

Women Writing Natural Philosophy in Early Modern Europe

Spaces and Exchanges



2ND – 4TH JUNE 2025

University of Exeter
Boardroom & Meeting Room
Knightley Building



European Research Council
Established by the European Commission



UK Research
and Innovation



University
of Exeter

**CULTURES OF PHILOSOPHY:
WOMEN WRITING KNOWLEDGE IN EARLY
MODERN EUROPE**

MONDAY 2ND JUNE

Coffee and Registration from 9

9.20

WELCOME

9.30

ACADEMIES AND NETWORKS

Chair: Felicity Henderson (Exeter)

ANNALISA NICHOLSON (KCL)

Mediating Knowledge Across Borders: Hortense Mancini, the Mazarin Salon, and the Royal Society

CARLOTTA MORO (EXETER)

Women, Natural Philosophy, and the Italian Academies in the Seventeenth Century: A Comparative Study of the Ricovrati and the Arcadia

ARON OUWERKERK
(UTRECHT)

Latin: Language of Knowledge? A Quantitative Analysis of Women's Latinity across the Early Modern Low Countries and France

11.00

COFFEE BREAK

11.15

COMMUNITIES AND READERS

Chair: Carlotta Moro (Exeter)

MEREDITH RAY (DELAWARE)

Gender, Natural Philosophy, and the Oral Landscape in Early Modern Italy

KATE ALLAN
(ANGLIA RUSKIN)

"One rich usefull masse": Katherine Philips and her Contemporary Scientific Readers

JOHANNA LUGGIN
(INNSBRUCK)

Publishing an Astronomical Book in Seventeenth-Century Silesia: Maria Cunitz' Urania Propitia between Self-Translation, Intellectual Networks and Male Power

12.45

LUNCH

1.45

MEDICINE AND BODIES

Chair: Meredith Ray (Delaware)

GIADA MERIGHI (SCUOLA
NORMALE SUPERIORE DI PISA)

"Io lo vorei curare con questa diciozione" ("I would like to treat you with this decoction"). 'Medical' advice in family letters from a female hand. The example of Claudia Grumelli Salis

ÚNA FALLER (CNRS, ÉCOLE
NORMALE SUPÉRIEURE, LYON)

"...to make a woemans milk come & increase, take the Green Leaves of fennell": Manuscript recipe books' epistemologies and herbal remedies for managing women's health concerns, 1600-1697

MADELEINE SHEAHAN (YALE)

Mastering Time: Preservation, Longevity, and Timelessness

ILARIA FERRARA (UNIVERSITÀ DI
FERRARA)

From prejudices about women to gender stereotypes: new forms of female agency starting from Dorothea Christiane Erxleben's "Rigorous Investigation"

3.45

TEA

4.00

ROUNDTABLE I: FUTURE OF CAVENDISH STUDIES

CHAIR: SARAH HUTTON (YORK)

ESTHER KEARNEY (NOTTINGHAM), SOPHIE WHITE (YORK),
EVAN THOMAS (OTTERBEIN)

End 5pm

TUESDAY 3RD JUNE

9.00

GENRES

Chair: Catherine Evans (Exeter)

CASSIE GORMAN (ANGLIA
RUSKIN)

"I am all a storm": Chaos and Disordered Matter in the
Writings of Jane Cavendish and Frances Feilding

SAJED CHOWDHURY
(UTRECHT)

Psychology, Alchemy and the Woman Philosopher-Poet:
Lucy Hutchinson (1620-1681)

HANNAH COTTERILL (ROYAL
HOLLOWAY)

'So short do humours last': Elizabeth Cary on Anger
Management in The Tragedy of Mariam

10.30

COFFEE BREAK

11.00

ECOFEMINISM AND NONHUMAN ANIMALS

Chair: Helena Taylor (Exeter)

ERIC JORINK (LEIDEN &
HUYGENS INSTITUTE,
AMSTERDAM)

Embroidery, Needles and Microscopes. Seventeenth-
century Women and the Representation of Insects

MANUEL FASKO (BASEL)

Anne Conway on the Moral Status of Non-Human Animals
(NHA)

CATHERINE EVANS (EXETER)

"She rolls her unctuous embryo east and west": Hester
Pulter's "creaturely poetics" and the Limits of the Maternal
Body

12.30

LUNCH

ROUNDTABLE II: NATURAL PHILOSOPHY AND POETICS

1.30

CHAIR: CASSIE GORMAN (ANGLIA RUSKIN)

ELIZABETH SCOTT-BAUMANN (KCL), MEREDITH RAY (DELAWARE),
HELENA TAYLOR (EXETER)

2.30

COMFORT BREAK

2.35

WOMEN AND DESCARTES

Chair: Helene von Tabouillot (Exeter/Copenhagen)

SARAH HUTTON (YORK)

Women and Cartesian natural philosophy. From Margaret Cavendish to Émilie du Châtelet

MICHAELA MANSON
(MONASH)

The Natural Philosophy of Mary Astell

RICHARD SERJEANTSON
(CAMBRIDGE)

Mary Astell Reads Descartes

4.05

TEA

4.30

MANUSCRIPTS AND EPISTEMOLOGIES

Chair: Floris Verhaart (Exeter)

EMMA BARTEL (UNIVERSITÉ
PARIS CITÉ)

Looking for Women's Engagement with Natural Philosophy in Marginal Manuscript Genres

PEDRO PRICLADNITZKY
(PADERBORN)

The Manuscript of *Institutions de Physique*: Émilie du Châtelet's Development of Methodological Eclecticism

JIL MULLER (PADERBORN)

Oliva Sabuco on Natural Philosophy

CONFERENCE DINNER
7PM

CÔTE BRASSERIE, CATHEDRAL GREEN, EXETER



WEDNESDAY 4TH JUNE

9.30

METHODS

	Chair: Eric Jorink (Leiden & Huygens Insitute, Amsterdam)
KIRSTEN WALSH (EXETER)	Action at a Distance—Reflections on the History of Women in Science
PETER WEST (NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY LONDON)	“A Scientific Association”: New Digital Methods for Understanding the Impacts of Early Women Writers on the Development of Science and Philosophy
MARINA AGUILAR (UNIVERSIDAD NACIONAL DE EDUCACIÓN A DISTANCIA)	<i>Tratado Filosófico-poético escótico</i> by María de Camporredondo as an example of Hispanic Women Thinker from the Modern Age

11.00

COFFEE

11.15

RECEPTION, AUTHORSHIP, AND
POPULARISATION

	Chair: Bodil Hvass Kjems (Copenhagen)
ARETINA BELLIZZI (GHENT)	From a New Readership to a New Authorship. Vernacular Plato and the Female Audience in Early Modern Italy
FLORIS VERHAART (EXETER)	The Doctor, the Theologian, and the Translator: Medicine and Divine Providence in the Writings of Johan van Beverwijck, Anna Maria van Schurman, and Johanna Dorothea Lindenaer
ARIANNE MARGOLIN (INDEPENDENT)	Jeanne Dumée's Plurality of Worlds: The Feminine Voice and the Emergence of the Fiction Scientifique

12.45
CLOSE AND LUNCH

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Giovanna Garzoni, *Still Life with Bowl of Citrons*, c. 1640
Abraham Bosse, *The Wise Virgins at Prayer*, c. 1635