WOMEN AS WRITERS OF HEROIC POETRY IN RENAISSANCE ITALY: AN EPIC MICRO-TRADITION?

a symposium made possible by the Franklin D. Murphy Chair in Italian Renaissance Studies

Friday, April 5th
Royce 314
9:30am–5:30pm
This symposium explores all facets of heroic poetry as written by Italian Renaissance women, placing them in a tradition that has for the most part ignored their work. Even outside of Italian Studies, scholarship on heroic poetry has primarily prioritized male canonical authors; there is an abundance of secondary sources that focus on Homer, Virgil, Milton, Ariosto, and Tasso. However, recent scholarship has begun to expand to include the female authors who also contributed to the genre. The invited participants are all pioneers of research on these 16th- and 17th-century poets such as Tullia d’Aragona (c.1510–1556), Moderata Fonte (1555–1592), Margherita Sarrocchi (1560–1617), and Lucrezia Marinella (1571–1653). The aim of the conference is to add to the growing scholarship on these women and introduce their work to audiences unfamiliar with them.

9:30am: Coffee & Pastries

10:15am: Opening Remarks

10:30am–12pm: Panel I
Chair: Massimo Ciavolella, University of California, Los Angeles

Maria Galli Stampino, University of Miami
"Marinella’s Enrico and Amore innamorato: What is Heroic? What is Romance?"

Christine Ristaino, Emory University
“Lucrezia Marinella and Women’s Agency in 17th-Century Italy in Light of the #MeToo Movement”

12–2pm: Lunch Break

2–3:30pm: Panel II
Chair: Andrea Moudarres, University of California, Los Angeles

Julia Hairston, University of California Education Abroad Program, Rome
“Tullia d’Aragona’s Meschino and the Counter-Reformation”

Meredith Ray, University of Delaware
“Statecraft and the Politics of Knowledge in Margherita Sarrocchi’s Scanderbeide”

3:30–3:45pm: Coffee Break

3:45–5:15pm: Panel III
Chair: Deanna Shemek, University of California, Irvine

Julia Kisacky, Baylor University
“Monstrous Lies in Moderata Fonte’s Floridoro”

Gerry Milligan, College of Staten Island, City University of New York
“The Fantastic and the Real: Women Warriors in the Poetry of Fonte, Sarrocchi, and Marinella”

5:15pm: Closing Remarks

Thank you to our generous sponsor, the Franklin D. Murphy Chair in Italian Renaissance Studies, and co-sponsors, the Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, the Center for European and Russian Studies, the Department of Italian, the Center for the Study of Women, the Center for 17th- and 18th-Century Studies, and the Department of History.