Recovering Europe’s Parliamentary Culture, 1500-1700:
Concepts, Methods, Approaches
International Conference
Jagiellonian University, Krakow, 22-24 June 2022

CALL EXTENDED to 15 March 2022

This interdisciplinary international conference will explore the culture of early modern Europe’s political assemblies, and ask how it was expressed in language, writing, images, institutions, and symbolic practices. Political consultative assemblies, common in late medieval monarchies throughout Europe, faced transformative changes between 1500 and 1700. Parliaments, States, Estates, Diets, Cortes varied tremendously in their organization, customs, and functions. Yet they shared a transnational inheritance of ideas and methods of deliberation, consultation and representation that added up to a common European tradition.

Representative and consultative institutions have been mostly studied in terms either of legal and constitutional history or of national politics. Yet they should also be seen as cultural phenomena in their own right. We invite papers from scholars of early modern history, political philosophy, intellectual history, literature, classical tradition, arts and material culture to investigate the political, literary and visual discourses and shared experiences of representative political assemblies across Europe during the ‘Long Reformation’.

Confirmed speakers include Alan Cromartie (University of Reading), Norman Jones (Utah State University), Paulina Koeves (Jesus College, Oxford), Fabien Montcher (Saint Louis University, Missouri), Dorota Pietrzyk-Reeves (Jagiellonian University), Uladzimir Padalinski (Belarusian State University), and Paul Seaward (History of Parliament Trust).

Conference fee: 150 Euro

Proposals for papers of 15-20 minutes should be submitted to: parliamentaryculture@ell.ox.ac.uk

They should not exceed 200 words. Please also submit a short (150 words) biographical note.

The conference is partially supported by the Europaeum, a network of 18 of Europe’s leading universities. Postgraduate students at Europaeum member universities should additionally complete a cover sheet, attach a 2 page CV and give the name of a referee if they wish to be considered for a funded place at the conference. These will be awarded on a competitive basis according to merit.