



Part of The Westminster Tournament Roll, (1511), vellum roll, College of Arms.

THURSDAY 21 SEPTEMBER 2023

WORKSHOP

# Royal Spectacle and Court Performance: Medieval and Early Modern Perspectives



## Call for Papers

Deadline April 30 2023

Royalty has often been accompanied by spectacle, ritual, and excess. Monarchs have exploited public space to exert authority, express anger or encourage love, deploying high-profile and fantastic rituals or displays to communicate with their publics. Clothing, accessories, gifts, food, and other materials have been used to build friendships, negotiate social hierarchies, or to convey displeasure. Art, statuary, monuments and buildings, as well as the more ephemeral prints, ribbons, or household goods, have been used as propaganda and to further a performance of power. Art and material goods were often part of elaborate performances at court, on stage, in the press, or on the street, where spectacle was embodied and communicated as identity, power and privilege. Such activities were replete with emotion, as courtiers sought to build or negotiate relationships, encourage awe or affection, and promote appreciation of systems of monarchical power and divine right. This workshop explores royal spectacles and court performances in the medieval and early modern world and now calls for papers that speak to this theme.

Topics can include but are not limited to:

- Displays of monarchical power or identity
- Court performances and interactions
- Fashion diplomacy and dress
- Gift-giving, hospitality and generosity
- Abundance and excess
- Ephemeral displays
- Print power and the monarch in the public sphere
- The audiences for monarchical displays and court performances
- Displays of emotion and the capacity of performance to promote feeling
- Drama, theatre, and literary court performances
- Medieval and Early Modern spectacles in the modern era
- Gender, race, class as spectacle

Deadline for proposals 30 April 2023.

Please email proposals to [courtlyperformances@gmail.com](mailto:courtlyperformances@gmail.com)



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The Fay Gale Centre for  
Research on Gender

