



Università  
Ca' Foscari  
Venezia

Dipartimento di Filosofia  
e Beni Culturali

BSHP

British Society for the  
History of Philosophy

E. S. E. M. P.



European Society for  
Early Modern Philosophy



**May 21 and 22, 2026**  
Aula Mario Baratto,  
Ca' Foscari Dorsoduro  
3246 - Venice  
and online



Please fill out the registration form  
<https://tinyurl.com/theorizing-gender-inequality> or contact the organizer,  
Natalia Zorrilla Sirlin, to obtain the Zoom  
link (nat.sirlin@unive.it)



This workshop is organized by the research  
project HORIZON-MSCA-2022-PF-01  
"GYNODICY: Gender-Egalitarian Fictions  
of Origin in European Philosophical Culture  
(1673-1751)" (PI Natalia Zorrilla Sirlin, GA  
n. 101106239), with financial support from  
Horizon Europe, as well as the British Society  
for the History of Philosophy and the European  
Society of Early Modern Philosophy.

## Theorizing Gender Inequality: Renaissance and Early Modern Perspectives International Workshop

### Thursday May 21

9.00-9.15

#### Welcome and Introduction

9.15-10.30

#### KEYNOTE TALK

**Marguerite Deslauriers** (McGill  
University), **Nature and Custom  
as Sources of the Subjection of  
Women**

10.30-11.00

Coffee Break

11.00-12.30

**Adrián J. Sáez** (Ca' Foscari  
University of Venice), **'De femme à  
femme': diplomatie féminine dans  
le théâtre espagnol du Siècle d'Or**

**Helena Taylor** (University of  
Exeter), **Marie de Gournay on the  
Origins of Gender Inequality**

12.30-14.00

Lunch

14.00-15.30

**Carme Font Paz** (Universitat  
Autònoma de Barcelona), **The  
'Pleas of Equity' and 'the Moral  
Fitness of Things' in Catharine  
Macaulay's A Modest Plea for the  
Property of Copy Right (1774)**

**Elena Gordon** (University College  
Dublin), **Macaulay, Feminism, and  
Sympathy**

15.30-16.00

Coffee Break

16.00-17.30

**Margherita Giordano** (Università  
del Piemonte Orientale), **«Männer  
und Weiber dürfen nicht gleich  
sein»**. Sophie Mereau on Gender  
Difference

**Rotraud von Kulesa** (Universität  
Augsburg/Ca' Foscari University  
of Venice), **L'inégalité des sexes  
dans les littératures d'éducation  
au 18e siècle**. Marie Leprince de  
Beaumont et Stéphanie Félicité  
de Genlis

### Friday, May 22

9.00-10.30

**Eleonora Alfano** (McGill  
University), **Louise Dupin et  
le regard des anatomistes : la  
fabrique des inégalités physiques  
entre les sexes**

**Frédéric Marty** (CY Paris-Cergy  
Université), **De la généalogie de  
l'inégalité des sexes au projet de  
réforme de la société : la pensée  
de Louise Dupin (1706-1799)**

10.30-11.00

Coffee Break

11.00-12.30

**Lorenzo Rustighi** (Università degli  
Studi di Padova), **Social Contract  
and Social Reproduction:  
Gendering Labor in Early Modern  
Political Theory**

**Natalia Zorrilla Sirlin** (Ca'  
Foscari University of Venice), **The  
Historical-Conjectural Device in  
Early Modern Feminist Theory**

12.30-12.45

**Concluding remarks**