

32. Internationaler Wolfenbütteler Sommerkurs

Reassessing Intellectual History: Passions and Virtues in Early Modern Europe (8th – 21st July 2007)

Organizers: Martin van Gelderen (Florenz), Brian Cummings (Sussex)

Deadline for applications: 31st March 2007

Content and programme:

In the past decades intellectual history has flourished. A new set of approaches, from the Cambridge School to New Historicism and the varieties of conceptual history, have rejuvenated the field, moving well beyond the remnants of old *Geistesgeschichte*, of the classical history of ideas. The aim of this summer school is to reassess recent developments in intellectual history, as a distinctly interdisciplinary field of studies, standing at the crossroads of history, literature, philosophy, politics and religion.

The Wolfenbüttel summer school will bring together an international and distinctly interdisciplinary group of scholars, interested in particular in the relationships between history, literature and religion. Together these scholars will focus firstly on the philosophical debates that have characterised intellectual history so strongly, from the debates on intentionality, the importance of agency and/or structure, on whether to study concepts or speech acts, on how to do contextualisation, up to the challenges from some of the post-modern approaches to the study of literature and history.

Combining debates on 'theory' with 'practice', the main focus of the summer school is on one of the key themes of modern intellectual history, the study of passions and virtues in early modern history. Put in a nutshell, the course will explore how artists, philosophers, pamphleteers and politicians addressed the relation between human passions and moral and political virtues--moving from sixteenth century debates on conscience, to seventeenth century theories of passions and virtues, finishing with the eighteenth century debates on passions and politeness.

The programme includes sessions on:

- Conscience and Passions from Thomas More to John Milton (Brian Cummings, Sussex)
- Hot Protestantism (Peter Lake, Princeton)
- Law and Poetry; Passions and Virtues (Annabel Brett, Cambridge)
- The Passions and Virtues of Republicanism (Martin van Gelderen, Florence)
- The Passions of Joost van den Vondel (Frans Willem Korsten, Leiden)
- Empire and Passion (Eva Botella Ordinas, Harvard)
- Adam Smith's Theory of Moral Sentiments (Nick Phillipson, Edinburgh)
- British Passions and Politeness (Iain Hampsher-Monk, Exeter)

Applications:

The course consists of taught seminars, workshops and discussions; participants will also have an opportunity to present their own research projects. The library offers free accommodation and breakfast for twenty advanced or graduate students from Germany and abroad. There is no additional fee. The course will be held in English.

Letters of application (including your curriculum vitae, a description of your course of study and research and a letter of reference from one of your university teachers) should be submitted by **31st March 2007** to the address below. There are no forms.

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