

Sixth NNRS Conference

Aarhus 25-27 September 2024

Call for Papers

*Identities in the Early Modern Period*

The Renaissance and early modern period (1350-1750) play a crucial role in the formation of Western identity. It was during these centuries that the notion of Europeanness first appeared, the strong, centralized state emerged, the printing press was invented, linear perspective was first devised, the Lutheran reformation – and the Counter-reformation – took place, and the European vernaculars gained importance alongside Latin, the old lingua franca of the West. Such events, changes, and inventions were not only important in their own right, they also created a wealth of new communities – political, social, cultural, religious, or linguistic – which had acute bearing on how people would define themselves, their identities.

Identities are constructed on various levels; they have personal as well as collective dimensions, and there is power in specifying the identity of a community. Leaders, be they military, political, religious, institutional or other, can consolidate their positions by defining the identity of the members of their community, but in doing so effectively rely much on artists and scholars. As well as top-down, identities can be worked bottom-up, so to speak: actively working to construct an identity for oneself, for instance by means of art and scholarship, can be a way to gain membership or be accepted in a certain group or community.

The Sixth NNRS Conference, organised by the Centre for Danish Neo-Latin, invites scholars of all fields of Renaissance studies to submit proposals for individual papers or sessions considering any aspect of identity in the early modern period. The organisers see ‘identity’ as something multifaceted which may be constructed both from ‘above’ and from ‘below’, as an elitarian project regarding for instance confession or nationhood, or a process that forms the self-conception of individuals or groups. We therefore invite contributions addressing one or both of the processes and list the following possible research questions as inspiration:

- Is identity negotiated on a regional, national and/or international scale? Or on a social or educational scale?
- What role does the past play - history, literary history, mythology? And which past or pasts is/are employed – Personal? National? Local? Supraregional? Others?
- What do terms like ‘home’, ‘patria’, and corresponding terms in Latin or the vernaculars connote? How do texts, images, buildings etc. express notions like ‘them’ and ‘us, ‘away’ and ‘home’?
- Who gets to voice identity communications/discourses? Individuals, groups/communities? How are these voices connected, regionally, nationally and internationally? And socially?
- How do identities relate to power structures and social norms within societies/communities?
- How are intersecting/overlapping identities negotiated (e.g. religious and ‘national’ identities)?
- Does the picture that emerges differ if we examine different media?
- Does the picture that emerges differ if we compare vernacular and Latin texts from the same country or region?
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Please submit your proposal of max 200 words per individual paper as one separate Word file (NOT pdf), containing your name and affiliation, by **31 October 2023**, to Trine Hass ([trine.hass@classics.ox.ac.uk](mailto:trine.hass@classics.ox.ac.uk)) and Marianne Pade ([pade@cas.au.dk](mailto:pade@cas.au.dk)). Proposals for sessions (three papers) should include the title and a session description of max 200 words in addition to the abstracts of the papers.

The conference is part of the research programme of the Centre for Danish Neo-Latin ([cdnl.dk](http://cdnl.dk)) and of the project on ‘Danish Identity and Identities in Denmark in the Early Modern Period’ funded by the Augustinus Foundation. Project members Marianne Pade (PI), Trine Hass, Karen Skovgaard-Petersen, and Peter Zeeberg together form its organizing committee. The conference venue will be the Aarhus Institute of Advanced Studies (AIAS), beautifully situated in the park of Aarhus University.

Further details, including instructions for registration and a provisional programme, will be posted on the NNRS conference website in March 2024: <http://nnrs.renaessancestudier.org>.