

**The Queen's Two Bodies:
Mary Stuart and Elizabeth I from Schiller to Jelinek
Die zwei Körper der Königin:
Maria Stuart und Elisabeth I. von Schiller bis Jelinek**

Global Seminar GERM 515: "Klassik-Kolleg"
at Klassik-Stiftung Weimar, Germany

17th – 22nd June 2018

Directors

- Prof. Gaby Pailer (CENES, University of British Columbia),
 - Prof. Elena Agazzi (Università degli Studi di Bergamo),
 - Prof. Gesa Dane (Freie Universität Berlin),
- in collaboration with Klassik-Stiftung Weimar.

Course Description

The Seminar's starting point is E. Kantorowicz's thesis of the "King's Two Bodies" (1957), which recent research has questioned with regard to queens. In Schiller's famous historical drama *Maria Stuart* (1801) the two bodies are distributed onto two queens, Mary Stuart ("body natural") and Elizabeth I ("body politic"). Our main research question will be: is this always the case in literary and cinematic renderings of the Mary Stuart / Elizabeth I complex? We'll consider material from the period around 1800, from the 19th, and from the 20th/21st centuries.

Circa 1800: It is well known that Schiller was building on English and French historical accounts and resources, freely adapting the material. Yet the intertextual relations with women authors' works are lesser known, e.g. Sophia Lee's *The Recess, or A Tale of Other Times* (1783-85), a historical novel dealing with fictitious twin daughters of Mary Queen of Scots, who are persecuted by Elizabeth I. Possibly, Schiller was familiar with Lee's *Recess*, since he published Charlotte von Stein's drama *Die zwey Emilien* (1803), which is based on another of Lee's novels. Further to consider for the period circa 1800 is Charlotte Schiller's drama *Elisabeth* (ed. Pailer, 2016) juxtaposing two historical princesses, Elisabeth of Holstein and Margaret of Denmark, who contested the throne of 14th-century Sweden.

In German 19th-century literature, two dramas by female playwrights deserve consideration, both closely relating to the 1848-revolution and restauration period, thus shifting Schiller's thematic focus onto another era of questioning and criticism of class and gender biases inherent to monarchical rule: Marie von Ebner-Eschenbach (*Maria Stuart in Schottland*, 1860) and Charlotte Birch-Pfeiffer (*Elisabeth*, 1847), who puts Elizabeth Tudor in the position of being persecuted (and almost beheaded!) by her elder sister Mary.

In 20th- and 21st-century literature, Stefan Zweig's novel *Maria Stuart* is important for the juxtaposition of both queens, as in dramatic renderings by Wolfgang Hildesheimer, *Mary Stuart* (1970), and Elfriede Jelinek, *Ulrike Maria Stuart* (2006). Finally, we'll also consider cinematic adaptations in German and English, e.g. *Das Herz der Königin*, with Zarah Leander, dir. Carl Fröhlich, 1940; and *Young Bess*, with Jean Simmons, dir. George Sidney, 1953.

The Mary Stuart / Elizabeth I controversy provides fascinating material, which triggers research questions regarding the cultural transfer of source material between Germany, England,

and France; cultural and historical aspects of Franco-British-German warfare, politics, friendship and enmity in the late Renaissance, circa 1800, and in the mid-19th century, up to the present; the history of ideas and theories regarding gender, politics, and religion; intermediality, mindful of the transfer between genres and media.

The above-listed topics are but examples, and we warmly invite proposals to deal with other material in any of the given time frames. It is also possible to look into aspects such as the performative renderings of Mary Stuart's suffering and execution, from Baroque to French and Italian classicist dramatic, operatic, and at times parodic, depictions.

Venue

The Klassik-Kolleg will take place at the *Festsaal* of the Goethe National Museum / Goethehaus in Weimar, Germany (see www.klassik-stiftung.de/en/institutions/goethe-national-museum/).

Schedule

- Sun. 17th June: Participants get to Weimar.
- Mon. 18th June: Klassik-Kolleg / Circa 1800 / Chair: Gaby Pailer (UBC).
- Tue. 19th June: Klassik-Kolleg / 19th Century / Chair: Gesa Dane (FU Berlin).
- Wed. 20th June: Klassik-Kolleg / 20th and 21st Century / Chair: Elena Agazzi (Bergamo).
- Thu. 21st June: Klassik-Kolleg / Transculturality and Intermediality of the Mary Stuart / Elizabeth I Complex.
- Fri. 22nd June: Participants leave Weimar.

Conditions

Stiftung Weimarer Klassik will reimburse travel expenses (max € 180 per participant) and will provide full-board accommodation for all the participants. Note that

- all participants must have valid medical insurance for the duration of their stay in Germany;
- while presentations may be in German or English, advanced reading knowledge of German is mandatory: the required language levels are B2/C1 for German and C1 for English.

How to apply

Send your application to elena.agazzi@unibg.it no later than Wednesday 10 January 2018.

Your application must include

1. your name, matriculation number, contact details (e-mail and phone number), and a short CV (max. 250 words);
2. the working title of the presentation you'd like to offer (in English or in German);
3. the abstract of your presentation (max. 500 words, in English or in German).

Selections

Professors Elena Agazzi, Angela Locatelli and Raul Calzoni will interview all the applicants **on Tuesday 16th January 2018, starting at 9.00 am in Room 202 Rosate**; note that no further communication will be issued to applicants prior to that date.

On the following day the matriculation numbers of successful candidates will be published at <https://ls-llepa.unibg.it/it/news/weimar-klassik-kolleg-giugno-2018>.