

CALL FOR PAPERS – IN-PERSON WORKSHOP

The Epistolary Renaissance: Women Latinists and the Republic of Letters (1300-1700)

Organised by Florence Forte
(The Warburg Institute & Forte Academy)

Date: **Friday 20 September 2024**

Hosted at the Medici Archive Project, Florence

This workshop aims to examine the Latin literary contributions of women in late medieval and early modern Europe, with a focus on the genre of letter-writing. The quantity of evidence for letters written by women in both Latin and the vernacular between 1300 and 1700 constitutes what could be called an “Epistolary Renaissance”. Building upon scholarship that has investigated many of these women in isolation, or in relation to each other, this workshop aims to connect them also to their male peers and the larger networks within which they operated. We hope to examine the patterns that emerge across interesting case studies, from diverse historical and literary contexts, and to shed new light on the language, rhetoric, transmission and purpose of letter-writing in Latin: connecting individuals to the wider origins, theories and practices of their communities.

Proposals for papers of no more than 20 minutes in length could focus on one or several author(s) and how their letters relate to, emerge from, or inform, wider communities of thought. Papers based on manuscript material are particularly welcome.

Topics of interest include, but are not limited to:

- humanism and education
- the revival of classical models and sources
- the role of friendship within the Republic of Letters
- letter-writing and oratory: rhetorical strategies and conventions
- reconstructing the intellectual and social networks of Latinate women and men
- letters as a source of biographical, historical and philosophical information
- practicalities of production: composition, circulation and publication of letters
- textual transmission, issues of translation and scholarly reception

Postgraduate students, independent, early-career and senior scholars are encouraged to participate in this workshop, which will take place in-person in Florence. Abstracts (150 words max.) and a short biography (100 words) should be submitted via email to Florence at info@forte-academy.co.uk.

The deadline for proposals is 1 August 2024. Within two weeks of this date, those who have made submissions will be contacted regarding their proposals. The workshop will take place at the Medici Archive Project headquarters in [Palazzo Alberti, Florence](#) on **Friday 20 September 2024**.



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