

**NATIONAL WORSHIP IN INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVE:
STATE PRAYERS, FASTS AND THANKSGIVINGS
SINCE THE SIXTEENTH CENTURY**

An international and interdisciplinary conference

Durham University, 12-14 April 2010

Many early modern and modern governments ordered occasions of special worship in periods of great crisis or unexpected prosperity, or to mark calamities or victories. As a growing number of studies has indicated, these occasions offer great insights into government and ecclesiastical policies, the communication of official religious interpretations, conceptions of identity and popular belief, but also religious and political dissent. Such special worship has considerable interest for religious, political, cultural and intellectual historians, and scholars in theology, literature, sociology and anthropology.

This conference will bring together experts on these occasions of special state-ordered worship in different countries and different periods, in order to explore similarities and contrasts and to develop new interdisciplinary approaches.

The organisers are Natalie Mears, Alasdair Raffae, Stephen Taylor and Philip Williamson, members of the project on 'British State Prayers, Fasts and Thanksgivings, 1540s-1940s', funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council.

Confirmed speakers include Nigel Aston (France), Toby Barnard (Ireland), Richard Carwardine (USA), Simon Dixon (Russia), Anthony Milton (England) and Peter van Rooden (Netherlands).

Proposals for further papers (20 minutes) are invited from scholars in any discipline. These should consist of a title and a 250-word abstract, outlining the significance of the subject and research questions. Proposals should be submitted before 2 February 2010.

Conference fee: c. £150 including meals, c. £200 including meals and accommodation.

Bursaries for postgraduate students may be available.

Contact details Enquiries and proposals should be sent to:

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