

CALL FOR PAPERS

Arcangela Tarabotti in Context: Authority, Community, and Resistance in Early Modern Europe

On the four-hundredth anniversary of her entrance into the Venetian convent of Sant'Anna, we invite proposals for a symposium dedicated to the writer and polemicist Arcangela Tarabotti (1604-1652) and her literary and cultural contexts. Compelled into the cloister though she had no religious vocation, Tarabotti became one of the most significant thinkers of her time.

From the cloister, she produced powerful critiques of the Church, the Venetian state, and the patriarchal family, and her works intervene in the broader gender debates that animated early modern Venice, from women's education, fashion, and social role to the nature of the soul. Tarabotti also sought to underscore the centrality of women in the history of Christianity and in a literary tradition that included writers from Dante to Moderata Fonte and Lucrezia Marinella, whom she cited and engaged in her work. Despite her enclosure, Tarabotti built vibrant intellectual networks that connected her to the literary world in Venice – notably with the Accademia degli Incogniti – and beyond.

We welcome proposals that engage with any aspect of Tarabotti's writing and the broader literary, cultural, and intellectual networks that shaped them — for example, late Renaissance and baroque women's writing; intertextuality; Venetian literary culture; the Accademia degli Incogniti; artistic and intellectual networks; convents and music — and from a variety of disciplinary angles.

Proposals from graduate students and independent scholars are welcomed. To propose a paper, please submit an abstract. We will confirm acceptance early in the fall semester.

April 16-17, 2027

Johns Hopkins University
Baltimore, MD

Co-organizers

Nathalie Hester
University of Oregon, Eugene
Suzanne Maganinini
University of Colorado, Boulder
Meredith Ray
Johns Hopkins University
Lynn Westwater
The George Washington University

Conference Disciplines

Art History
History
Italian Studies
Literary Studies
Musicology
Philosophy
Political Science
Public and Digital Humanities
Religious Studies
Women, Gender and Sexuality
Studies

Conference Format

Twenty minute presentations
English or Italian

Deadline for Submissions
August 1, 2026

Submissions
bit.ly/4dPw98s

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