



Part of The Westminster Tournament Roll, (1511), vellum roll, College of Arms.

WORKSHOP

Royal Spectacle and Court Performance: Medieval and Early Modern Perspectives

UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE



THURSDAY 21 SEPTEMBER 2023 | 9:30-17:30
INGKARNI WARDLI 7.15 CONFERENCE ROOM
NORTH TERRACE CAMPUS

Royalty has often been accompanied by spectacle, ritual, and excess. Monarchs have exploited public space to exert authority, express anger or encourage love, deploying high-profile and fantastic rituals or displays to communicate with their publics. Clothing, accessories, gifts, food, and other materials have been used to build friendships, negotiate social hierarchies, or to convey displeasure. Art, statuary, monuments and buildings, as well as the more ephemeral prints, ribbons, or household goods, have been used as propaganda and to further a performance of power. Art and material goods were often part of elaborate performances at court, on stage, in the press, or on the street, where spectacle was embodied and communicated as identity, power and privilege. Such activities were replete with emotion, as courtiers sought to build or negotiate relationships, encourage awe or affection, and promote appreciation of systems of monarchical power and divine right. This workshop explores royal spectacles and court performances in the medieval and early modern world and now calls for papers that speak to this theme.



Organisers: Katie Barclay,
Paula Plastić, Claire Walker,
and Grace Waye-Harris



The Fay Gale Centre for
Research on Gender



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9:30-10:00 **Welcome**

10:00-11:00 **Keynote**

The Politics of the Forest: Nature, passion and women in the Bastille festival of 1518 | Susan Broomhall, Australian Catholic University

11:00-11:30 **Tea**

11:30-13:00 **Panel 1**

Sartorial Spectacle: Katherine of Aragon, Spanish Fashion, and the Field of the Cloth of Gold | Grace Waye-Harris, University of Adelaide

Mary I's Image as a Tudor Royal and Successor, 1542-1553 | Emily Chambers, University of Nottingham

Margarita de Austria (1584-1611): The Construction of a Royal Woman | Paula Plastić, University of Adelaide

13:00-14:00 **Lunch**

14:00-15:30 **Panel 2**

Silence, and gasps in Royal Spectacle | Dolly MacKinnon, The University of Queensland

Space, Sound and Taste: Royal Spectacle and Early Modern English Nuns in Paris | Claire Walker, University of Adelaide

"Stinks of mud, many horses": Gender and the Environmental Aftermath of Tudor Spectacle and Court Performance | Sally Fischer, Australian Catholic University

15:00-16:00 **Break**

16:00-17:30 **Panel 3**

"No one danced like a king." Court performances and amusements as a form of gaining political loyalty on the example of the 18th-century Wettins Court in Dresden | Anna Penkała-Jastrzębska and Urszula Kicińska, Pedagogical University of Cracow (Poland)

Dwarfism in the art and spectacle of the court in Habsburg Spain | Katherine Mair, University of Newcastle

The city as stage in Medici Florence | Katrina Grant, Australian National University



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