



THE NEWBERRY

*Center for Renaissance Studies*

## Milton Seminar

Saturday, May 17, 2014, 12:00 noon

The Newberry Library

### *Edenic Freedoms*

Joshua Scodel

*University of Chicago*

While many scholars have argued that *Paradise Lost* celebrates freedom, the nature of such freedom remains unclear. Professor Scodel will contend that the poem in fact embraces the notorious polysemous ambiguities of freedom as an ideal. In his attempt to provide a psychologically plausible, emotionally compelling, and theodicy-satisfying exegesis of the Biblical Eden, Milton adapts a diversity of ethical, political, poetic, and theological modes of characterizing freedom and its value, derived from both classical and Christian traditions. *Paradise Lost* accordingly represents unfallen Adam and Eve as free in several distinct, complexly related senses, and these disparate but intertwined visions of freedom and its value contribute to the joys, tensions, and tragedy in Milton's representation of Edenic life.



Coffee and refreshments will be served beginning at 11:30 am.

This program is free and open to the public, but space is limited and registration in advance is required. Register online at:

[www.newberry.org/renaissance](http://www.newberry.org/renaissance)

*Organized by Christopher Kendrick, Loyola University Chicago; David Loewenstein, University of Wisconsin-Madison; Paula McQuade, DePaul University; and Regina Schwartz, Northwestern University.*