

THIRTEENTH SYMPOSIUM ON GENDER AND WOMEN

Processing Gender in Law and Other Literatures

Law and literature—the domains of legal discourse and imaginative writing—are commonly viewed as separate disciplines in early modern studies. Because of its native proximity to the juridical, penal, and regulatory mechanisms of early modernity’s social and political orders, law is mobilized more readily than the imaginative literatures of the era as an unmediated resource for evidence of the historical real. Yet recent critical developments in both legal and literary studies have prompted wide-ranging inquiries into the shifting boundary between the legal, the poetic or fictive, and the real in early modern cultures. This symposium examines several ways in which the question of gender shapes and is shaped by early modern traversals of that boundary.

How does the “Englishing” of law that claims its patrimony from Roman, Salic, and other sources translate foreign practices and perceptions into local versions of womanhood? How did legal discourses, attempting to manage unruly sexualities, comprehend the various social and sexual practices of masculine communities? What are the literary, lawful, and social consequences of a canon such as contract law that systematically suppresses challenges to it by gender, race, and other legal impairments to the capacity to consent? How does the pastoral genre, including its current associations with the feminine, help to shape the apprehension of the ideal republic? How might narratives of rape, viewed through the lens of early modern stories of Helen of Troy, be understood as theorizing the law? How do the intricacies of witchcraft trials make visible the interpenetrating relations between performance understood both as trope and as essential component of legal meaning? How do misogynist discourses, triangulating attacks on female rule, anti-monarchical tracts, and ideals of the commonwealth, paradoxically intensify the rise of republicanism? In the aftermath of the Civil War, how do women’s own uses of legal discourses register and expand female claims to “natural” law and rights?

Processing Gender brings together leading scholars exploring such questions at the intersections of early modern legal practices, literary production, and social life.

The image used on this brochure is Sir Thomas Lucy III of Charlecote (1585-1640) with his wife, Alice Spencer, and family, painted originally by Cornelius Johnson around 1625. The oil on canvas painting hangs at Charlecote in Warwickshire, the ancestral home of the Lucy family and may be a copy of a destroyed original.

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Processing Gender in Law and Other Literatures

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Friday, May 2, 2008 | Royce Hall 314 | UCLA

12:30 Registration, coffee

1:00 Welcoming Remarks

Brian P. Copenhaver, Director, UCLA Center for Medieval & Renaissance Studies

Lowell Gallagher (UCLA) and **Karen Cunningham** (UCLA)
Symposium Co-conveners

1:15 “Rape and Helen of Troy in the 1590s”

Laurie Maguire (Magdalen College, Oxford University)

Moderator: Karen Cunningham (UCLA)

2:15 “Incapable Subjects in the Scene of Contract”

Elizabeth Fowler (University of Virginia)

Moderator: Rebeca Helfer (UC Irvine)

3:15 Break

3:30 “When Women Ruled the World: the Republican Response”

Maureen Quilligan (Duke University)

Moderator: Lowell Gallagher (UCLA)

4:30 Reception for symposium speakers and attendees

Saturday, May 3, 2008 | Royce Hall 314 | UCLA

8:30 Coffee, pastries

9:00 “‘Unlawful Company’ / ‘Good Fellows’: Sodomitical Crimes and Urban Communities in 1607”

Mario DiGangi (Lehman College, and Graduate Center, CUNY)

Moderator: Arthur Little (UCLA)

10:00 “The Witchcraft Trials, Performance, and the Law”

Julie Stone Peters (Columbia University)

Moderator: Mark Rose (UC Santa Barbara)

11:00 Break

11:15 “Foreign Laws and English Women”

Cyndia Clegg (Pepperdine University)

Moderator: Joseph Jenkins (UC Irvine)

12:30 Lunch



2:00 “Gender, Legal Discourse, and Political Writing in England, 1642-1689”

Mihoko Suzuki (University of Miami)

Moderator: Kirstie McClure (UCLA)

3:00 “After Political Theology: Constituting Power and the Problem of the Subject.”

Graham Hammill (University of Notre Dame)

Moderator: Constance Jordan (Claremont Graduate University)

4:00 Concluding Remarks

Lowell Gallagher (UCLA) and **Karen Cunningham** (UCLA)

Symposium Co-conveners

*This symposium was made possible through the generosity of the
UCLA Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies,
UCLA Center for the Study of Women, and
UCLA Department of English.*

Registration: Advance registration required. Seating is limited, available on a first-come, first-served basis. To register, use form below, or contact the Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies at 310-825-1880 or cmrs@humnet.ucla.edu.

Fee: \$10 (Make checks payable to “UC Regents” and submit with the form below.) No charge for full-time undergraduate or graduate students from any institution (ID required), UCLA faculty, staff, or CMRS Associates and Council members.

Buffet Lunch: \$15 per person. Vegetarian selection available. Lunch reservation, with payment, must be received by April 24th. Participants may also purchase lunch on their own from campus food facilities.

Parking: Campus parking permits may be purchased for \$8 on the day of the symposium from any UCLA Parking Services kiosk. Tell the attendant you are here for the “Processing Gender in Law Conference” in Royce Hall.

For more information, please contact the Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies at 310-825-1880 or cmrs@humnet.ucla.edu.



Registration for “Processing Gender in Law and Other Literature”
May 2-3, 2008, Royce Hall 314, UCLA

Name(s) _____

Telephone _____ E-mail _____

Affiliation _____

Faculty: _____ Student: _____ Staff: _____

Lunch Reservations: \$15 per person. ____ number ____ vegetarian?

Payment enclosed: \$ _____ (\$10 registration fee may apply, see above; students: please enclose a photocopy of your student ID). Please make checks payable to “UC Regents”

Return this form, with payment, to:
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