

MEDIEVAL AND EARLY MODERN
STUDIES PROGRAM SEMINAR



ACU INSTITUTE FOR
RELIGION &
CRITICAL INQUIRY

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“Plague Time: Space, Fear and Emergency Statecraft in Early-Modern Italy”

Early-modern Tuscans knew where they stood: the times and spaces for labour, commerce and recreation were perfectly regulated, and as long as subjects obeyed the law they could move freely from place to place under the watchful eye of their kindly Grand Duke. That, at least, is the picture contemporary legislators liked to paint. Today's paper reveals how plague shattered this spatial image, how it annihilated ordinary time, and how in confronting the existential threat of contagion, government radically re-visited and recalibrated the territorial state, projecting society into an alternative, emergency temporality that we may call “plague time”.

Nicholas Eckstein

Prof. Eckstein is Cassamarca Associate Professor of Italian Renaissance History at the University of Sydney. He is a former fellow of (1998-1999) and Visiting Professor at (2003, 2006) the Harvard University Center for Italian Renaissance Studies at Villa I Tatti in Florence. His research and publications emphasise the social and cultural history of renaissance and early-modern Italy. His last book reconstructed the changing social context and reception of Florentine art by lay audiences in the fifteenth century: *Painted Glories: The Brancacci Chapel in Renaissance Florence* (Yale University Press, 2014). More recently he has been publishing articles and chapters and is writing a book on the perception, utilisation and evolution of urban and rural space during periods of plague-crisis in early-modern Italy.

2 PM AEST
12 PM AWST
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SEMINAR ON ZOOM

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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