



Research Seminar

Prof. Antonella Romano, Dr. Richard Kirwan (MWF)

Mondays 17.15-19.15 – Sala Belvedere

Places, Practices and Objects of Knowledge in Early Modern Europe

This programme invites participants to consider the symbolic, staged, spatial and material history of knowledge in early modern Europe. Although it deals with knowledge and knowing, the programme will not focus on history of ideas or their exchange and mobilisation. Rather it will address the importance of knowledge as a signifier, feature and mechanism of social power. It will concern itself with the role of systems of knowing in the management and negotiation of agency in society and in regulating structures of power. The links between power and knowledge would seem to be obvious. The charismatic potency of learning and of its carriers would seem to be similarly self-evident. In an early modern context the social power of knowledge was in large part derived from its staging and representation. Its political and social utility often depended on its visibility beyond a purely intellectual sphere, upon its symbolic, semiotic and material formulation. In this seminar programme we will probe the manner in which knowledge was fashioned, staged and exploited as a social and political instrument. Specifically we will address the charismatic staging of knowledge in the spheres of practice, object and space. In doing so, the course will also address the nature of sources for the cultural and social history of knowledge and assess strategies for their analysis and interpretation. Some of the sessions will host presentations by the researchers and some outstanding guests.

Monday 11th of January. *Introductory session*

Readings:

- Weber, Max, 'The Pure Types of Legitimate Authority' in *Max Weber on charisma and institution building : selected papers* edited by S. N. Eisenstadt, (Chicago, 1968), 46-7
- Foucault, Michel, 'Science and Knowledge' from *The Archaeology of Knowledge*, translated by A.M. Sheridan Smith (London, 2002), 196-215
- Bourdieu, Pierre (1975) 'The Specificity of the Scientific Field and the Social Conditions of the Progress of Reason', *Social Science Information* 14(6): 19-47

Monday 18th of January. *Scholarly practices and performativity.*

Readings:

- Thomas Nashe, *The Unfortunate Traveller and Other Works* (Harmondsworth, 1978), 291-99 [extract presenting a satirical view of academic practices at Wittenberg, mid-16th century]
- Clark, William, 'The Lecture and the Disputation,' in *Academic Charisma and the Origins of the Research University* (Chicago, 2006), 68-92

Monday 25th of January. *Knowledge based practices of resistance*

Readings:

- A. Romano, « Pratiques d'enseignement et orthodoxie intellectuelle en milieu jésuite », in S. Elm, E. Rebillard, A. Romano, *Orthodoxy, christianity, history*, Rome, 2000, p. 241-260.
- Canny, Nicholas, 'The Formation of the Irish Mind: Religion, Politics and Gaelic Irish Literature 1580-1750' in *Past and Present* 1982, no. 95, 91-116



Monday 1st of February. *Knowledge, ritual practice and political order*

Readings:

- Marcelo Fabian Figueroa, *Natural history, Collecting Practices and Colonial Power: The Malaspina Expedition in the River Plata (1789)*, Harvard Paper, 2009
- Sarah Hanley, 'Legend, Ritual, and Discourse in the *Lit de Justice* Assembly: French Constitutional Ideology, 1527-1641,' in *Rites of Power. Symbolism, Ritual, and Politics Since the Middle Ages*, edited by Sean Wilentz (Philadelphia, 1985), 65-106

Monday 8th of February. *Spaces of knowledge: the university and college.*

Readings:

- A. Romano, "Mathematics and Philosophy at Trinità dei Monti: Emmanuel Maignan and his Legacy between Rome and France", in J. Krayer and M.P. Donato ed., *Conflicting Duties*, Warburg Institute Colloquia 15, 2009, p. 181-204.

Monday 15th of February. *Spaces of knowledge: the library and archive.*

C. Jacob (EHESS, Centre Louis Gernet, Paris), Introduction to the Project *Les lieux de savoir*

P. Molino (EUI, HEC), *Blotius's Library in Viena*

Readings:

Randolph C. Head, "Mirroring governance: archives, inventories and political knowledge in early modern Switzerland and Europe", *Archival Science*, Vol. 7, No. 4 (2007):317–329

Monday 22nd of February. *The book as an object of knowledge. I*

Readings:

- Jackson, Ian, "Approaches to the History of Readers and Reading in Eighteenth-Century Britain", in *The Historical Journal*, Volume 47, Issue 04, 2004, p. 1041-1054
- Kenny, Neil, 'Books in Space and Time: Bibliomania and Early Modern Histories of Learning and "Literature" in France' in *Modern Language Quarterly* 61:2 (2000), 253-86

Monday 1st of March. *The book as an object of knowledge. II The Renaissance Moment*

Valentina Sebastiani (IUE, HEC), *About Froben, Erasmus' printer*

Monday the 8th of March. *Non-textual objects of knowledge.*

Angelo Cattaneo, *About Ricci's Mappamundi*