

Community Study Day

Propaganda: Refashioning 'the self and the other' in times of War, Expansion and Migration

Friday 20th September 2024

Schedule

10-10.50am: Session one, [Tim Clark](#), Church Historian of St. Mary's (Warwick)

11-12noon: Session two, [Mathilde Alain](#)

12-1pm: Lunch break

1-1.50pm: Session three, [Professor Penny Roberts](#):

2-3pm: Session four, [Dr Chloe Fairbanks](#)

3-3.30pm: conclusions and discussion

Abstracts:

Session one, (Tim Clark)

'Self and identity through art in fourteenth and fifteenth century'. Images of self and identity are designed to evoke a response in viewers, to change or reinforce their attitudes in favour of the subject. Such images were rare in the post-classical era, and Giotto is credited with its first portrait, that of Nicolas Scrovegni in his *Last Judgment* in the Cappella Scrovegni, Padua (1306). But self and identity could be promoted in many ways other than painting, such as heraldry, badges, architecture, sculpture and tombs. This session will discuss how such promotion evolved in England in the period 1350 to 1500, from innocent requests for prayers for the soul to overt political statements. It will end with an examination of what can be considered to be the ultimate expression of self and identity in fifteenth century England, incorporating all of the elements discussed in the seminar, the magnificent Beauchamp chapel at St Mary's Warwick.

Session two, (Mathilde Alain)

'Print and Portuguese Propaganda: Supporting Portuguese Overseas Expansion during the Reign of King Dom Manuel I of Portugal (1495-1521)'. This session examines Portuguese royal propaganda policy in relation to Portuguese overseas expansion during the reign of King Dom Manuel I (1495-1521). At the time, Portuguese royal policy was very much oriented towards the West, and in particular towards Asia. Indeed, King Dom Manuel hoped that sending Portuguese ships to Asia would greatly benefit the Portuguese economy; he was also keen to conquer Jerusalem and defeat the Muslims. However, a section of Portuguese society was not enthusiastic about what they saw as a risky venture. In addition to their support, Dom Manuel also needed the support and legitimacy of the papacy. In order to support and legitimise the Portuguese campaign of expansion in the Indies, Dom Manuel I pursued a policy of propaganda in Europe. Much of this propaganda was made possible by the printing press, which was used to publicise Portugal's progress in the Indian Ocean. We will look at a handful of Portuguese prints from this period, in both Latin and Portuguese, to analyse the ways in which Dom Manuel orchestrated propaganda, with a focus on religious propaganda.

Session three, (Penny Roberts)

'Propaganda during the French religious wars'. The coincidence of the expansion of print with the advent of the Reformation facilitated a propaganda war between Protestants and Catholics across Europe. In the case of the religious conflicts in France, this resulted not only in attacks by each confession on the other, but also against individuals such as members of the Guise and Coligny families, the queen mother, Catherine de Medici, and even the king himself, especially by the Catholic League on Henri III. This propaganda war thus fed not only rebellion, but even regicide. In this session, we will explore various aspects of the use of propaganda in France through prints, treatises, sermons and poetry, and consider its contribution to the conflict.

Session four, Chloe Fairbanks

'Stranger companies': transcultural encounters on the early modern stage' Historical cultural difference, foreignness, and (im)migrant experience is overwhelmingly interpreted through metanarratives of xenophobia that fail to register the lived experience of ordinary people. This session will reconsider how early modern London assimilated difference across its shifting class structures rather than resist it as commonly assumed, offering a timely alternative to the harmful perception of xenophobia as foundational to British identity.