

VOICE

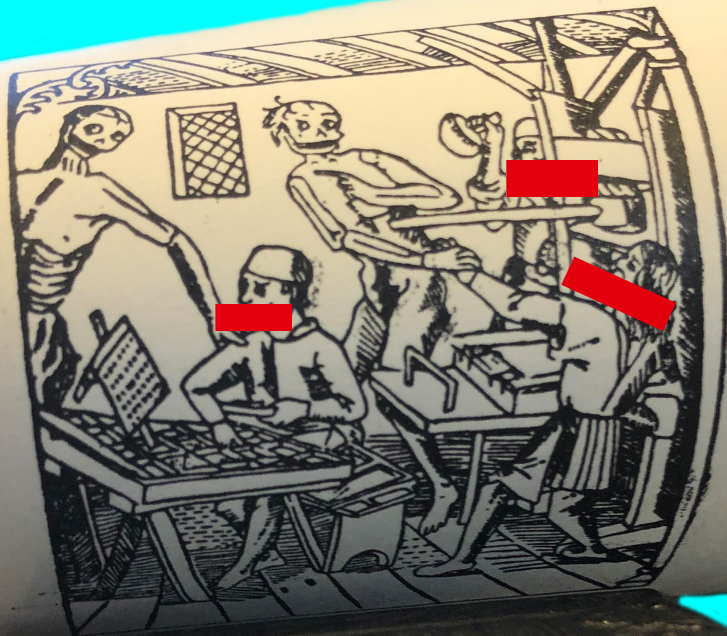
AND

VULNERABILITY

Medieval & Modern
Languages
Graduate Network
Conference



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5th-6th February 2021
4th annual MML GN Conference (Virtual),
University of Oxford

Keynotes:
Prof Galin Tihanov (Queen Mary)
Dr Alicia Spencer-Hall (Queen Mary)

Call for Papers VOICE AND VULNERABILITY



Voices appear; they are articulated and enunciated across texts of all genres, media, languages, cultures and time periods. But voices can also be misheard, misunderstood and ignored; some voices speak more loudly than others, while other voices are not heard at all, or never given the chance to speak. The vulnerability of voice can result from qualities intrinsic to the voice itself, as well as from externally determined social, political, and economic factors. Yet these voices of the vulnerable constitute a subversive potential that can be explored across (and through) the margins of literature, language and art. This conference seeks to investigate the relationship between, and intersections of, voice and vulnerability.

Submissions

We are pleased to call for papers which respond to the theme of the conference. Examples of such papers could include, but are not limited to:

Cultural theory: How do both existing and non-existing archives of voices relate to the vulnerable potential of their (articulated/preserved) utopias? And how are voices (of the vulnerable) linked to memory and myth-making in literature?

Gender theory: How does the gender of a voice change how we read a text – and should it? How are marginal or vulnerable voices, e.g. from non-normative bodies, manifested through literature?

History and canonisation: How should we deal with gaps in the archives, absences, voices that are not easily recoverable to us? What kinds of voices are preserved, and which ones are forgotten? How (and why) have some voices been historically privileged over others?

Narratology: In what ways, and to whom, can narrative voice be vulnerable, or make us as readers vulnerable? And how can the polyphony of voices constitute a vulnerable subjectivity or shift the notion of subject formation?

Performance contexts: How can we best recover the voice(s) in which a text was originally received? How can we best understand and appreciate the potential, or past, orality of written texts?

Postcolonial studies: How can one make their (silenced) voice heard through the language of the dominant? What role do the voices benefited by a system founded on inequality play in the silencing of others?

(Post)human: What challenges or conditions constitute voices in between bodies and machines within the age of post- and transhumanism? How do voices become vulnerable in this tension, and what potential does this vulnerability reveal?

The body: What is the relationship between body, voice and vulnerability? What forms of knowledge is the body able to articulate?

Translation theory: How are voices weakened, strengthened, or otherwise changed through the act of translation – whether from oral to written source, or from one language to another?

Trauma: How do artists and writers articulate the unsayable, things that are impossible to voice? What is at stake when traumatic events are used to make art? What is the narrator's responsibility when making art out of someone else's pain?

We welcome 20-minute papers from all graduate students working in the field of Medieval & Modern Languages. Submit your **250-word abstract** and a short bio (no more than 50 words) to ml-grad-net@mod-langs.ox.ac.uk by **November 15th 2020**.

For further inquiries, please contact us or our Academic Event Officer Sophia Buck (sophia.buck@mod-langs.ox.ac.uk)