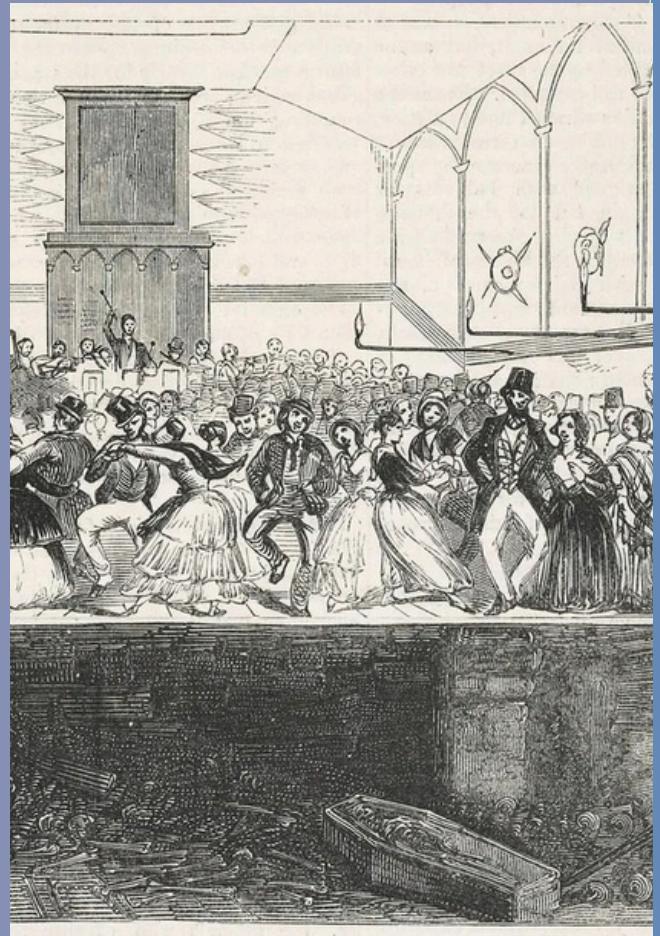


The Early Modern Center at the University of California, Santa Barbara is excited to announce our annual conference, “Loss and Absence, 1100-1800,” to be held from March 4-6, 2027. The conference is open globally to faculty, graduate students, and independent scholars across a broad spectrum of disciplines working across the medieval period to the long eighteenth century.

“Loss and Absence, 1100-1800” will explore loss in its variable forms and the ways in which loss manifests at multiple scales. While our primary interest is in works from English literary history, we are open to papers on related subjects such as history, art, religious studies, etc. as well as creative critical approaches. We invite conversations that address and interrogate the short-term and longstanding effects of loss on individual, societal, interrelational, and inter-generational levels. We also invite further consideration of the social, institutional, and political frames that can contribute to and perpetuate loss. What kinds of loss are represented in premodern literature? What can the articulation and portrayal of loss achieve? How do we relate to the premodern past through representations of loss? By providing a voice to loss, can a final act of resistance or acceptance be achieved?

Possible topics include, but are not limited to:

- death and loss
- estrangement
- genres of loss: dirges, sonnets, elegies, tragedies, etc.
- loss in non-tragic art forms
- death arts and mourning practices
- performance of loss
- colonization and loss
- war and military loss
- memory and trauma
- environmental disaster, social crises, and catastrophe
- scale in the event of man-made and natural disasters
- religious reform and cultural change
- modernity as loss
- the losses of periodization
- archival collection and preservation
- texts and transmission



We envision and invite both twenty-minute panel presentations and ten-minute roundtable presentations. Please submit abstracts of 150 to 200 words and a one-page CV using our [online submission form](https://tinyurl.com/EMCLossandAbsence) (<https://tinyurl.com/EMCLossandAbsence>) by December 11, 2026.

Please direct questions and concerns to [emcfellow@gmail.com](mailto:emcfellow@gmail.com).