

LANGUAGE AND AGENCY FROM MEDIEVAL TO EARLY MODERN

CFP: Due August 10, 2018

Nearly a decade ago, Ardis Butterfield proposed that “we cannot understand Englishness without seeking to understand what was then its superior cultural other of Frenchness”.¹ She also argued for the “strangely elusive” notion of medieval Englishness, where “we find ourselves in a verbal world that is both fragmented and plural, where audiences are not merely ‘English’, but multilingual (in varying degrees), partly local, partly international, and from more than one social, cultural, and intellectual background.”² How do medieval or early modern texts engage with relationships between language(s) and agency? How might gender or education, religious or otherwise, play a part in writers’ engagement with different kinds of agency? How might language(s) grant or withhold agency? What is different or indeed similar between medieval and early modern engagements with language and agency?

Proposals are invited for 20-minute papers on any aspect of the relationship between language and agency across the medieval and early modern periods. Work that either reconsiders canonical literature in a new light, or engages with non-canonical literature, is particularly welcome.

Topics may include, but are not limited to:

- Multiple languages within a text or across an author’s work
- Language and agency in political, religious, or legal documents
- Relationships between gender and agency and/or language
- Relationships between accessibility and agency
- Relationships between religious language and agency
- Medieval or early modern education

We are committed to ANZAMEMS’ stance on equity and diversity and hope to have a diverse group of panellists.

Please email your completed proposal to BOTH mgerzic@gmail.com and jennifer.nicholson@sydney.edu.au by **August 10, 2018**.

When submitting a proposal, you will need to include the following information:

- Name
- Affiliation (if any)
- Preferred email
- Is there a day(s) of the conference on which you will NOT be able to give your paper? (The committee will work to accommodate your request.)
- Do you have any audiovisual requirements?
- Abstract (up to 300 words)

This panel will convene at the ANZAMEMS conference on 5-8 February 2019 at the University of Sydney, Australia. Please visit <https://anzamemsconference2019.wordpress.com/> for further conference information as needed.

¹ Ardis Butterfield, “Chaucerian Vernaculars,” *Studies in the Age of Chaucer* 31 (2009): 25-51 (at 51).

² Ardis Butterfield, *The Familiar Enemy: Chaucer, language, and nation in the Hundred Years War* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009), 101.