

A Conference Series



Women Devote

University of Winchester.
11th April, 2017.



**Keynote Speaker - Aleksondra Hultquist, Stockton University.
Managing Editor of Aphra Behn online.**

dɪ'vəʊʃ(ə)n/

noun

love, loyalty, or enthusiasm for a person or activity.

A symposium exploring how women have devoted their minds and bodies through the ages.

University of Winchester on Wednesday 11th April 2017. 11:00 – 16:00

Women through the ages have historically been recorded for their religious devotion and their devotion to men but they have also been great scholars, educators, physicians, surgeons, politicians and have excelled in other careers and commitments. Some have been celebrated, and others forgotten. This conference invites papers that explore the well documented as well as the more obscure devotions of women.

The first of what is to become a series, this conference hopes to attract a range of scholars from all historical periods as well as breadth in topics, to contribute to the conversation. We welcome both physical and virtual attendance; the use of Skype will be encouraged especially to our international applicants.

Proposals for papers (approx. 300 words) should be submitted no later than 5th March. Please include your email address and telephone number. Please inform us of any audio-visual needs and any accessibility requests.

For any enquiries and paper submissions, please contact:

Charlee Robinson - Charlotte.robinson@winchester.ac.uk (Postgraduate Researcher)

Stan Booth - Stan.booth@winchester.ac.uk (Postgraduate Researcher)

Key Note Paper

"Amatory Devotion in Alexander Pope's 'Eloisa to Abelard'"

This talk comes from Hultquist's current book project: *The Amatory Mode: Amatory Fiction's Passionate Legacy, 1660-1820*. Her book argues that the repetition of the illegitimate love affair gone wrong is a central aspect to eighteenth-century literature, running parallel to the narrative of virtue rewarded. This repetition of emotional exploration is so prevalent, that it is best understood, not through author or genre, but through a mode. By historicizing the passions and putting multiple genres and authors into conversation with one another, the amatory mode privileges passionate experience in conjunction with reason. One benefit of thinking modally is the ability to place antithetical authors together in productive conversations: there is an amatory Aphra Behn and an amatory Eliza Haywood, for sure; but there is also an amatory Alexander Pope. In "Eloisa to Abelard," Eloisa wrestles with her holy passionate devotion to God, and her unceasing sexually passionate devotion to Abelard. This talk unpacks the historical implications of the passions in the illegitimate love story and reinterprets Pope's poetry as partaking in the amatory mode through warring devotions.