

## CREMS Magic and Witchcraft Conference 2025

### What is a Witch?

Online and in person (York, UK)

23-25 June 2025

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2025

9:00-9:30: Registration and coffee

9:30-10:30: Keynote

Julian Goodare, University of Edinburgh, 'What is a witch in Scottish literature?'

10:30 – 10.45: Coffee

10:45 – 12.15: Panel 1: Witchcraft and the Law

Chair: TBA

- Helen Hall and Javier Oliva, How Did Contrasting Perceptions of the figure of the witch influence responses to the prosecution of mystics and mediums under the Witchcraft Act 1735?
- Gwendolyne Knight, Before the Witch Trials: Witchcraft as a Legal Concept in the Medieval North
- David Magalhães, Legal repression of witchcraft in Portugal. An overview

12:15 – 13:15: Lunch (provided for all speakers and delegates)

During lunch, there will be a witchcraft-themed creative writing workshop with Dr. Jennie Owen

13.15 – 14:45: Panel 2: Palimpsests

Chair: TBA

- Charlotte Trinquet Du Lys, From Helper to Menace: The Political Transformation of the Witch in Rapunzel's Western Literary Versions
- Szymon J. Czerski, Deliver us from the evil one: The evolution of the owl and tawny owl cultural motif in Polish folklore in a magical context
- Abigail Fraser, The continuity of the witch image from Pharsalia to Daemonologie

14:45 – 15:45: Panel 3: Male witches

Chair: TBA

- Holly Bamford, Husband, Father, Witch: Male Witches in Early Modern England
- James Hobbs, "The Devill of our Nation:" Male Witchcraft and Court Scandal in Seventeenth Century England

15:45 – 16:00: Coffee

16:00 – 17:00: Panel 4: Culture clashes

Chair: TBA

- Louise Nyholm Kallestrup, A witch to a king? Christian IV and the prosecution of Crippled Heine, 1626-1630
- Francesca Vera Romano, Folkloric Witchcraft in Southern Italy during the Early Modern Period

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2025

9:00-9:15: Registration and coffee

9:15 – 10:45: Panel 5: Witches vs. cunning folk

Chair: Tabitha Stanmore

- Morgan Daimler, Witches, Wise Women, and Fairies in 19th Century Ireland
- Gina Snooks, Witches Among Us?!: Witchcraft in Newfoundland Folklore
- Luka Šešo, Heretics, Witches or Traditional Healers: Who were Krsniks

10:45 – 11:00: Coffee

11:00 – 12:30: Panel 6: Witchcraft in the antique / late medieval period

Chair: Debora Moretti

- Maria Tsitsani, Magical Ways of Strengthening the Position of Defence or Accusation in the Light of Papyri
- Vitória Rama, Persecution of witchcraft in the turn of the late 2nd millennium to the late 1st millennium BC in Ancient Mesopotamia
- Sotiriou Vasiliki, “The Witch” (=Magissa, μάγισσα) in the Byzantine Empire

12:30 – 13:15: Lunch (provided for all speakers and delegates)

13:15 – 14:15: Keynote

Ceri Houlbrook, University of Hertfordshire, ‘Unstoppering the witch bottle’

14:15 – 15:45: Panel 7: Muddled theory

Chair: Cat Stiles

- Neil Tarrant, Witchcraft without Witches?: Robert Bellarmine’s Account of Demonic Power in the *Lectiones Lovanienses*
- Dan Harms, Winds, Witches, and Wicked Spirits: The Association of Witches with Other Dangers in a Late Seventeenth Century British Manuscript
- Olivia Garro, Theological construction versus visual representations of witches: gender, a case study, and its apparent contradictions

15:45 – 16:00: Coffee

16:00 – 17:00: Panel 8: A magical miscellany

Chair: TBA

- Paolo Portone, “Witch to Whom?” The Origins of a Modern Myth with Many Facets
- Ellie Whitehead, Satan’s Invisible World Discovered: Witchcraft and the Scientific Revolution in Seventeenth-Century Scotland

Conference dinner in the evening (venue TBC)

Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> June 2025
9:00-9:15: Registration and coffee
9:15 – 10:45: Panel 9: Colonialism and witchcraft
Chair: Mikki Brock
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Joanna Paschedag, “Witchcraft” in Hawaii? The imposition of Euro-American views of witchcraft on Native Hawaiian religious practices from 1820</li> <li>• Nikolas Brusletto, The Norwegian Troll Folk – Witchcraft in Norway from pre-Christian times to the witchcraft proceedings</li> <li>• Ashlyn Cudney, The Witch as Highlander: Cultural Marginalization in the 1662 Bute Trials</li> <li>• Zothanchhingi Khiangte, Demons and witches in the pre-Christian native cultures of Northeast India: Transitions and reinterpretations</li> </ul>
10:45 – 11:00: Coffee
11:00 – 12:30: Panel 10: Witchcraft and the body
Chair: TBA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Irina Husti-Radulet, Blood, Breastmilk, Miscarriages: Maleficium and Female Bodily Functions in Early Modern England</li> <li>• Cat Stiles, Sex Specific: The Witch, Desire &amp; Embodiment in Early Modern Culture</li> <li>• Nataša Polgar, Anchored in law: witch and her body</li> </ul>
12:30 – 13:15: Lunch (provided for all speakers and delegates)
13:15 – 14:15: Keynote
Rita Voltmer, University of Trier, ‘Beyond the village witch: The many faces of the European witch’
14:15 – 15:45: Panel 11: Witchcraft as harm
Chair: TBA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anna Kalkaeva, The danger of Female-Witches and Male-Sorcerers in the folklore tales of 19th century Central and Southern Germany</li> <li>• Łukasz Hajdrych, Social norms, neighbours and accusations of practicing witchcraft in early modern Poland. The case of Kleczew</li> <li>• Jennifer De Biasio, The Judicial and Popular Co-Production of ‘the Witch’ in Lucerne, ca. 1450-1500</li> </ul>
15:45 – 16:00: Coffee
16:00 – 17:00: Roundtable
Panellists: Jonathan Barry, Molly Aitken, Charlotte Baker, Mikki Brock