

“Mastering Ceremonies”
Call For Papers – Renaissance Society of America Conference 2025
Boston, MA, USA – March 20-22, 2025

As the Italian states of the fifteenth century formalized and standardized their ceremonies, they also professionalized the role of master of ceremonies and printed his texts. In 1978, Richard Trexler highlighted this office with his publication of Florence’s *Libro cerimoniale*. Since then, a rich array of studies has appeared on political and religious uses of ritual in the Renaissance. We seek to expand that conversation by bringing together diverse and interdisciplinary perspectives on masters of ceremonies and their practices throughout the Italian peninsula and beyond.

This Call For Papers hopes to attract presenters interested in a broad vision of this field between c.1400 and c.1700 CE. Presentations could focus on (but are not limited to) the following aspects of masters of ceremonies in the early modern world:

- political praxis,
- devotional experience,
- the history of the senses,
- international relations,
- classical scholarship,
- gender relations or construction,
- masters of ceremonies as intellectuals,
- masters of ceremonies as bureaucrats,
- ceremony and cultural exchange/ contact,
- festival books, other textual accounts, pictorial records and cycles,
- conflicting depictions and misunderstandings,
- the development and change of ceremonial norms and standards,
- the uses of art, music, and material goods.

Please send a half-page cv, a presentation title, and a 150-word abstract of the proposed presentation to Elizabeth McCahill (elizabeth.mccahill@umb.edu) and Jennifer Mara DeSilva (jennifer.desilva@utoronto.ca). Please detail any audio/visual requirements that you might need.

For more information about the RSA, please see the conference website:
<https://www.rsa.org/page/rsaboston2025>

The deadline for the submission of abstracts is Saturday August 10, 2024.