

Corruption and Scandal in the Early Modern World, 1500–1800

Institute of Historical Research, Senate House, London

5th–6th June 2025

Conference Programme



5 June 2025:

- 9.00–9.20 – **Registration and coffee** (Senate House, IHR, Bloomsbury Room for registration, G35 & Senate House, IHR, NB02 for coffee)
- 9.20–9.30 – **Opening Remarks** (Senate House, IHR, Wolfson NB01)
- 9.30–11.00 – **Panel 1 – ‘Reframing Scandals’** (Senate House, IHR, Wolfson NB01)
 - Andrea McKenzie (Victoria): *‘A Scandal upon Record’: Expanding the Circle of Outrage during the Popish Plot, c. 1678–81*
 - James Hobbs (York): *Bit Players in Conspiracy: Narratives of Thomas Overbury’s Other Murderers*
 - Peter Wells (UEA): *Naval Hero or ‘Contumacious Scoundrel’?: Captain Thomas Hewetson and the Scandal that Wiped Him Off the Map*
 - Anthony Stonestreet (Cambridge): *The vice of Henry III of Valois in early modern tragedy*
- 11.00–11.30 – **Break** (coffee and cakes) (Senate House, IHR, Wolfson NB02)
- 11.30–13.00 – **Parallel Panels**
 - **Panel 2 – ‘Espionage & Diplomatic Corruption and Scandal’** (Senate House, IHR, Bloomsbury Room, G35).
 - Camille Rocher (Bordeaux-Montaigne): *From Secret Alliances to Public Scandals: Espionage and Jacobite Diplomacy in 18th-Century Europe*
 - Riccardo Neri (Oxford): *The “dingy nature” of Stosch. Espionage, sociability and scandal in 18th-century Florence by the case of the British spy Philipp von Stosch*
 - Dorota Gregorowicz (Katowice): *Suspicious Nobility. Accusations of Corruption and Political Bias Against Papal Diplomats Involved in the Sixteenth-Century Elections of Polish-Lithuanian Monarchs*
 - Ariel Giuliano (SNS Pisa): *‘Bribing a King’: the case of Antoine de Bourbon-Vendôme and the Spanish diplomacy in the mid 16th century*
 - **Panel 3 – ‘Scandalous Sexuality and Gender’** (Senate House, IHR, Wolfson NB01)
 - Marcin Srama (Poznan): *Warsaw – ‘the modern Sodom’? Corruption and scandals during the reign of Stanisław August Poniatowski (1764–1795) as a subject of political satire*
 - Cora Wilson (Oxford): *Elizabeth Bourne’s ‘Secret Sorrows’: Making Marital Abuse Public in 16th Century England*
 - Fiona McCall (Portsmouth): *Clerical Sexual Scandal as a Polemical Weapon during the English Civil Wars and interregnum*
 - Robert Daniel (Oxford): *The Prospero Farinacci Scandal in Early Modern Rome*
- 13.00–14.00 – **Lunch** (Senate House, IHR, Wolfson NB02)
- 14.00–15.30 – **Panel 4 – ‘Private & Public in Corruption and Scandal’** (Senate House, IHR, Wolfson NB01)
 - Peter Lake (Vanderbilt): *Public Men, Private Spirits, and the Corruption of the Commonwealth, 1590–1640*
 - Samantha E. Rogers (Vanderbilt): *From St. Thomas of Canterbury to Thomas Becket the Traitor: The International Scandal Accompanying the End of an English Cult*
 - Wouter Kreuze (Limerick): *Reputation and Scandal in the Early Modern University: Delinquent Professors at the University of Rostock in the Sixteenth Century*
 - Sam Dominy (York): *The Scandal of The Second Argument and the Corruption of John Child’s Soul (1682)*
- 15.30–15.45 – **Break** (coffee and cakes) (Senate House, IHR, Wolfson NB02)

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Consortium for the Humanities and the Arts South-East England

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- 15.45–17.15 – **Panel 5 – ‘Corruption & Scandal in the Early Modern City’** (Senate House, IHR, Wolfson NB01)
 - Ellen Paterson (Oxford): *Battling economic corruption: monopolies, commissioners, and depositions in the House of Lords (1621)*
 - Andrés Borrás Benevente (Valencia): *Urban supply and corruption in a mediterranean city: the case of 18th century Valencia*
 - Kathryn Marshalek (Vanderbilt): *Fraus legis; fraus contra legem: curbing (royal) abuse of anti-Catholic penal statutes in the Parliament of 1625*
- 17.30–18.30 – **Keynote** – Elizabeth S. Cohen (York, Toronto): *Managing Scandals in the Rambunctious Streets of Early Modern Rome* (Senate House, IHR, Wolfson NB01)
- 19.30 – **Dinner** – TAS Restaurant Bloomsbury, 2 Bloomsbury St, London WC1B 3QJ

6 June 2025:

- 09.00–10.30 – **Panel 1 – ‘Financial Scandal & Corruption’** (Senate House, IHR, Wolfson NB01)
 - Elizabeth Hines (Johns Hopkins SAIS): *Customs Farming Corruption and the Crown Jewels*
 - Ahmet Demir (Central European University): *Legal or Corrupt: Cash Waqfs Debate among the 15th and 16th Century Ottoman Scholars*
 - Andrew Wareham (Roehampton): *Corrupt or over-zealous agents? The collection of the Restoration Hearth Tax in England c. 1685–1689*
- 10.30–11.00 – **Break** (coffee and cakes) (Senate House, IHR, Wolfson NB02)
- 11.00–12.45 – **Panel 2 – ‘Scandal, Corruption, and Legal Institutions’** (Senate House, IHR, Wolfson NB01)
 - Alexandra Gajda (Oxford): *The scandalous history of parliament: Arthur Hall of Grantham and the ancient constitution*
 - Lotte Fikkers (Leiden): *‘Only Informations of Councill’: scandal in Star Chamber*
 - Cameron Whiteside (Sheffield): *The Commission on Fees and Monarchical Paternalism: Challenging Early Modern Public Corruption*
 - David Chan Smith (Wilfrid Laurier University): *A New Politics? Discovering Parliamentary Corruption in Early Stuart England*
- 12.45–14.00 – **Lunch** (Senate House, IHR, Wolfson NB02)
- 14.00–15.00 – **Keynote** – Mark Knights (Warwick): *‘The Nature and Lifecycle of Corruption Scandals’* (Senate House, IHR, Wolfson NB01)
- 15.00–15.15 – **Break** (coffee and cakes) (Senate House, IHR, Wolfson NB02)
- 15.15–16.45 – **Panel 3 – ‘Corruption & Scandal in Empire and Colonialism’** (Senate House, IHR, Wolfson NB01)
 - Rupali Mishra (Auburn): *The Language of Corruption and Private Trade in the Early East India Company*
 - Daniel O’Driscoll (Oxford): *Corruption and Crime in the Conquest of New Mexico*
 - Casey Schmitt (Cornell): *Smuggling and Violence at Mona Island, ca. 1560–1600*
- 16.45–17.00 – **Break** (coffee and cakes) (Senate House, IHR, Wolfson NB02)
- 17.00–18.00 – **Round Table Discussion** (Senate House, IHR, Wolfson NB01): Chair – Alastair Bellany; Participants – Ian Archer, Alexandra Gajda, Mark Knights, Peter Lake, and Ellen Paterson
- 18.00 – **Closing Remarks** (Senate House, IHR, Wolfson NB01)

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