



News

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News

At the 2022 annual conference of the **Renaissance Society of America**, held this year in Dublin, the SCS sponsored a round table on “Confraternities and Civic Life in Southern Italy: New Research and New Paradigms.” The discussants were David D’Andrea (Oklahoma State University), Stefano D’Ovidio (Università degli Studi di Napoli Federico II), Marina Gazzini (Università degli Studi di Milano), Eleni Sakellariou (University of Crete), and Salvatore Marino (Universitat de Barcelona); the chair was Nicholas Terpstra (University of Toronto).

The roundtable focussed on the edited volume, *Confraternities in Southern Italy: Art, Politics, and Religion (1100–1800)* (Toronto: Centre for Renaissance and Reformation Studies, 2022), the first book in English dedicated exclusively to Southern Italian lay religious and charitable associations. Confraternal scholarship, which developed in Northern Italy, has clearly demonstrated the centrality of lay religious organizations in European society and culture, yet Southern Italy has not received the scholarly attention that its rich and complex history deserves. The session therefore explored topics and territories that are almost completely absent from Anglo-American scholarship. Panelists discussed the book’s interdisciplinary study of confraternities in Naples, the Southern Italian peninsula, and the islands of Sicily and Sardinia. Discussants also considered the historiographical reasons why the focus of scholarship has remained on Northern Italy and how a better understanding of Southern Italian confraternities and religious sociability not only introduces new areas of scholarly inquiry but also challenges common perceptions of medieval and early modern Italian history.