

Faith and Infidelity: Byron in 1819

Newstead Abbey

26 & 27 April 2019



Immersed in an affair with a married woman, fresh from writing about one 'married woman', Laura, and her lover, the Count in *Beppo*, and publishing the story of another extra-marital affair (between Julia and Juan) and of the consequences of another (in *Mazeppa*), Byron in 1819 had infidelity very much on his mind. Yet Italy was inspiring faith in him too – in 'art and its great masters' – and in 'more' than this ('each conception was a heavenly guest'), in 'Freedom's banner, torn, but flying', in an Italy 'still impregnate with divinity', and in the healing power of time and 'forgiveness' (*CHP*, IV).

This conference welcomes traditional 20-minute paper proposals and panel proposals (10-minute papers tightly knit around a topic) on all aspects relating to 'faith' and 'infidelity' in Byron's life and work, especially but not exclusively, around 1819. Broader topics relating to these concepts might include, for example:

Byronic scepticism,

Byronic cynicism,

Byronic idealism,

Women in Byron,

Byron, faith & religion,

Byron and Italy / Byron in Italy,

Byron and love,

Byron and sex,

Byron's politics in 1819,

Cantos I and II of Don Juan, Mazeppa and other works, 1818-1820,

Italian revolutions & uprisings,

Infidelity & faith in Romantic thought around 1819.

Please send abstracts of approximately 300 words, including affiliation, to newsteadbyronconference2019@gmail.com by 15 February 2019.

The conference will start at 1 p.m. on Friday with lunch at Newstead Abbey, followed by afternoon sessions and dinner.

On Saturday, the conference will run from 10 a.m. till 5 p.m.

