

## Conference Organisers

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For more information:

<http://dissent.hypotheses.org/>

<http://www.english.qmul.ac.uk/drwilliams/events/dissexp.html>

## Registration

All are welcome, and attendance at the conference is free of charge.

Prior registration is essential, however, as places are limited to 70.

A light lunch and refreshments are included.

Please email the following details to [anne.page@univ-amu.fr](mailto:anne.page@univ-amu.fr)

Name:

Title:

Affiliation:

Postal Address:

Dietary requirements:

Alternatively, register by post. Simply send the details above to:

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*Dissenting Experience, Experiencing Dissent*

## Scandal, Controversy, Persecution: Shaping Dissenting Identities



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**Saturday, 14 November 2015**

**Dr Williams's Library - 14 Gordon Square,  
London, WC1H 0AR**

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This one-day conference, organised by the Centre for the English-Speaking World of Aix-Marseille Université in association with the Dr Williams's Centre for Dissenting Studies and the University of Liverpool, focuses on the shaping of dissenting identities in seventeenth- and eighteenth-century England. It will consider how dissenters were named and viewed, both within and without their own communities, and what determined the formation of these identities, nationally and locally. Because the experience of dissent for both members and ministers of gathered churches was often one of negotiating scandal, controversy, and persecution, this conference will address the consequences of identifying with a dissenting church or sect, both before and after Toleration, and which factors – political and social, denominational and intellectual – helped to shape dissenting identities across the period, both individually and collectively. How dissenting identities were established, debated, and challenged, across a range of networks – denominational and sectarian, literary and scientific – and in the contexts of revolution and persecution as well as of toleration and Enlightenment, is what this conference aims to explore. This is the third in a series of three annual events exploring the collective experience of the dissenting churches in the period 1600-1800.

### **Scandal, Controversy, Persecution: Shaping Dissenting Identities**

**9.00** Registration and coffee

**9.20** Introduction

#### ***Session 1: Identifying and Naming the Dissenters***

*Chair: N. H. Keeble (University of Stirling)*

**9.30-10.00**, 'Names, Sects, Parties: The Problem of Denominational Labelling, 1640-1672', John Coffey (University of Leicester)

**10.00-10.30**, 'The View from Lambeth', Grant Tapsell (University of Oxford)

**10.30-11.00** Discussion

**11.00-11.30** Coffee

#### ***Session 2: Debates, Controversies, and Identity Formation***

*Chair: Michael Davies (University of Liverpool)*

**11.30-12.00**, 'Letter Writing and Puritan Factional Identity', Johanna Harris (University of Exeter)

**12.00-12.30**, "'Threshing amongst the people": Quakers, Ranters and Public Debate in the Revolutionary Public Sphere', Kate Peters (University of Cambridge)

**12.30-1.00**, Discussion

**13.00-14.00** Lunch

#### ***Session 3: Competing or Cooperating?: The Quest for Self-Interest***

*Chair: W. R. Owens (University of Bedfordshire)*

**14.00-14.30**, "'Toleration", "Competition", and "Co-operation": The Church of England and Nonconformity in the Long Eighteenth Century', Jeremy Gregory (University of Nottingham)

**14.30-15.00**, 'The Scandal of Corruption', Mark Knights (University of Warwick)

**15.00-15.30** Discussion

**15.30-16.00** Coffee

#### ***Session 4: Identity and the Debate of Ideas in the Enlightenment***

*Chair: Isabel Rivers (Queen Mary University of London)*

**16.00-16.30**, "'A Natural Sciens of Spirits?" Expressions of Identity in Dissenting Philosophies of the Mind, c.1660-1727', Mark Burden (University of Portsmouth)

**16.30-17.00**, 'Jane Lead and the Philadelphian Society, c.1697–1704', Ariel Hessayon (Goldsmiths University of London)

**17.00-17.30** Discussion & Close