Premodern Studies Seminar

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2023-2024 Call for Proposals
Submission Deadline: June 23, 2023

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CMS is pleased to welcome proposals for the 2023-2024 Premodern Studies Seminar. This seminar provides a forum for new approaches to classical, medieval, and early modern studies, allowing scholars from a range of disciplines to share work-in-progress with the broader community at the Center for Renaissance Studies. We meet three times a year. Every meeting is free and open to the public, and participants are encouraged to attend as many seminars as they are able.

The Premodern Studies Seminar call for proposals is now OPEN. Proposals will be accepted until June 23, 2023. Our theme for 2023-2024 is "Premodern Identities." Our aim is to explore identities and categories of difference that were held by premodern peoples, as well as those that were imposed. How and why did ancient, medieval, and early modern people use cultural markers such as race, gender, language, religion, geography, dress, behaviors (social, political, cultural, etc.) and more to distinguish individuals and/or groups of people from one another? How did the arts contribute to creating and marking these differences? How can the fluidity of premodern identities over time (either through a single lifetime or across centuries) be used to register practices of power and resistance? Moreover, how might distinctively premodern identities and other identifications that are no longer in use help us understand the origins—and, perhaps, functions—of modern categories of global difference?

We welcome submissions on these questions from all fields of premodern studies. Global approaches are particularly welcome, and we invite work that is both archival and theoretical. Papers will be pre-circulated, so that the majority of the seminar session will be devoted to discussion. For 2023-2024, meetings may be held either in-person at the Newberry Library or virtually over Zoom.

Submissions must include a one-page proposal (300 words), a list of Newberry materials related to your research, a statement explaining the relationship of the paper to your other work, and a brief CV (maximum 2 pages). If you have any questions about the submission process or the seminar in general, please send an email to fletcherc@newberry.org.

To apply, please submit a one-page proposal and brief CV at this link:

https://newberry.slideroom.com/#/permalink/program/71833