



**UNIVERSITÉ
DE GENÈVE**

INSTITUT D'HISTOIRE
DE LA RÉFORMATION

Institute of Reformation History



SUMMER SCHOOL 2023

From 5 to 9 June

The power of references.

Auctoritates and citations in the 16th century Reformation

From 12 to 16 June

Vis-A-Vis Rome:

Editorial Strategies and Dynamics of Confessional Confrontation (1550-1660)

University of Geneva

Institute of Reformation History

22 Boulevard des Philosophes, CH-1211 Geneva 4

The Institute of Reformation History (IHR) is an interdisciplinary research centre of the University of Geneva, dedicated to the history of the reforms between the 15th and 17th centuries. Research fields of its members range from intellectual history to cultural and political history, and to the history of women and gender.

In addition to its research library, the Institute houses the rare book and manuscript collection of the Musée Historique de la Réformation (16,000 volumes) and is in close proximity to the University Library (over 1,5 million volumes of printed books and manuscripts) and the Geneva State Archives.

Located at Uni Philosophes, the Institute provides excellent conditions for research in the above-mentioned subjects. Since 1999 it has been running an annual summer school for graduate students (MA), PhD students or early postdocs, in the fields of History, Philosophy, Literature, History of Religions, and Theology.

Courses descriptions and aims

The aim of this Summer school is to enable participants to deepen their knowledge in a particular historical field and to familiarize themselves with the treatment of sources. Special attention is paid to learning the methods used in the study of intellectual and cultural history.

The courses are given from Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm. During a course, participants have direct contact with members of the teaching staff of the Institute and may ask to discuss their personal research with them. At the end of the Summer school, those who have been actively involved, especially in the afternoon seminars, will receive a certificate. Participants who so request may, in agreement with their institution and depending on the work done, obtain a certain number of ECTS credits (2 to 4).

Summer School 2023

The power of references.

Auctoritates and citations in the 16th century Reformation

5 – 9 June

Paul-Alexis Mellet, and Ueli Zahnd

The intellectual revolutions of the Reformation era can be considered as a change in the use and appreciation of references. In medieval times, a more or less defined corpus of *auctoritates* – of authors, but more often of isolated authoritative sentences – served as an argumentative basis in the different academic disciplines, such as philosophy, law, medicine or theology. It is precisely the rumination of these "remnants of knowledge", processed into florilegia deemed unreliable, that the humanists criticized, replacing it with a historical and contextualizing approach to the sources of knowledge. The Reformation theologians joined them in this critique, complementing it with a thorough reflection on the normative status of the sources and accepting, in principle at least, the only authority of the Bible. If, in this regard, the changes that occurred in the way of referring to sources look like a "critical narrowing", it is this same period, however, that has seen, supported by the media revolution, an explosion not only of the sources made available, but also of their use.

Given this twofold observation of a narrowing and a broadening of references, this summer school proposes to study the revolutions of the 16th century from the perspective of a "recalibration" of the referential system of knowledge. Above all, it will be a matter of analysing the nature of references and their status of authority ("the authority of the authorities"), for it appears that, at the time of the Reformation, the concept of *auctoritates* was not entirely abandoned. But how did one define *auctoritas*? Is it simply a corpus for common use, or is there a wider system of references and citations that fills the works of this period and circulates from one to the other? And how are the *auctoritates* organized in relation to their medieval usage? Certain hierarchies seem obvious, such as, for the theologians of the Reformation, the primary status attributed to the Bible, or the distinction between authentic and pseudepigraphic works. But what about competing references within the same level of authority (Luther

calling the Epistle of James an "epistle of straw")? Is it a matter of reviving the scholastic *Sic et Non*, or are there *auctoritates* that are not (or no longer) authoritative? The problem arises all the more since authoritative texts are not always clear. Yet, what authority can be attributed to a translated reference, and what authority can be given to its interpreter? Is it possible, after all, to refer to contemporaries (and trust them)?

Another aim will consist in questioning the "referential framework". In the face of religious dispute, we can assume that there is a "confession of authorities", in the sense that competing systems of references are privileged over one another. But what about the authorities of the others? Should they be ignored, rejected, transformed to serve one's own purposes? Hence, it will be necessary to analyse also the use of the references themselves. How are references made? Which editions are favoured? Do they consist of precise and explicit mentions, simple allusions or a network of implicit references, deliberately hidden?

From the point of view of citations and their power, this course aims to put at the center of the analysis a basic element of the textual production of the 16th century, but which is anything but banal or obvious: rather, it presents itself as a matrix for understanding the intellectual revolutions that marked the 16th century.

Program

Monday 5 June: Introduction: the medieval and modern context (Paul-Alexis Mellet and Ueli Zahnd)

- Afternoon — Study of selected texts and activities related to the course

Tuesday 6 June: The authority of the Bible at the time of the Reformation (guest scholar: Arthur Huiban)

- Seminar — Study of selected texts

Wednesday 7 June: Non-biblical authorities in Reformed theology (Ueli Zahnd)

- Seminar — Study of selected texts

Thursday 8 June: Obviousness, banality and critique of the authorities (Paul-Alexis Mellet)

- Seminar — Study of selected texts

Friday 9 June: The authority of authorities: conclusion (Paul-Alexis Mellet and Ueli Zahnd)

- Conclusion of the course: perspectives and assessments, round table discussion.

**Vis-A-Vis Rome:
Editorial Strategies and Dynamics of Confessional Confrontation (1550-
1660)**

12 - 16 June

Daniela Solfaroli Camillocci and Paolo Sachet

On the threshold of early modern times, the printing press provided access to a growing and diverse number of readers and auditors. As the religious crisis led to unprecedented criticism of established authorities and institutions, communication processes underwent further radical transformation. Studies on these subjects, however, have long been influenced by conventional wisdom. On the one hand, the reformed publishing initiatives are often understood in terms of their innovation to the detriment of the elements of continuity with earlier traditions, while the relationship between the success of movable type and of the Protestant reforms continues to be interpreted as an inextricable link between two 'modern' forms of technological and intellectual progress. On the other hand, the publishing practices of the Roman Church are recounted as part of a wider negative narration that is prone to depict the papacy as unable or unwilling to respond to the critical challenges posed by the Reformation, if not through book bans and burnings.

Challenging such conventional interpretations, this summer school explores the dynamics of religious confrontation by addressing the publishing practices across the Catholic and Reformed confessional boundaries. The years of the Council of Trent, presenting a highly polemical turning point, will be the opening for an in-depth reflection on the religious editorial trends that followed. The city of Rome was the most controversial of the subjects under debate. Irreformable metropolis constantly provoking scandal or centre of the true faith of Christianity, home of the diabolic Foe to be overthrown or the Holy See of the one and only supreme authority, the *Urbs* went through countless representations and interpretations, whether apologetic or polemical. During the different sessions, the course will dwell on the patterns of control and exploitation of information in the context of internal struggles within the Catholic and Protestant camps; the Catholic attitudes towards the Roman promotion and banning of printed books; the complex plans to reform the papal curia from within and the mobilisation of these attempts by the Reformers in their printed

campaigns against Rome, mainly through derisory editions of official documentation. Attention will also be given to the seventeenth century, when the anti-Roman targets of scholarly controversy, travelogues and conversion strategies gave rise, through the prism of various publications, to antagonistic models of obedience on the part of 'champions' of the faith, while the Reformed editorial practices contribute to establishing the symbolic opposition to Rome by means of adversary cities, such as Geneva and Venice. A final case study on Pope Sixtus V will allow for more general conclusions. A most prominent figure for the Roman propaganda at the end of the Cinquecento, his great programme of self-promotion involving printing as well as architecture will be contrasted with the fictional account of his actions, first published in Geneva in 1669.

Program

Monday 12 June: Debating Rome in and around Trent (Daniela Solfaroli Camillocci and Paolo Sachet)

- Afternoon — Study of selected texts and activities related to the course

Tuesday 13 June: Promotion and Prohibition: How the Papacy Handled Printing Before the Galileo Affair (Paolo Sachet)

- Seminar — Study of selected texts

Wednesday 14 June: Solving Problems or Backfiring? The Curial Reforms and the Reformed Propaganda (Paolo Sachet)

- Seminar — Study of selected texts
- Research Seminar: Frédéric Gabriel, CNRS/ENS of Lyon – IHRIM
« Trouver sa place : ministères et pensées de la délégation à l'époque moderne » (discussant : Arthur Huiban)

Thursday 15 June: Questioning Rome: The Limits of Universality in the Narratives of Controversies (Daniela Solfaroli Camillocci)

- Seminar — Study of selected texts

Friday 16 June: Sixtus V Between Self-Fashioning and Fiction (Daniela Solfaroli Camillocci and Paolo Sachet)

- Conclusion of the course: perspectives and assessments. Participants' workshop

Linguistic requirements

The morning course will be given in French; the afternoon seminar will be given in both French and English. Candidates must have sufficient knowledge of both languages to be able to follow the courses. However, they will be able to express themselves in either English or French. Those who find it difficult to judge their level in these languages may contact a member of the teaching staff before registering.

Application

The registration form must be completed online by **19 April**. Each candidate will have to indicate his/her wish to participate in the first, second, or both weeks of the summer school. A letter of motivation, a curriculum vitae, a brief presentation of the research carried out as part of the degree, doctoral thesis, or post-doctoral studies, as well as two signed letters of recommendation (PDF format) should be attached to the form. Applicants who have already completed an IHR summer school do not need the letters of recommendation but must produce updated versions of the other documents and also register via the online form.

Applications will be reviewed by the teaching staff; candidates will be notified of their decision within one week after the application deadline.

Funding

Admission to the summer school takes the form of a residential scholarship, which covers the cost of half-board accommodation (breakfast and lunch). The Institute does not contribute to the participants' travel expenses.

As soon as they are notified of their acceptance, the selected candidates undertake to follow the complete course(s). Candidates are asked to carefully coordinate their participation with their agenda. Late withdrawals (less than one month before the start of the Summer school) or early departures will result in exclusion from the following summer school organised by the Institute. For organisational reasons, a cancellation fee may be charged in the event of late withdrawal without justification.

Teaching Staff

Paul-Alexis Mellet, Bachelor, Master I and II in Philosophy (Sorbonne-Paris IV), *agrégation* in History (Sorbonne-Paris I), PhD degree in History (Tours-CESR), *accreditation* to supervise research (Sorbonne-Paris IV). Professor at the Institute of Reformation History. Areas of expertise: early modernity in the fields of theological-political history, the history of the book and the history of religious practices.

Paolo Sachet, BA and MA in History (University of Milan), PhD degree in Intellectual Studies (Warburg Institute, University of London). Ambizione Fellow at the History of Reformation History. Areas of expertise: early modern book history and intellectual history, with an emphasis on the communication strategies and the afterlife of the Church Fathers in sixteenth-century religious debate.

Daniela Solfaroli Camillocci, MA of Letters (Pisa), PhD degree in early modern history (Scuola Normale Superiore, Pisa), MAS in Reformed studies (Geneva). Professor at the Institute of Reformation History. Main areas of research: cultural history of early modern religious practices, history of Christian spirituality, women's and gender history of the 16th and 17th centuries.

Ueli Zahnd, studies in Theology and Philosophy (Bern and Paris), MAS in Reformed studies (Geneva), PhD degree in medieval philosophy (Freiburg im Breisgau). Professor at the Institute of Reformation History. Areas of expertise: the intellectual history of the 15th and 16th centuries, their traditions of thought and the continuity between the late Middle Ages and the Reformation. Apart from the traditional methods of intellectual history, Ueli Zahnd explores the approaches of digital humanities.