

The Fifty-First Season of the
**TORONTO RENAISSANCE AND
REFORMATION COLLOQUIUM**

Founded by Natalie Zemon Davis and James K. McConica in 1964



CALL FOR PAPERS

“On the Eve of the Reformation: The View from Then and Now”

**An interdisciplinary conference at Victoria College in the University of Toronto
21-22 October 2016**

Deadline to submit proposals: Thursday, 31 March 2016.

As we prepare to commemorate the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther’s posting of his 95 theses in October 1517, it may be useful to pause for a moment and consider two important questions: first, how were the historical and cultural events of the late fifteenth and very early sixteenth century defining the European world that would soon break apart along sectarian lines, and, second, how did writers, thinkers, and artists later in the century look back at that earlier world and culture. The years immediately preceding 1517 were richly marked by events/works that were to have a lasting impact on their times. In 1516, for example, the fifteen-year-old Charles von Habsburg was crowned king of Spain, Thomas More published his *Utopia*, Erasmus his *Novum Testamentum* and Ariosto his *Orlando furioso*, and the Venetians established the Ghetto. The previous year, 1515, the twenty-year-old Francis I was crowned king of France, Thomas Wolsey was named cardinal and then Chancellor of England, Martin Luther began to lecture on Paul’s Letter to the Romans, Johannes Reuchlin established the first university chair of Greek in Germany, while across the ocean the Spaniard Diego Velázquez de Cuéllar founded the city of Havana. How did people later in the sixteenth century and early in the next see these events? How, for example, did Shakespeare see and depict pre-Reformation England in some of his historical plays? How did Montaigne, or Cervantes, or Caravaggio, or Monteverdi see the world before the Reformation?

This interdisciplinary conference seeks, therefore, to take the pulse of European history and culture in two different ways: from our perspective as early twenty-first-century scholars and from the perspective of late-sixteenth/early-seventeenth-century writers and artists. In so doing, the conference seeks to cast its eyes on both the Old World and the New, Europe as well as in its African and Asian extensions, history as well as the arts, society as well as events.

Proposals for papers to be presented at the conference should include:

the name of the speaker; the speaker’s academic affiliation (or “independent scholar”, as applicable); the title of the presentation; a 150 words abstract; full contact information for the speaker (name, address, telephone, email); the speaker’s one-page CV. In the case of complete session proposals, this information is to be repeated for each presenter.

Proposals should be emailed by Thursday, 31 March 2016, to both conference organizers:

Prof. Elizabeth Cohen at	ecohen@yorku.ca
Prof. Konrad Eisenbichler at	konrad.eisenbichler@utoronto.ca

For further information on the conference, please contact either one of the organizers.
For further information on the TRRC, please visit its web site at: <http://www.itergateway.org/trrc/>