



83rd Annual Meeting

SOUTHEASTERN RENAISSANCE CONFERENCE

October 23-24, 2026 • Hilton Knoxville

Marco Institute for Medieval & Renaissance Studies
University of Tennessee, Knoxville

Friday, October 23, 2026

9:00–10:30am **Registration**

9:30–10:30am **Breakfast**

10:30am **Welcome and Opening Remarks**
Anne-Hélène Miller (Riggsby Director, Marco Institute)
Matt Carter (President, Southeastern Renaissance Conference)

10:45–11:00am **Coffee Break**

11:00am–12:15pm **Session 1: Women and Women's Writing**
Chair: TBA

Emmy Ritchey: "If Fortune guide, she will direct to Love":
Physicality and the Book of Fortune in Lady Mary Wroth's
Love's Victory

Rachel Roberts: Psalms and Sonnets: Looking for Mary
Sidney Herbert's Influence in Mary Wroth's *Pamphilia to
Amphilanthus*

Jasmine Cyril: *Exemplum Virtutis*: Portraits of Virtue,
14th Century Female Saints in Italy

12:15–1:15pm **Lunch Break**

1:15–2:30PM **Session 2: Tudor Poetry and Prose**
Chair: TBA

Stephen May: Why Spenser's Preliminaries to the 1590
Faerie Queene Were 'Postliminaries'

Jesse Russell: Spenser's Merlin Returns: Magic,
Poetry, and Politics in *The Faerie Queene*

Scott Lucas: Who Wrote The Image of Idleness
(1556)?

2:30–2:45pm **Coffee Break**

2:45–4:00pm **Session 3: Drama**
Chair: TBA

Braden Burton: Christian Love, Jewish Justice: Models of
Oppression and Justice In *The Merchant of Venice*

Jim Pearce: "Palace or Prison?: Measure for Measure and the
Perils of Paradiastole"

Thomas Morgan: "A Witch? Who is Not?" The Magic of
Strategic Speech in *The Witch of Edmonton*

4:00–5:00pm **Restorative Break**

5:00–6:00pm **Plenary Session**
Bill Engel: "The Mind of the Frontispiece": Studies in
Self-Referential Mnemonic Spaces in English Renaissance
Book Illustrations

6:00–7:00pm **Banquet and Awards**

Saturday, October 24, 2026

9:00–10:00am **Breakfast**

10:00–11:00am **Business Meeting**

11:00am–12:15pm **Session 4: Spain & Mexico**

Chair: TBA

Shepherd Aaron Ellis: Bringing the Exotic Home: Homogenizing and Blending Nature in Renaissance Spain and England

Leonor Taiano: The Alchemy of Power: The *Informe sobre el pulque* (1692) and the Legitimation of Colonial Rule in Mexico City

Matt Carter: Three to One: Power and Identity After the Rout at Cádiz

12:15–1:30pm **Lunch Break**

1:30–2:45pm **Session 5: Panoply**

Chair: TBA

Tom Herron: “*Utopiae insulae figura*”: Figuring the mind of Utopia in the 1516 edition

Paul Stapleton: The Emperor Constantine and Sixteenth-Century English Polemics

Melissa Rack: Honey and Ink: Materializing Codicological Authority in the Pal. lat. 1905

2:45–3:00pm **Coffee Break**

3:00–4:15pm **Session 6: Division and Displacement**

Chair: TBA

Nico Houser: The Abandoned Son: Satan’s Origin, Trauma, and Identity Displacement in *Paradise Lost*

Olivia Womack: “Not the Mere Motion of Carnal Lust”: Asexual Potentialities in Milton’s *Doctrine and Discipline in Divorce*

Eric Dunnum: Why Everyone Hates Arragon: Conservative Bias in the Critical and Performance History of *The Merchant of Venice*

4:15–4:30pm **Closing Statements and Dismissal**



The logo for the Southeastern Renaissance Conference (SRC) features the letters "SRC" in a large, red, serif font.

The Southeastern Renaissance Conference



MARCO
INSTITUTE

The **Southeastern Renaissance Conference** is the second oldest regional Renaissance Conference in the United States. Founded during World War II by faculty in Renaissance studies at Duke University and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, the Conference celebrates nearly a century of service to Renaissance studies in the Southeastern United States. The Conference is jointly sponsored by the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Duke University, North Carolina State University, and the University of South Carolina at Columbia. Annual meetings are traditionally held on the campus of one of the four sponsoring institutions in odd-numbered years and hosted by another college or university in the Southeast in even-numbered years. The SRC is open to scholars from all disciplines across the arts and humanities. Bringing together scholars from all stages of professional life – from graduate students to senior faculty – the SRC's Annual Meeting promises collegial and invigorating discussion of all things early modern. The SRC also publishes *Renaissance Papers*, an annual journal first established in 1954, which features some of the finest essays presented at the SRC's Annual Meeting.

The **Marco Institute for Medieval & Renaissance Studies** at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, is an internationally acclaimed center for the study of the history and culture of the late antique, medieval, and early modern world, c. 300-1700 CE. With an active, accomplished community of over fifty faculty spread across almost a dozen different academic departments and units, Marco offers a range of disciplinary specializations in, and methodological approaches to, the humanities, social sciences, languages, and arts. For almost twenty-five years, the Marco Institute has continued to build a longstanding record of attracting internationally recognized scholars, hosting symposia and lectures, sponsoring seminars, providing a range of fellowships for visiting scholars and graduate students, and offering an undergraduate major and minor in Medieval & Renaissance Studies as well as a Graduate Certificate in Premodern Studies.



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