Pre-modern streets were an extension of one’s living space, but also a communal stage on which virtue, hierarchy, politics, identity, and many other things could be performed. Audiences could be large and formally invited, or small and incidental. The ceremonies that took place might be aligned with the calendar and thus regular, or spontaneous and singular. Ceremonies might have a predetermined message that emerged crystal clear, or be muddled and go awry thus provoking divergent responses or puzzlement. Streets connected homes and neighborhoods with sites of power and trade, and led ceremonies from one sphere to another. Urban ceremonies paid attention to place, participants, tools, and impact, and offer a window onto pre-modern concerns and interventions.

This Call For Papers embraces all aspects of urban ceremonies and the messages they sent. The hope is to attract presenters with a broad interest in how urban ceremonies were performed (and perhaps messages debated) in a variety of places and by diverse individuals and groups. Presentations could focus on (but are not limited to) the following aspects of urban ceremonies and their messages across the early modern world from c.1450 to c.1660 CE:

- The image/representation of public ceremonies or debates about messages
- The role of public ceremonies in expressing or negotiating political identity or loyalty
- Public ceremonies that are part of legal or institutional processes
- Public ceremonial calendars and their coercive messages
- Patronage dynamics seen in public ceremonies and their messages
- Public versus private ceremonies or the boundaries of “public”
High *versus* low ceremonies and what that might have looked like

Please send a half-page cv, a presentation title, and a 200-word abstract of the proposed presentation to Jennifer Mara DeSilva (jmdesilva@bsu.edu). Please detail any audio/visual requirements that you might need.

For more information about the SCSC, please see the conference website: https://sixteenthcentury.org/conference/

The deadline for the submission of abstracts is Sunday 3 April 2022.

Related date:
April 3, 2022