



Thursday, 11 June 2026

9:30 Registration



9:45 Welcome and Introductions: **Emma Griffin (Head of the History Department, QMUL), Bronagh McShane (President of the H-WRBI Network), and Delfi I. Nieto-Isabel (QMUL, Conference Chair)**

10:00-11:30 Block 1 (Parallel sessions 1A, 1B and 1C)

Session 1A: The Materiality of Women's Religious Networks

- Craig Cessford (Cambridge Archaeological Unit, University of Cambridge) – **Accounts and archaeology: quotidian networks and the nunneries of the High/Late Medieval Diocese of Ely**
- Romana Mastrella (Sapienza University of Rome) – **Threads of Power: Female Leadership, Patronage, and Networks in the Barberini Tapestry Manufactory**
- Sarah J. Moran (independent) – **Patronage, Family Networks, and the Four Evangelists Confessionals at the Grand Beguinage of Mechelen**

Session 1B: Women Religious & Politics

- Becky Flowers (Sheffield) – **Nuns as Negotiators – Letters to Cromwell**
- Lois Newby (Queen's University, Belfast) – **“My duty and affection for y^{or} E^xcyes service”.: Abbess Mary Knatchbull and the Reconstruction of Royalist Intelligence Networks after 1655**
- Bernadette Cunningham (Trinity College Dublin) – **Spiritual and moral formation of Religious Sisters in Ireland in the context of religious involvement in state-sponsored institutions** (*working title*)

Session 1C: Patronage networks

- Harriet Guinn Jennings (Winchester) – **Female agency at Amesbury Priory**
- Ruth Ferris (University College Dublin) – **Patronage and the power of the pen: Mother Gertrude Reddin's network of influence in Loreto convents and beyond, in the late nineteenth century**

- Paul Shaw (Central Congregational Archivist of the Poor Servants of the Mother of God), and Mary Kenefick (SMG) – **The founding and work of St Aloysius’ Convent Carrigtwohill: A case study of patronage and support networks 1875-2025**

11:30-11:45 Coffee break



11:45 - 1:15 Block 2 (Parallel sessions 2A, 2B and 2C)

Session 2A: Affective & Emotional Webs

- Remon Badan (Sorbonne) – **Turning Vulnerability into Structure: Negative Emotion and Network Formation in Julian of Norwich and Margery Kempe**
- Alice Brooke (Oxford) – **Spiritual and poetic friendship: Cecilia del Nacimiento and Ana de la Trinidad**

Session 2B: Economic Agency & Patronage

- Gerard Regan (Assistant Director of Library, Rosemont College) – **Financial Networks and Economic Patronage throughout the History of the Sisters of the Holy Child Jesus**
- Attracta Brownlee (Independent Researcher) – **Women Religious, Patronage and Communal Reciprocity in Ireland**
- Juan Carlos García Cacho (Puerto Rico) – **Building on local prestige in early medieval León. Social networking around religious, aristocratic and proprietary women in San Vicente, a pre-Benedictine monastery**

Session 2C: The ‘Business’ of Soul-Saving

- Noah Petts (Oxford) – **“A call upon me to cast in my mite”: Women Benefactors to the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, 1701-1753**
- Heather Glover (Lincoln) – **“To Save Souls Anyhow”: Research and Collaboration at Stone Dominican Convent, 1850-1880**
- Apurtha Lilly Antony (KU Leuven) – **Women Religious within Missionary Networks: Negotiating Gendered Collaboration in the JMJ–Mill Hill Mission in Colonial India (1904-1945)**

1:15-2:30 Lunch



2:30 - 3:30 Annual General Meeting



3:30-3:45 Coffee break



3:45 - 5:15 Block 3 (Parallel sessions 3A, 3B and 3C)

Session 3A: Transnational Flows

- Jo Luyten (KADOC, Leuven) – **An Anglo-Belgian network revealed: From a community of Belgian Apostolines of the Immaculate Conception in Aberdeen to a new institute of Tertiary Carmelite Sisters in Wells**
- Kathryn E. Salzer (Pennsylvania State University) – **English ‘Alien Priors’ Associated with Women’s Monastic Houses in France**
- Eilish Gregory (Durham) – **The Global Networks of the Little Company of Mary, 1877-1941**

Session 3B: Social Hierarchies

- William Barham (Royal Holloway) – **Choir, Grey, Blue & Black: Social Stratification within Anglican Missionary Communities**
- Brian Titley (Lethbridge, Canada) – **A Sphere of Her Own: The Cult of Domesticity and Ireland’s Convent Schools**
- Deirdre Raftery (University College Dublin), Catriona Delaney (University College Dublin) – **Ministering to the “deserving poor”: women religious and their networks in Ireland c. 1780-1880**

Session 3C: Roman Centres of Power

- Einat Klafter (Zvi Yavetz School of Historical Studies, Tel Aviv University) – **When in Rome: Margery Kempe’s spiritual networks in the Eternal City**
- Marco Coppolaro (Italian Ministry of Culture, Regional Directorate of National Museums of Abruzzo) – **The Arts and the Grates: Roman Female Monasteries as Significant Centers of Matronage**
- Ilaria Arcangeli (Chieti-Pescara) – **Patronage, Artistic Agency and Spiritual Networks in a Roman Female Monastery: Santa Maria dell’Umiltà**

5:15 - 5:45 Awards and wine reception



6:15 Conference dinner

Friday, 12 June 2026

9:30 – 10:30 Keynote lecture by Delfi I. Nieto-Isabel (Queen Mary University of London)



10:30 - 10:45 Coffee break



10:45 - 12:15 Block 4 (Parallel sessions 4A, 4B and 4C)

Session 4A: Artistic & Intellectual Networks

- Laura Gisseleire (Kent/King's College London) – **The mortuary roll of Matilda of Caen: Anglo-Norman occasional poetry and literary networks in commemorative manuscripts**
- Saptarshi Sengupta (JAIN, Deemed-to-Be University, India) – **Music, Manuscripts and Memory in Women's Religious Networks during Late Medieval England**
- Guendalina Serafinelli (Rome Tor Vergata) – **A Cloistered Roman Community and its Networks: Anna Vittoria Dolara (1764-1827), Art, Restoration and Patronage at Santi Domenico e Sisto**

Session 4B: Leadership & Institutional Growth

- Carol Baxter (Trinity College Dublin) – **Networking as an Instrument in the Development of a Religious Order: Jeanne de Chantal and the first leaders of the Visitation Order**
- Catherine Nowlan-Roebuck (University College Dublin) – **Presentation Convent Georgetown a successful foundation in spite of the odds**

Session 4C: Modern Crises and Connections

- Carmen Mangion (Birkbeck, University of London) – **Catholic women religious, HIV/AIDS ministries and the voluntary sector in Britain, 1980s-2000s**
- Alexandra Verini (Durham) – **Pioneering Social Activism: the Poor Schools of the Faithful Companions of Jesus**

- Kirsten Schouwenaars-Harms (St Mary's University, Twickenham) – **The Few for the Many: Exploring the Unique Relationship of Women Religious and Domestic Churches in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Aberdeen**

12:15 - 1:30 Lunch



1:30 - 3:00 Block 5 (Parallel sessions 5A, 5B and 5C)

Session 5A: Women's Networks and the Digital Turn

- Katia Riccardo (Masaryk University) – **Gendered Testimony and Network Analysis of Apostolic Sociability: Male and Female Depositions in Bologna (1291–1310)**
- Julia King (British Library) – **The Syon Abbey Sisters' Networks and 'Big' Data**
- Joanne S. Campbell (Rosemont College) – ***Gaudium et Spes*. Stewarding Sacred Space: Postdigital Ecopedagogy, Women Religious, and the Built Environment of Rosemont College**

Session 5B: Networks and Space

- Giulia Ghiglia (Turin) – **Beyond the Cloister: Female Cistercians and Local Communities in Northern Italy (13th–14th Centuries). The Case of the Monastery of Saint Stephen in the Bormida Valley**
- Victoria Yuskaitis (Independent Scholar) – **Archaeology and Anchorites: Medieval and Modern Anchoritic Networks**
- Antonio Pio Di Cosimo (Modena and Reggio Emilia) – **A Vocation of Agency: Isabella de Florio and the Female Foundations of Sacred Space in Early Modern Manfredonia**

Session 5C: Networks of Silence

- Hannah Thomas (Bar Convent), Isobel Staton (Bar Convent) – **Fragmented Networks and the Formation of Community Histories in the English Houses of Mary Ward's Institute, 1700–1820**
- Laura Granda Mateu (Edge Hill University) – **Hearing the Sisters: recovering fragmentary stories of Women Religious in nineteenth-century North-West England**
- Mirosława Hanusiewicz-Lavallee (John Paul Catholic University of Lublin) – **Neglected Ministry: Translating the Spiritual Books for Reformed Benedictine Nuns in Poland-Lithuania**

3:00-3:15

Coffee break



3:15 - 4:45 Block 6 (Parallel sessions 6A and 6B)

Session 6A: Supporting networks

- Virginia Bainbridge (Oxford Department for Continuing Education/Independent Researcher) – **At Home with the Windsors: Prioress Margaret Windsor and the survival of Syon Abbey after 1539**
- Petra Caruana Dingli (University of Malta) – **Writing Sanctity, Claiming Lineage: Family Networks and Female Monastic Hagiography in Seventeenth-Century Naples and Palermo**
- Wioletta Pawlikowska (Institute of History of the Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw) – **Under the episcopal umbrella: Benedictine nuns in Lithuania between the sixteenth and eighteenth centuries**

Session 6B: Expanding Networks

- Tonya Moutray (Russell Sage College) – **Northeast by Midwest: The Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet and the Albany Mission**
- Karen Hanrahan (University College London) – **‘Ponder and Pray; Don’t Dodge or Delay!’: Actors and networks in the recruitment of women religious, 1930s–1960s**

4:45 - 5:15

Final remarks

