researchers with whom they may not normally be in contact. Registration is open to all, but in particular to postgrads and early career researchers.

**Presenters**

**Dr Chris Jones** (Dept of History, University of Canterbury, Christchurch, NZ). Chris is a Senior Lecturer in Medieval History at the University of Canterbury, New Zealand where he has taught since 2006. He holds an MA and a PhD from the University of Durham and a Licence in Mediaeval Studies from the Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies, Toronto. His research focuses on the relationship between political ideas and the writing of history in late medieval France. His publications include *Eclipse of Empire? Perceptions of the Western Empire and Its Rulers in Late Medieval France* (Brepols, 2007) and the edited volume *John of Paris: Beyond Royal and Papal Power* (Brepols, forthcoming). He has also developed a number of online projects and exhibitions connected with holdings in New Zealand libraries, including the creation of a digital version of the Southern Hemisphere’s only medieval genealogical roll.

**Dr Clare Monagle** (School of Philosophical, Historical & International Studies, Monash University). Clare received her doctorate from the Johns Hopkins University in 2007. She is currently a Senior Lecturer in the School of Philosophical, Historical and International Studies at Monash University. Clare published *Orthodoxy and Controversy in Twelfth-Century Religious Discourse: Peter Lombard’s Sentences and the Development of Theology* with Brepols in 2013. She has published articles in *Parergon, Viator, postmedieval, Culture, theory and Critique, The Journal of Religious History,*and, *Medioevo*. With Dr. Juanita Ruys, she is the co-editor of the forthcoming *A Cultural History of the Emotions in the Middle Ages, 350-1300.*

**Dr Kriston Rennie** (Dept of History, University of Queensland). Kriston is a Senior Lecturer in Medieval History at the University of Queensland. He holds degrees from the University of Lethbridge, the University of St Andrews, King’s College London, and the Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies in Toronto. He specializes in church councils, canon law, and the history of papal legation, with a particular interest in France during the eleventh and twelfth centuries. His current research examines freedom and protection in medieval monasteries through the lens of papal exemption privileges. He is the author of *The Foundations of Medieval Papal Legation* (Palgrave, 2013), *The ‘Collectio Burdegalensis’: A Study and Register of an Eleventh-Century Canon Law Collection* (PIMS, 2013), and *Law and Practice in the Age of Reform: The Legatine Work of Hugh of Die (1073–1106)* (Brepols, 2010), in addition to numerous articles and book reviews.

**Prof. Paul Salzman** (Dept of English, La Trobe University), author *inter alia* of Reading early modern women's writing (Oxford University Press, 2006) and *Literature and Politics in the 1620s. ‘Whispered Counsels’* (Palgrave MacMillan, 2014), will also introduce a symposium **Literature/Politics. Early Modern/Modern. Britain/Australia** being held at the La Trobe University, City Campus (Franklin St) on **Friday 31 Oct**. For further information, contact P.Salzman@latrobe.edu.au. He supplies the following synopsis of the event:

This symposium will consider the nexus between literature (in its broadest sense) and politics (ditto), in early modern Britain and contemporary Australia. It is designed to be a freewheeling discussion, but short papers/talks are invited, from 10 to 15 minutes, on any even remotely relevant topic. Some issues I would like to canvass include: How the culture and history wars in Australia shaped conceptions of pedagogy, national identity and political debate, under the Howard years and perhaps now again under Abbott. Does the acute consciousness in early modern Britain about how literature could be read constantly as political translate into recent Australian texts, especially within indigenous writing? *Or*, does current Australian literature reflect the failure of sophistication within general political discourse, compared to the heyday of Frank Hardy or Dorothy Hewett? During the seventeenth century, satire and poetic libels became potent political weapons; do the equivalent genres in Australia offer the same hope for an interventionist or oppositional culture? Are debates over how to understand early modern drama in political terms (examples of containment, or of potent opposition?) relevant to the strong political current in Australian drama (Hewett, Sewell, even David Williamson’s most recent play)? Many other questions will I hope be raised. My own talk will be on Libels directed at James I and Charles I compared to the misogynistic ‘satirical’ attack on Julia Gillard. Please let me know if you would like to participate and especially if you would be prepared to offer a talk/paper. I expect to publish proceedings through the La Trobe University Library as Open Access.

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**For all applicants:**

1. Surname:

2. First name:

3. Email address:

4. Postal address:

5. Phone:

6. Institution:

**For postgraduate students:**

7. Thesis topic:

8. Supervisor/s:

9. Date of commencement:

**For early career researchers:**

10. Research interests:

**For all applicants:**

11. Give a brief statement explaining how this PATS will enhance your research:

**For bursary applicants (postgraduates or early career researchers; members of ANZAMEMS only)** Tick box to indicate ‘Yes’ ☐

12. I am applying for a bursary (up to A$500 from NZ & WA, up to A$300 from elsewhere in Australia) to attend the PATS ☐

13. I have attached a brief academic CV, giving evidence of my enrolment as a (prospective) postgrad (or of ECR status, 5 years from obtaining a PhD) and need for financial assistance

14. I have attached a reference from my supervisor/s ☐

Accomodation is at individual’s expense. A convenient possibility, however, is to book accomodation in a service apartment, of easy access to Monash Caulfield campus,

at http://www.darlingtowers.com.au/South-Yarra/Location/South-Yarra.html

Applications close on **15 September 2014.**

Enquiries and completed application forms should be forwarded to the convenors, Prof. Constant J. Mews, constant.mews@monash.edu, and/or Dr Megan Cassidy-Welch, megan.cassidy-welch@monash.edu, School of Philosophical, Historical and International Studies, Monash University (Clayton Campus), VIC 3800.