

# *Engendering Gender: Production, Transmission and Change 1450-1950*

University of Exeter 20-22 July 2010

**Keynote Speakers: Professor Anthony Fletcher and Dr Michael Roper**

This interdisciplinary conference will explore concepts of gendered identities across the period 1450-1950. Breaking free of the traditional constraints of periodization, this conference will promote discussion that transcends period boundaries (i.e. medieval, early modern, long-eighteenth century, modern) and considers how far gender identities are modified by religious, political, medical, social and cultural shifts, or are punctuated only by sudden, limited, periods of change. In particular 'Engendering Gender' aims to explore key sites of gender construction and the transmission of gendered norms, both public and private.



## ***THEMES:***

- ❖ **SITES & RELATIONS:** The roles of home, family, schooling, workplace, institutions, voluntary associations, sociability, travel, empire and encounters in shaping gender identities.
- ❖ **SPHERES:** Decisive locations for the formation, realisation, projection, modification and subversion of gender identities, particularly international, national, local or familial levels, and the interaction between them.
- ❖ **VALUES:** The relationship between the formation of gender identity and religion and religious vocations, political ideology, social status and class, educational precepts ('humanism'), military and institutional codes, racial or scientific discourses, and more informal concepts of virtue, honour, civility, propriety, or shame.
- ❖ **IMAGES & IDENTITIES:** What was the role, power and significance of the idealisation of gender roles? How were gender stereotypes formed and perpetuated through time?
- ❖ **TIME:** What was the nature of change over time in gender identities and the processes of change? In what ways did gender identities change over time, how fundamental were these shifts in relation to more enduring concepts such as patriarchy or motherhood, and over what time scales?

Abstract proposals of 300-500 words should be sent to Dr Henry French at [H.French@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:H.French@exeter.ac.uk) or to Dr Jennie Jordan at [L.Jordan@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:L.Jordan@exeter.ac.uk) by Friday 30 October 2009.