University of Oxford
Centre for Early Modern Studies

Julius Hübner (1806–1882), *Luthers Disputats med Eck*

Headline Activities 2025-26

1) **Regular Research Seminars**
2) **Steering Committee News**
3) **CEMS Awarded John Fell Funding for 'How to?' Seminars**
4) **Affiliation with ICCEMS: 'Tacit Knowledge' Seminars**
5) **Global Conversation Seminars**
6) **Funding Competition 2025-26**
7) **CEMS-funded Conference in 2018 Leads to Publication**
8) **What's Next for CEMS in 2026–7?**

Read on for more detail on all of these activities.

c • e • m • s
centre for early modern studies

1) Regular Research Seminars

In 2025-6, Oxford CEMS has continued to provide infrastructure, communication, publicity and some funding across the disciplines focussing on early modernity. Across the academic year, CEMS informed its members of around 250 lectures, papers, and seminar discussions, including 24 regular seminar series.

Together, these events have covered a broad sweep of the early modern world. CEMS has advertised, (among others) seminars in early modern English, French and Italian; on early modern British history; on the early modern world as a whole; on the pre-modern history of East Asia; on early modern diplomacy; on Iberian history; on eighteenth century literature and culture; on the Enlightenment and on religion in Britain and Ireland, 1400–1700.

It has also advertised the Court Studies Seminar, the Centre for Manuscripts, Texts and Cultures, the All Souls seminars in Intellectual History, in Medieval and Renaissance Music and in Medieval and Early Modern Science, a new seminar in the history of alchemy and chemistry, the Graduate seminar in history, 1680-1850, the early modern literature graduate forum, a new interdisciplinary early modern graduate workshop and the 'Big Renaissance Books' reading group.

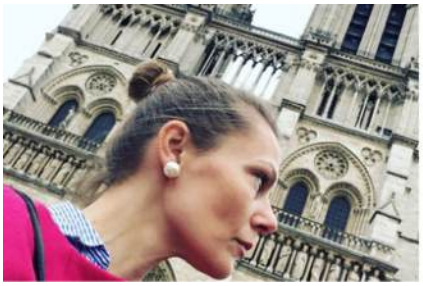
By coordinating with seminar organisers before term, making details of their events available online for the public, and maintaining a centralised calendar of early modern events, CEMS has helped to minimise clashes and ensure these seminars are able to run at the most convenient times. We urge convenors of early modern seminars not so far represented to take advantage and send term cards to the Research co-ordinator.

Map of Venice by Piri Reis

2) Steering Committee News

CEMS continues to be run by a cross-disciplinary steering committee, with representatives from every Faculty that contributes annual financial support that makes the running of CEMS possible. In 2025–6, our Steering Committee consisted of Dr Leah Clark (Art History), Professor Filippo de Vivo (Early Modern History), Professor Joe Moshenska (English), Dr Aslı Niyaziğlu (AMES, Ottoman History), Professor Simon Park (Modern Languages, Portuguese), and Professor Ian Williams (Law).

The coming year will bring some changes as Professor Moshenska will be away in the US. We are pleased to welcome Dr Michal Zechariah, Early Career Development Fellow in English at Christ Church, to cover for Prof Moshenska's absence.



Dr Leah Clark

Professor Lorna Hutson
Director of CEMS

Professor Joe Moshenska
(*on leave this year*)

Dr Aslı Niyaziğlu

Professor Simon Park

Professor Filippo de Vivo

Dr Michal Zechariah

Professor Ian Williams

We have benefitted greatly from the organisational efficiency, energy and responsiveness of our CEMS research coordinator, Dr Paul Norris. Paul will be stepping down at the end of August and we wish him well. We are delighted to welcome our new CEMS research coordinator, Clémence Smith (clemence.smith@oriel.ox.ac.uk).

Paul Norris

Clémence Smith

3) Introducing the 'How to?' Series

John Fell Funding for building a culture of interdisciplinary research in early modern studies at Oxford. Introducing 'The "How to?" Interdisciplinary Seminar Series'.

The CEMS Steering Committee is delighted to announce new seminar series designed to foster a culture of interdisciplinary research in early modern studies at Oxford. The new series is called **'The "How to?" series: Early Modern and Contemporary Knowledge Practices from Interdisciplinary Perspectives'**. Its aim is to combine practical training for ECRs with methodological debate and discussion between the disciplines. The seminars will take place once a term over a period of two years and will bring researchers at all levels and in all disciplines together over discussions over tools and protocols for examining different aspects of early modernity.

We will be launching the new series with Prof Leah Clark (Art History) on '"How to . . . smell, hear & taste the past": Sensory Methodologies, Piloting a Sensory Toolkit' on 18 November 2026, 12.30–2.00pm in 10.424 Schwarzman Centre. Other members of the CEMS Steering Committee will be there. All are welcome. A sandwich lunch will be provided.

4) CEMS and ICCEMS: ‘Tacit Knowledge’

Continuation of CEMS affiliation with ICCEMS.org. The ‘Tacit Knowledge’ seminars.

This is the third year of CEMS’ affiliation to **ICCEMS.org, The International Consortium for Centres for Early Modern Studies** (**https://iccems.org**). 2025-26 saw the continuation of the ICCEMS Tacit knowledge for higher degree and early career researchers with two further seminars.

Map from John Selden, *Mare Clausum* (1635)

On 11 September, Prof Rosalind Smith (ANU) and Prof Emma Smith (Hertford College, Oxford) hosted ‘Secret Editors’ Business: What No One Tells You About Getting an Article Published’. On 19 February 2026 CEMS Director Lorna Hutson gave an ICCEMS public talk in Canberra on ‘England’s Island Nationhood?’ on Milton’s poetry, nationhood and free and closed seas, and on 14 April 2026 a further ICCEMS Tacit Knowledge Workshop was held on the theme, ‘Working with digital collections: does seeing the actual thing matter?’, hosted by Guillaume Coatelen (Université Versailles Saint-Quentin) and Blandine Demotz (Cergy Université).

Run Nova dos Mercadores

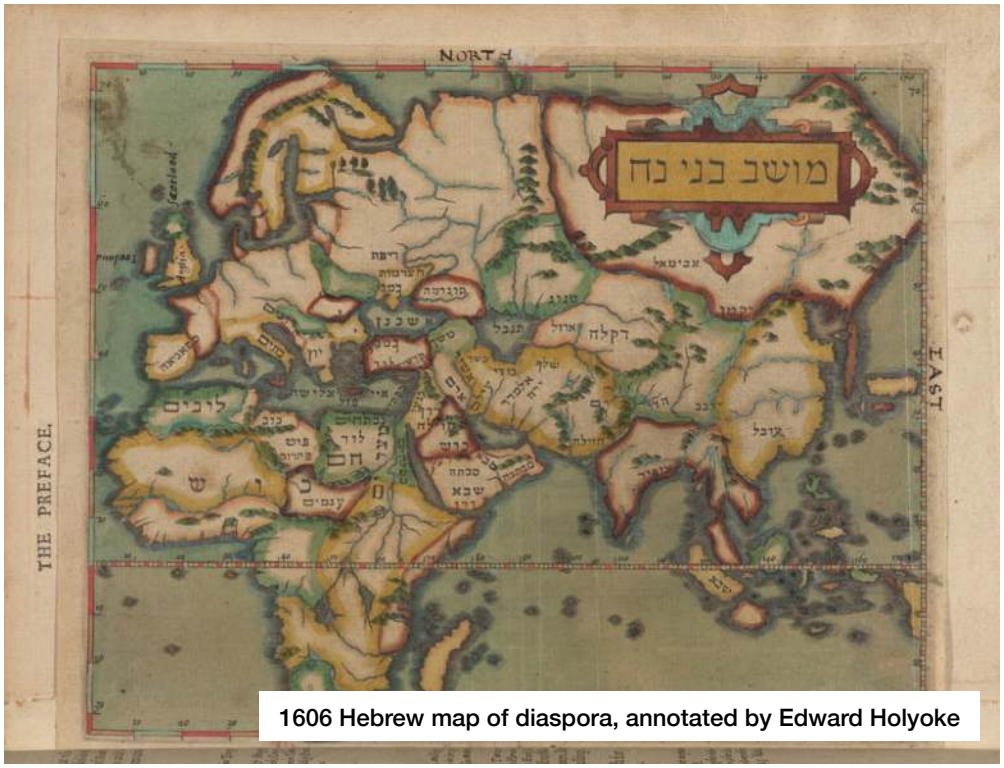
5) CEMS Global Conversations

In 2025-26, CEMS continued to host seminars highlighting contacts and encounters across the early modern world.

On 25 November 2025, English and Italian literary research came together in 'Early Modern Conversations in Ecology', with talks by Professor Bart Van Es and Professor Francesca Southerden, which you can read about here**.**

On 12 May 2026, Professors of French and English Literature, Wes Williams and Bart Van Es, engaged Prof Nandini Das in conversation about her book, *This Little World: A New History of Tudor and Stuart England*, which narrates a history of England centring on itinerant and migrant figures and stressing the complexity of histories of identity and belonging, as reported here**.**

On 9 June 2026, Professor Kirsten Macfarlane (Religious History, Chicago) spoke with Professor of History of the Book Adam Smyth and Professor of American Literature Lloyd Pratt about her book, *Lay Learning and the Bible in the Seventeenth-Century Atlantic World*, bringing together histories of lay reading, early American colonies and seventeenth century English puritanism, as you can read here.



1606 Hebrew map of diaspora, annotated by Edward Holyoke

6) CEMS Funding Competition 2025–26

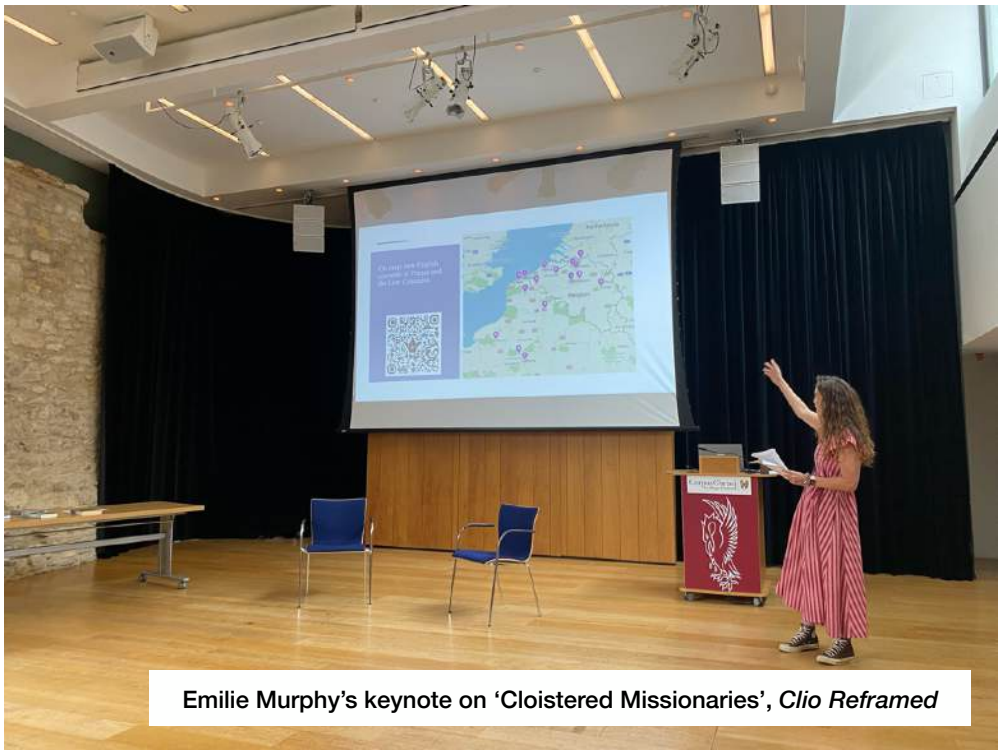
As ever, the CEMS Funding Competition in November 2025 attracted many applicants of a high standard. We thank all applicants for their hard work, and we are pleased to announce that awards were made to:

- Dr Georgiana (Jo) Hedesan (History) for a workshop on Computational History of Science and Experimental History of Science, Maison Française, 3 June 2026. (Read a report here).

- Dr Jacob Chatterjee (History) 'Thomas Barlow's Europe: Universities and Early Enlightenment Culture', 23–24 April, All Souls College and the Queen's College Library. (Read a report here).

- Vishes Kothari and Kshitij Jain (AMES), for a workshop on vernacularisation in early modern North India on 28–29 May at Balliol and at AMES, 2026. (Read the advert here).

- Dr Amy Lidster (English), conference, 'Clio Reframed: Women Writing History', Corpus Christi, 18-19 June, 2026. (Read a report here).



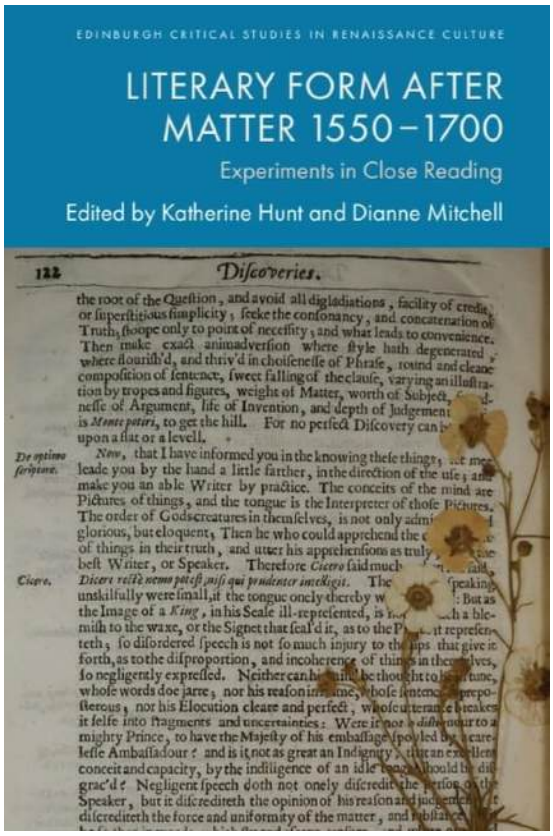
Emilie Murphy's keynote on 'Cloistered Missionaries', *Clio Reframed*

7) CEMS Conference Now a Book

Literary Form After Matter 1500–1700 **eds. Dianne Mitchell and Katherine Hunt (Edinburgh University Press, 2026). CEMS funded conference in 2018 leads to publication in 2026.**

CEMS is delighted to announce that an ECR conference which it helped to fund in 2018 has led to an innovative scholarly publication, now available in open access.

On 22 June 2018, Katherine Hunt and Dianne Mitchell, both at the Queen's College, organised 'Literary Form After Matter, 1500-1700', a conference for literary scholars working at the interface of formalism and the study of the material text. You can read the report of their conference here.



Now, eight years later, an exciting volume published by Edinburgh University Press in the series Edinburgh Critical Studies in Renaissance Culture, brings the work and ideas sparked by that conference to fruition, one of many examples of the way that CEMS is part of a research infrastructure that supports innovative research by early career scholars in early modern studies at Oxford.

8) What's Next for CEMS in 2026–7?

Watch out for:

- **'The "How to?" series: Early Modern and Contemporary Knowledge Practices from Interdisciplinary Perspectives'**, with seminars in MT, HT and TT.

- A CEMS Global Conversation with Professor Anita Traninger (Freie Universität, Berlin) on her new book, *Erasmian Keywords*, in HT.

- A literature, history and legal history seminar on the early modern figure of the 'cuckold' with legal history Professor Tim Stretton, St Mary's, Halifax, Nova Scotia in HT.

- Wells Shakespeare Lectures by Professor Noémie Ndiaye on 'Dark Times: Shakespeare, Race and Temporal Regimes' in TT (also covering French and Spanish drama).

Hans Holbein (1497/1498–1543), *Portrait of Erasmus*