

The cognitive and social sciences are rediscovering the emotions, as a component of deliberation and agency. We act because we are moved. This does not come as a surprise to readers of classical texts. The Ancients could not think of decision-making processes, especially in political circumstances, without including the passions among their causes. Early modern philosophers thought so as well. Passions are actions. Passions are reasons.

From Homer to Aristotle, and again for Niccoló Machiavelli or Thomas Hobbes, human characters enact their most intense feelings in words. Feeling is thinking, often aloud. This occurs not only when *eros* is involved, but when power, authority, and recognition are at stake. The experience of social relations is felt as either gratifying or humiliating, either exhilarating or mortifying. Egalitarian democracy too, by redistributing political agency, reconfigures its emotional experience. Politics is the place where the pleasures and pains derived from recognition, authority, and government find their ultimate expression: patriotic love, anger, or outrage.

This conference, organized by Professor Giulia Sissa (Political Science and Classics, UCLA) will address classical theories in philosophy, tragedy, or literature, and their reception in early-modern culture. It will focus on the cognitive nature of emotions and passions, and their effectiveness for action and deliberation.

Support for this conference has been provided by a generous grant from the Ahmanson Foundation, with additional funding from the UCLA Center for Medieval & Renaissance Studies, the UCLA Vice Chancellor for Research, and the Humanities Division of the UCLA College of Letters and Science. Other sponsors include the UCLA Department of Political Science, the UCLA Department of Italian, the UCLA Department of Germanic Languages, the UCLA Dean of the Social Sciences, the Network for Italian Scholars Abroad, the Casa Italiana Zerilli-Merimó at NYU, and the Istituto Italiano di Scienze Umane (SUM and Fondazione SUM).

This conference is presented in conjunction with "Life! Motions Motives Emotions," a conference on the emotional turn in the Humanities and the Social Sciences.

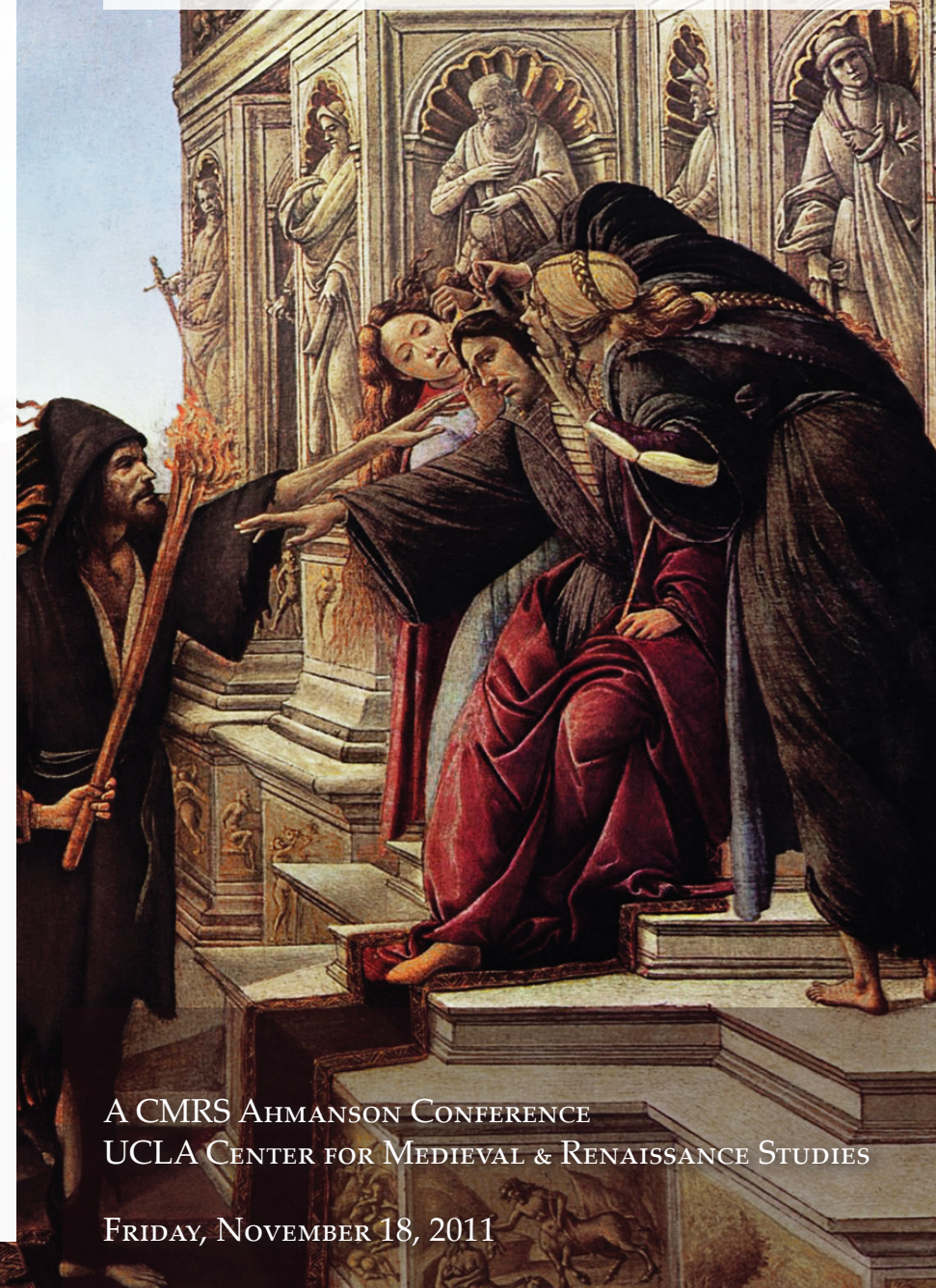
For information about all the events visit <http://lifeconference2011.wordpress.com>

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The Renaissance of the Passions



A CMRS AHMANSON CONFERENCE
UCLA CENTER FOR MEDIEVAL & RENAISSANCE STUDIES

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2011

The Renaissance of the Passions

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9:00-10:30 PLENARY SESSION: *STATES ON STAGE*
ROYCE 314, UCLA

- Giulia Sissa (UCLA), moderator
- 8:30 Registration, Coffee
- 9:00 Welcoming Remarks
Massimo Ciavolella, CMRS Interim Director
Giulia Sissa, Conference Organizer and President,
Network of Italian Scholars Abroad (NISA)
- 9:15 **Davide Susanetti** (Padova), "Outrage and Political Crisis"
- 9:45 **Pietro Pucci** (Cornell University and NISA),
"From Philosophy to Rhetoric to Questionable
Political Action"
- 10:15 Discussion
- 10:30 Break

11:00-1:00 SIMULTANEOUS SESSIONS

ROYCE 314, *EROS, EGOS*

- Moderator to be announced.
- 11:00 **Paolo Fasoli** (Hunter College & NISA), "*Movere et delectare*
on the Libertine Rhetorical Scene"
- 11:30 **Matteo Soranzo** (McGill University & NISA),
"(Re)constructing the Elegiac Self in Aragonese
Naples"
- 12:00 **Shane Butler** (UCLA), "*De profundis*"
- 12:30 Discussion

BUNCHE 4276, *EPISTEMOLOGY*

- Libby Barringer (UCLA), moderator
- 11:00 **Joshua Dienstag** (UCLA), "Interpretation, Language, and
Power"
- 11:30 **Edoardo Zamuner** (La Trobe University, Melbourne, &
NISA), "The Metaphysics of Emotions"
- 12:00 **Andrea Borghini** (College of the Holy Cross & NISA),
"I am, therefore I eat."
- 12:30 Discussion

1:00-2:30 LUNCH
ROYCE 306

2:30-4:30 SIMULTANEOUS SESSIONS

ROYCE 314, *POLITICAL PASSIONS*

- Moderator to be announced.
- 2:30 **Rossella Pescatori** (UCLA & NISA), "Envy: what an Ugly
Beast!"
- 3:00 **Megan Gallagher** (UCLA), "Republican Passions in Cicero
and Machiavelli"
- 3:30 **Charles Stocking** (UCLA), "Anger, Kingship, and the
Primordial Politics of Emotion in Ancient Greece"
- 4:00 **Claudia Zatta** (Northwestern University & NISA),
"Beyond Aristotle: Webs of Emotions in Tragedy"

BUNCHE 4276, *EMOTIONAL COMMUNITIES: DOINGS & UNDOINGS*

- Althea Sircar (UCLA), moderator
- 2:30 **Franco Sciannameo** (Carnegie Mellon University & NISA),
"Mazzini's *Filosofia della musica* (1829): Envisioning
a Social Opera"
- 3:00 **Gaetana Marrone** (Princeton & NISA) "Passionate
Identities and Spectacular Politics in *Diario
napoletano*"
- 3:30 **Damian Stocking** (Occidental College), "Being as Soul,
Being as Hole"
- 4:00 **Vincenzo Pascale** (Rutgers University & NISA),
"Pirandello and the Crisis of Political Participation"

ROYCE 334C, *AESTHETIC EXPERIENCES*

- Rebekah Sterling (UCLA), moderator
- 2:30 **Andrea Fedi** (SUNY Stony Brook & NISA), "The
Vertiginous Delights of Speed: Emotions in
Movement at the Dawn of Automobility (1900-1910)"
- 3:00 **Davide Panagia** (Trent University & NISA), "Ten Theses
for an Aesthetics of Politics"
- 3:30 **Marcello Neri** (Graft & NISA), "Emotions in a Visible
Space"
- 4:00 **Maurizia Boscagli** (UC Santa Barbara & NISA), "The
Aesthetics and Politics of Affect"

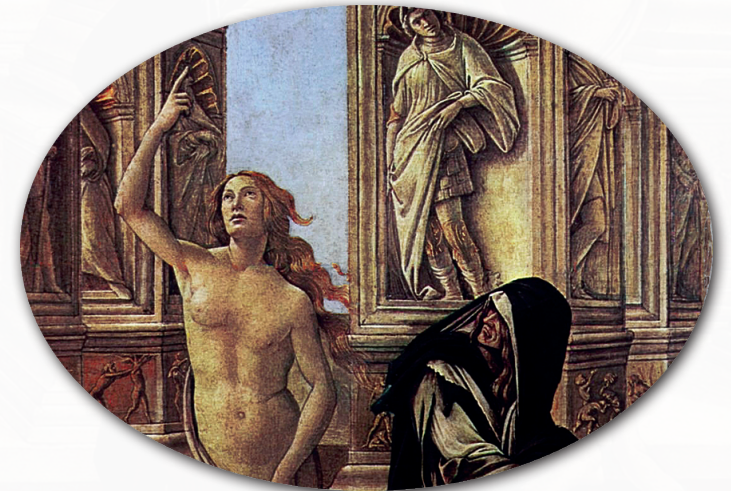
ROYCE 342, *GENDERED PASSIONS*

- Heather Sottong (UCLA), moderator
- 2:30 **Ombretta Frau** (Mount Holyoke College & NISA), "A Tale
of Repressed Passions: Women and the Art of
Silence"
- 3:00 **Cristina Gragnani** (Temple University & NISA), "*Se
ci commuove ha vinto*: the Role of the Emotions in
the (Literary) Campaign for a Divorce Law (1902)"
- 3:30 **Andrea Baldi** (Rutgers University & NISA), "Anna Maria
Ortese's Unsettling Encounters with Marginality"
- 4:00 Discussion

4:30-4:45 COFFEE
ROYCE 314

4:45-6:30 PLENARY SESSION: *PATHOS IN THE POLIS*
ROYCE 314

- Victoria Kahn (UC Berkeley), moderator
- 4:45 **Peter Stacey** (UCLA), "Seneca and Anger"
- 5:15 **Giulia Sissa** (UCLA), "Politics of Pleasure from Athens to
Utopia"
- 5:45 **Anthony Pagden** (UCLA), "Classical Politics of Honor in
the Baroque"



The Calumny of Apelles, Sandro Botticelli (1494)