Religion and Identity in the Reformation Era: The English Case

Peter Marshall

This session aims to explore the changing relationship between religious faith and various forms of personal, political and social identity during the Reformation period. The focus will be on sixteenth-century England, though the extent to which England should be considered unusual or exceptional is an issue to consider. The Reformation was an era of religious controversy and debate, but its outcome, in England and many other places, was not simply the replacement of one religious establishment with another. Rather, the Reformation fundamentally changed ways of ‘being religious’, and in the process it – arguably – laid the foundations of modern society.

The session will start with a presentation from Peter Marshall, drawing on some of the material from his recent book. It will focus in particular on three themes: official drives to define and secure conformity; the repression and punishment of dissent; and attempts to shape and control language and discourse. The second part of the session will be an open discussion of issues raised by the talk and by students’ own independent preparatory reading. We will look to address some or all of the following questions:

* Why was pluralism, rather than uniformity, a principal outcome of the Reformation in England?
* Does the ‘confessionalization model’ have applicability to the English scene?
* In what ways did language and terminology shape religious identity?
* How did the meaning of ‘religion’ change as a result of the Reformation?

***Recommended Reading***

*Introductory and Orientation*

Felicity Heal, *Reformation in Britain and Ireland* (Oxford, 2003), esp. Introduction

Christopher Haigh, *English Reformations: Religion, Politics, and Society under the Tudors* (Oxford, 1993)

Diarmaid MacCulloch, *The Later Reformation in England* (1990 and 2nd ed. 2002)

Peter Marshall, ‘England’, in D. M. Whitford (ed.), Reformation and Early Modern Europe: A Guide to Research (Kirksville, MO, 2008)

-----------, The Reformation: A Very Short Introduction (2009)

-----------, ‘(Re)defining the English Reformation’, Journal of British Studies, 48 (2009)

-----------, *Reformation England 1480-1642* (2nd edition, London, 2012)

-----------,  (ed.), The Oxford Illustrated History of the Reformation (2015), esp chapter on ‘Britain’s Reformations’

-----------, ‘Settlement Patterns: The Church of England, 1553-1603’, in A. Milton (ed.), The Oxford History of Anglicanism, Volume I: Reformation and Identity, c. 1520-1662 (Oxford, 2017)

-----------, *Heretics and Believers: A History of the English Reformation* (2017), esp. ‘Preface’

Richard Rex, *Henry VIII and the English Reformation* (Basingstoke, 1993, 2nd edition, 2006)

Alec Ryrie (ed), Palgrave Advances in the European Reformations (2006), esp. chapter by Ryrie on ‘The British Isles’

--------------, *The Age of Reformation: The Tudor and Stewart Realms, 1485-1603* (London, 2009; 2nd edition, 2017)

Robert Scribner et al. (eds), The Reformation in National Context (Cambridge,1994), esp. chapter by Collinson

*Confessionalization*

Patrick Collinson, ‘The Politics of Religion and the Religion of Politics in Elizabethan England’, *Historical Research*, 82, (2009), 74-92

John M. Headley, Hans J. Hillerbrand, and Anthony J. Paplas (eds), Confessionalization in Europe, 1555-1700: Essays in Honor and Memory of Bodo Nischan (Aldershot, 2004)

Ute Lotz-Heumann, ‘Confessionalization’, in David M. Whitford, ed. *Reformation and Early Modern Europe: A Guide to Research* (Kirksville, MO, 2008)

Peter Marshall, ‘Confessionalization, Confessionalism and Confusion in the English Reformation’, in Thomas Mayer (ed.), Reforming Reformation (Farnham, 2012), 43-64

Wolfgang Reinhard, ‘Pressures towards Confessionalization? Prolegomena to a Theory of the Confessional Age’, in C. S. Dixon (ed.), The German Reformation: The Essential Readings (1999)

*Language and Discourse*

Patrick Collinson, ‘Ecclesiastical Vitriol: Religious Satire in the 1590s and the Invention of Puritanism’, in John Guy, ed. *The Reign of Elizabeth I: Court and Culture in the Last Decade* (Cambridge, 1995), pp. 150-70

------------, ‘Antipuritanism’, in John Coffey and Paul Lim, eds. *The Cambridge Companion to Puritanism* (Cambridge, 2008), pp. 19-33

Peter Marshall, ‘Is the Pope Catholic? Henry VIII and the Semantics of Schism’, in E. Shagan (ed.), Catholics and the Protestant Nation: Religious Politics and Identity in Early Modern England (Manchester, 2005); also in Peter Marshall, *Religious Identities in Henry VIII’s England* (Aldershot, 2006)

-------------, ‘The Naming of Protestant England’, *Past and Present*, 214 (2012), pp. 87-128

*Identities and meanings of religion*

John Bossy, Christianity in the West, 1400-1700 (Oxford, 1985), esp. Conclusion

Eamon Duffy, *The Stripping of the Altars: Traditional Religion in England 1400-1580* (New Haven and London, 1992), esp. chap. 17

Thomas S. Freeman and Thomas F. Mayer (eds), *Martyrs and Martyrdom in England, c. 1400-1700* (Woodbridge, 2007)

Brad Gregory, *Salvation at Stake: Christian Martyrdom in Early Modern Europe*. (Cambridge, MA, 1999)

Susan Wabuda, ‘Equivocation and Recantation during the English Reformation: the “Subtle Shadows” of Dr Edward Crome’, *Journal of Ecclesiastical History*, 44, (1993), pp. 224-42.

Alexandra Walsham, *Church Papists: Catholicism, Conformity and Confessional Polemic in Early Modern England* (Woodbridge, 1993)