The Early Modern Colloquium at the University of Michigan invites abstracts for papers for their interdisciplinary graduate student conference, "Exploring Resistance through Medieval and Early Modern Culture," at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, March 16-17, 2018.

With keynote lectures by:

Carla Della Gatta (USC) and
Kathryn Schwarz (Vanderbilt)

And panel responses from the medieval and early modern faculty at the University of Michigan.

The challenge to resist structures of oppression both within and beyond the academy is particularly exigent in our current moment. From nearly unavoidable discussions of Catholicism and the Protestant Reformation, early modern scholarship has a rich tradition of focusing on the restrictions a society can face and the resistance movements and revolts that result from circumscription. Enriching our discussions of religion, sovereignty, discourses, institutions, etc. more recent work has acknowledged the necessary inclusion of gender, sexuality, race, empire, class, and ethnicity. Kathryn Schwarz, for example, urges us to reconsider our thoughts on women’s willful participation in patriarchal agendas. For her, female conformity in the early modern period can function as a destabilizing and threatening force to ‘heterosocial hierarchy.’ Carla Della Gatta, with a keen interest in the cultural-linguistic divide, uses her training in early modern drama to analyze contemporary Latinx-themed Shakespearean productions. More, her work questions the security of the “ivory tower” and examines the effect institutional reform and the current political climate has on the Humanities and the teaching profession.

Inspired by these scholars, we want to extend and expand the dialogue on medieval and early modern forms of resistance. This year’s conference provides an occasion for us to think through the role of medieval and early modern humanities scholarship in resistance efforts, both present and historical. We will ask: What forms did resistance take in the medieval and early modern world? How can historical research broaden our understanding of resistance as a concept? How can it aid us in enacting resistance through our scholarship? How can thinking about medieval and early modern artifacts, institutions, and representations help us engage more effectively in resistance today? What methods, spaces, and conceptual tools can help us resist, or understand resistance, through our work in medieval and early modern studies?

We invite fifteen-minute presentations by graduate students in any discipline that engage productively with the concept of resistance. Relevant projects might address one or more of the following topics:

· Discourses and institutions
· Print, media, censorship
· Religion, conversion, heresy
· Art, literature, representation
· Law and criminality
· Nation, location, sovereignty
· State formation, jurisprudence
· Science, technology, natural law
· Sexuality, chastity
· Empire, race, slavery
· Revolution, reform
· Language and translation
· Pain, pleasure
This conference will include a special session co-sponsored by the University of Michigan Drama Interest Group: "Performance Studies and Resistance." Abstracts for this session may:

- Examine sites of critical resistance in the intersections of medieval and early modern performance studies and performance studies more broadly
- Map moments of resistance in and around medieval and early modern performances
- Offer resistance to entrenched assumptions or practices in medieval and early modern performance studies

Please submit 250-300 word abstracts papers to Laurel Billings (laurelnb@umich.edu) with the subject line “EMC Conference” by January 10th, 2018.