**The Reformation in the English-speaking World**

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2017 marks the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther’s “Ninety-Five Theses on the Power and Efficacy of Indulgences”. We would like to take this opportunity to reconsider the Reformation as a literary and cultural event in the English-speaking world, including not only the landslide changes it brought to the early modern period and the revived interest in the ‘Catholic dimension’ of literary works (Cummings/ Simpson 2010, Marotti 2005), but also its manifold repercussions in subsequent centuries. This includes discussions about the effects of the Reformation on the European colonial race from the 16th century onwards (Hodgkins 2002; Carey 2011); the influence of different denominations on the cultural identities of, say, Ireland, Scotland, and Wales (Britton, 2014; Gribben/ Mullan, 2009; Mullan 2010); or about the discourses of Protestantism vs. Catholicism in the various skirmishes about the British Crown from the sixteenth century onwards. The sectarian schism also played an important role in the development of transnational early modern theatre and thus in the continental spreading of cultural goods such as plays and actors, who usually followed transnational religious affinities (Henke 2008). Furthermore, the panel aims to take up recent trends in (post-)Reformation studies such as Reformation literature by women (e.g. Chappell/Kramer 2014; Coles, 2008), early modern book history with a view to religion (Green 2000; Maillard Alvarez 2014; Patterson 2007) or of negotiations of transsubstantiation in (post-)Reformation literature (e.g. Johnson 2014; Martin 2014; Wald 2014). Taken together, we are interested in probing an understanding of the Reformation not only as global but also as an enduring phenomenon in the literary and cultural sphere.

We invite papers of approximately 30 minutes. They may want to address, but are not limited to, the following fields:

* (trans-)national theatre and culture with regard to religion in the early modern period (up to 1660)
* the impact of different religious denominations on processes of colonization and decolonization as well as on regional and cultural identities in the English-speaking world (16th century to the present)
* recent film and fiction that rethinks/re-imagines aspects of religious culture in early modern England, (e.g. adaptations of Shakespeare’s plays, Elizabeth on screen, or historical fiction set in the early modern period)

Please send your proposal (250-300 words) by **15 October 2016** to

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