



THE NEWBERRY

Center for Renaissance Studies

Milton Seminar

Saturday, October 27, 2012, noon – 2:30 pm

The Beginning of Now: John Milton in the Early Modern Social Network

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Popular programs like Facebook have made us increasingly aware of the power of networks, but for as long as we have had society, networks have been with us. Theorists including Michel Callon and Bruno Latour have even gone so far as to argue that networks constitute society—that power and culture are not diffused throughout chains of association but generated by them. So what did Milton’s social network look like and how did the technologies and strategies he used to cultivate it define his poetics? This paper will use graphic visualization software, archival research, and old-fashioned close reading to answer that question. In particular, I want to argue that Milton’s poetry creates an experience of contemporaneity, as if the poem is taking place “right now,” that both reflects early modern networking strategies and that enrolls readers in his network, however distant they remain in space or time.



This program is free and open to the public, but registration in advance is required. The paper will be precirculated electronically to registrants. Register online at:

www.newberry.org/renaissance

Sponsored by DePaul University, the University of Illinois at Chicago, Loyola University Chicago, Northwestern University, and the University of Wisconsin-Madison; and organized by Christopher Kendrick, Loyola University Chicago; David Loewenstein, University of Wisconsin-Madison; Paula McQuade, DePaul University; and Regina Schwartz, Northwestern University.