

WOMEN OF THE BOOK

A Conference on the Spiritual Lives of Early Modern Women

SEPTEMBER 6-7, 2019, JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY, HOMEWOOD CAMPUS

From psycho-spiritual autobiographers, bi-locating nuns, and rock-star-status mystics, to the hidden careers of women printers and engravers and miracle-makers—this interdisciplinary conference explores JHU's recently acquired "Women of the Book" collection of over 425 rare books and manuscripts on early modern nuns, 1450-1800. Together they illuminate lives actively and creatively lived by early modern women religious within and beyond the cloister. Free from traditional family and spousal constraints, and wed to a spiritual life of the mind, these women changed the world and, through their unique access to print, permanently preserved their contributions to history.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

Steven Muller Space Telescope Bldg. Auditorium,
3700 San Martin Drive, Homewood Campus

8:45-9 a.m., Coffee reception

9-10:30, **BOOKS & LIBRARIES**
(Chair: Earle Havens, JHU)

Kelsey Champagne (Yale), "Women, Catholicism and Print Culture: Themes and Materials in the Women of the Book Collection"

Johan Oosterman (Radboud U. Nijmegen),
"Reading with Leave: Private Readers in the Augustinian Convent Library of Soeterbeeck"

10:30-10:45, Coffee break

10:45-12:15, **LIVES & LEARNING**
(Chair, Maria Portuondo, JHU)

Simon Ditchfield (York), "Texts in Motion: Saints' Lives in the Making of Roman Catholicism as a World Religion"

Charlene Villaseñor Black (UCLA), "Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz and the Dangers of Intellectual Desire"

12:15-2, Lunch break

2-3:30, **MODELS & MIRACLES**
(Chair, Erin Rowe, JHU)

Alison Weber (UVA), "Catherine of Siena and Teresa of Avila: (Re)Modeling a Saint"

Carlos Eire (Yale), "Maria de Agreda and Her Miraculous Otherworldly Book"

3:30-3:45, Coffee break

3:45-5:15, **IMAGES & NETWORKS**
(Chair, Aaron Hyman, JHU)

Cristina Cruz González (Oklahoma State),
"Mystics, Miracles, and Mimesis: Female Piety and the Hagiographic Image in the Spanish World"

Marilyn Dunn (Loyola, Chicago), "Suor Maria Isabella Colonna, Women's Spiritual Networks, and the Convent of SS. Rosario in Marino"

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

Macksey Seminar Room, 2043, Brody Learning Commons, Homewood Campus

8:45-9 a.m., Coffee reception

9-10:30, **PERFORMANCE & CONVERSION**
(Chair, Anne Lester JHU)

Mita Choudhury (Vassar), "Visitandine Convents and the Performance of Faith in Early Modern France"

Daniella Kostroun (IUPUI, Indianapolis),
"Converting Protestants and Indians: The Rouen Ursulines in the Atlantic World"

10:30-10:45, Coffee break

10:45-12:15, **POLEMIC & PROPHECY**
(Chair, Elizabeth Patton, JHU)

Victor Houlston (U. of the Witwatersrand)
"Words for Women Perhaps: Robert Persons and his Female Readers"

Carme Font (U. Autònoma de Barcelona),
"Conscience Matters: A Transversal Approach to Early Modern Women's Prophecy"

12:15-12:45, **FINAL ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION**
(Earle Havens, Aaron Hyman, Anne Lester, Erin Rowe)



This conference has been generously co-sponsored by the Charles S. Singleton Center for the Study of Premodern Europe; the Alexander Grass Humanities Institute; the Department of History; and the Winston Tabb Special Collections Research Center, Sheridan Libraries, Johns Hopkins University. For additional information, please contact: earle.havens@jhu.edu.

Image: Detail of Barbara Moreel with 11 of her 13 daughters and St. Barbara, from Hans Memling, Moreel Triptych, 1484, Groeningemuseum, Bruges.

