CONCEPTS AND METHODS IN CULTURAL HISTORY

This seminar will be devoted to a critical examination of a series of notions that are fundamental in modern historical writing. Such an approach will allow us to look at the mutations of historical research since the mid-twentieth century, to reflect on the relations between history and other disciplines (anthropology, sociology, literary criticism, history of art, etc.) and to analyze the models of intelligibility that frame historical interpretations. It will focus on Early Modern period (but not exclusively) and be based on reading of methodological essays, historical case studies and primary texts. It will deal with historiographical perspectives developed not only in the English speaking academic world but also in France, Germany, Spain, or Italy. Its aim is to propose a series of readings that can be considered as a part of the intellectual “library” necessary for any scholar working today in Humanities and Social Sciences. It will also make a large and regular use of the rare books and manuscripts collections of the Library.

1. January 21: Introduction

2. January 28: History between Proof and Rhetoric
-Anthony Grafton, Forgers and Critics: Creativity and Duplicity in Western Scholarship, Princeton University Press, 1990, Chapters 1 and 2.
-Aristotle, Rhetoric, Book 1, Chapters 1-3, J. H. Freese (editor), available online at www.perseus.tufts.edu and at https://classsics.mit.edu

3. February 4: Memory and History


4. February 11: History and Literature


5. February 18: Temporalities


-Balzac, Lost Illusions, London, Random House, Chapter 1, First paragraph.


6. February 25: Microhistory and Global History


7. March 3rd: Morphology and History


**March 10: SPRING BREAK**

**8.March 17: Culture(s)**


9. March 24: Discourse


10. March 31: Text


11. April 7: Representation


- *Canons and Decrees of the Council of Trent / Session XXV / Decree concerning Purgatory / Touching the Invocation, Veneration, and on Relics of Saints and Sacred Images*, available at https://en.wikisource.org

12. Practices


13. April 21: Languages

-Don Quixote, *The Travels of Persiles and Sigismunda. A Northern History*, (1617), Book III, Chapter 1, available at www.ems.kcl.ac.uk
