

Call for Participation: MA and PhD students (History and Medieval Studies)

The Princeton-Oxford-Münster-Budapest-Istanbul Early Modern History Workshop 2016

"Material Exchange in the Early Modern World"

5-9 September, Oxford University

The Departments of Medieval Studies and History invite CEU students with an interest in early modernity to participate in the annual Princeton-Oxford-Münster-Budapest-Istanbul Early Modern Workshop. For further information on the workshop and on how to apply, please contact Prof Jan Hennings on henningsj@ceu.edu before 26 June (deadline).

General Information:

The Early Modern History Workshop is a collaborative research experiment, a week-long summer school in which postgraduate students and early-career researchers from leading universities interrogate current approaches to the discipline of Early Modern History and grapple with pressing methodological questions. The Early Modern History Workshop began in 2011 as an informal initiative between the universities of Princeton, Oxford and Münster. The first workshop was in Oxford, hosted by St John's College's Research Centre; the second workshop was in Münster (2012), the third workshop took place at Princeton (2013). In 2014, the fourth workshop returned to Münster. In its fifth and sixth years, the network expanded to include Sabancı University in Istanbul and CEU in Budapest. Over the past years, this exciting collaboration has evolved from a two-day workshop into a dynamic, responsive week-long summer institute in which postgraduate students, early career researchers and senior scholars have addressed topics such as 'visual cultures', 'global early modernity', 'the city and urbanism' and 'emotional history'. The most recent workshop explored 'religion and belief'. This year, the workshop will return to Oxford to explore 'material exchange in the early modern world'.

Theme: Material Exchange in the Early Modern World

In recent years the field of material history has blossomed, bringing together historians, art historians, anthropologists and literary scholars. Objects have become evidence; historians have learned to 'read things'. The emerging methods of material history have led to new research questions, and the study of textiles, of commerce, and modes of value and exchange have come to sit next to the study of texts, of archival sources and of discourse. But what do these methods mean for our understanding of early modern Europe, where modernity and its precursor – the early modern – have always been understood relative to a fixed body of texts? Material Exchange in the Early Modern World aims to use these new methodologies to rethink and reconsider the questions that have traditionally guided the study of early modern history. By considering objects and their circulation in the pre-modern world, we aim to study Europe as a site of exchange, where the making of, use of and knowledge of materials cut across and united people of different countries, gender, social status and belief.

By bringing together new and established scholars from diverse academic backgrounds, our project promotes knowledge exchange on two major fronts. It interrogates methodology as a serious object of historical inquiry; and it fosters an academic exchange across very different institutional and professional cultures.