

Modes of Spectatorship from the Middle Ages to 1700

A Symposium in Honour of Prof. John J. McGavin

Keynote Speaker: Professor Greg Walker (Edinburgh)

11 May 2016, University of Southampton

Since John McGavin joined the University of Southampton in 1975, his research has ranged widely across medieval and early modern drama, performance, and theatricality in both Scotland and England. A long standing board-member and contributor to the Records of Early English Drama project, John’s work in the gathering and editing of primary sources relating to performances and their venues has been instrumental in building the foundations of future studies in the field.

2016 sees the publication of John’s latest book, co-written with Professor Greg Walker (Edinburgh), *Imagining Spectatorship: From the Mysteries to the Shakespearean Stage* (OUP). English and the Centre for Medieval and Renaissance Culture at Southampton are taking this occasion to mark John’s retirement by celebrating areas of interest that he shares with early career scholars. We invite Postgraduate and Early Career researchers to a half-day symposium to showcase current research and consider new directions in the study of medieval and early modern spectatorship.

We welcome proposals for 20-minute papers that touch on any aspect of spectatorship in the medieval and early modern periods. Subjects might include but are not limited to:

Real and Imagined spectators

Theorizing and reconstructing pre-modern spectators

Spectatorship beyond drama and performance

Performance-as-Research

Interpreting the historical record: REED and other archives

Comparative approaches: England, Scotland, and Europe

The places, spaces, and material conditions of spectatorship

Spectatorship and subjectivity

Spectacle and politics

Proposals for poster and other visual presentations are also welcome.

Submissions: please send title, abstract/summary (around 100 words) and a short biographical summary (around 50 words) by **14 March 2016** to Stephen Watkins [sdw1g10@soton.ac.uk](mailto:sdw1g10@soton.ac.uk) OR Marianne O’Doherty [Mod1w07@soton.ac.uk](mailto:Mod1w07@soton.ac.uk).

Bursaries: thanks to the generous support of the Faculty of Humanities, a limited number of partial bursaries will be available to contribute towards travel costs for participating postgraduate and early career researchers (within four years of PhD award). If you wish to be considered for one of these, please indicate this with your abstract submission.

*Image: A puppet show; Oxford, Bodleian Library, MS Bodley 264.*