Reading the Early Modern Anglo-Muslim Archive
The Poetics and Politics of Cultural Translation

Directed by Jyotsna Singh, Michigan State University

This workshop’s aims include:

- to guide a close micro-reading of selected archival materials, primarily from the Newberry special collections, that illuminate the interactions and “translations” between early modern English and Muslim empires and travelers, as evident in both texts and images.

- to explore two related thematic strands: the emergence and divergence of Muslim empires from both English and Muslim perspectives; and the figure of the ambassador or emissary—both official and unofficial—as mediator and translator between different cultures and empires.

Drawing on the growing scholarly engagement with Anglo-Muslim relations from the fifteenth through the seventeenth centuries, this workshop will focus on figurations of Islam and Muslim cultures, within both intercultural and intra-cultural contexts. While European Renaissance cultures cast both a skeptical and a fascinated eye on the Muslim world on their peripheries, we hope to illuminate those Muslim societies from both local and globalizing contexts.

This workshop will be relevant to early-career graduate students in a range of fields and disciplines, including Anthropology, Comparative Literature, Cultural Studies, History, Literature in English or other relevant languages, Middle Eastern Studies, and Religious Studies.

Enrollment is limited to 20. Graduate students in a terminal master’s program and those who have not yet completed comprehensive exams in a PhD program may apply. No language prerequisites. Students from Newberry Center for Renaissance Studies consortium member institutions have priority.

Workshop: Friday, September 28, 2012, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Enrollment deadline: Friday, September 7, 2012

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