

Scientiae Presidential Newsletter

July 2020

Friends and colleagues,

I'd like to begin this inaugural newsletter by introducing myself as the new President of *Scientiae*. For those who haven't met me, I'm an historian at the University of Prince Edward Island and Fellow, at the Centre for Reformation and Renaissance Studies, at the University of Toronto where I work on early modern demonology, conceptions of evidence, and—predictably given the first two issues—evidence and demons. I've been a member of the *Scientiae* Executive Committee since the Warwick 2013 conference.

I'm very excited to be taking over the reins of the organisation from out-going President Vittoria Feola (University of Padua), for *Scientiae* is expanding in new and important directions!

In March, the Executive made the responsible decision to postpone our annual meeting, scheduled for Amsterdam in June. As former delegates to past *Scientiae* conferences, you'll appreciate how central the idea of promoting a vibrant interdisciplinary community is to our mission and so, as you might imagine, this decision was taken with much regret. In an effort to capture something of the collaborative spirit of our gatherings, we have posted the abstracts of the papers that would have been presented at the conference arranged thematically to our website. See: <http://scientiae.co.uk/conferences/amsterdam-2020/>

Our conference planning team is now working with the **University of Amsterdam** to host the conference **9 to 11 June 2021**. Details are still tentative at this stage but **save the date**. Watch for future announcements in your inbox and here: <http://scientiae.co.uk/amsterdam-2021/>

In the interim, I urge you to consider attending one of our **online workshops**. The first of these, organised and hosted by Executive Member, Stefano Gulizia (Warsaw) in June, dealt with gender and medical epistemology and was exceptionally well attended, featuring presentations by Elizabeth Yale (Iowa), Valentina Pugliano (MIT) and Alisha Rankin (Tufts). Proceedings were recorded and are available on our webpage at <http://scientiae.co.uk/online-events/>.

Stefano will be hosting a second workshop on **6 August** (17:00, Rome; 16:00, London; 11:00, New York) entitled **“The Deep Time of Earth: Environmental Experiments with History,”** and will feature presentations by Ivano Dal Prete (Yale University), Tina Asmussen (ETH, Zurich) and Enrico Pasini (University of Turin). Registration is free, but email Stefano at pertransibunt@gmail.com for the link to the Zoom room or for more details.

In the early autumn, we'll be hosting a third online workshop, this time organised and hosted by Executive Member Cassie Gorman (Anglia Ruskin University) on **philosophical fiction**. We'll post details as they are finalised.

Watch for the first volumes in the new ***Scientiae Studies* book series** coming soon! Hosted by the University of Amsterdam Press, *Scientiae Studies* publishes innovative and interdisciplinary monographs, studies and edited volumes that seek to examine the construction, sources and meaning of knowledge and its circulation in the period before the fixing of academic disciplines. For more information about the series, see: <https://www.aup.nl/en/series/scientiae-studies>

This summer saw the resignation of JD Fleming from *Scientiae's* Executive. JD was one of the visionaries behind this fabulous interdisciplinary forum for the investigation of ways of premodern knowing, and was the organisational force behind both our first conference (Vancouver 2012) and our most recent (Belfast 2019). He will be missed.

But JD's resignation does mean that in the months ahead we will be looking to add a member to the Executive Committee. **Watch for a general announcement soon** or drop me a line at rraiswell@upei.ca for more details.

Finally, I would like to extend thanks on behalf of the Executive and all *Scientiae* friends to Vittoria Feola for her work shepherding the organisation over the last three years, and for overseeing many of the initiatives now coming to bear fruit. She's remaining with the organisation but keen to take on new challenges as the organisation evolves.

Best,

Richard Raiswell
President, *Scientiae*

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