

Invitation from

Professor Simon Gaskell, Principal

To the Inaugural Lecture

Representing Rule: Spin and Politics in Early Modern England

Kevin Sharpe

Professor of Renaissance Studies

Wednesday 5 May 2010 at 6.30pm

Clinical Lecture Theatre

Francis Bancroft Building

Queen Mary, University of London

Mile End Road

London E1 4NS

A reception will follow the lecture



Representing Rule: Spin and Politics in Early Modern England

Wednesday 5 May 2010 at 6.30pm

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Kevin Sharpe

Representing Rule: Spin and Politics in Early Modern England

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Kevin Sharpe will look at what we consider very modern phenomena: spin, image, performance, media manipulation and the contest for popularity and will ask how appropriate it is to think of the sixteenth and seventeenth century past in these terms.

How far did Tudor and Stuart kings and queens depend for their authority on their image? What techniques and tactics did they employ in speaking, being visually represented or presenting themselves to their subjects? How did changes in the media of print and news, painting and engraving, rituals and ceremonies affect royal images? How effective were they and how were they appropriated and contested by rivals or critics? Did relentless self publicization strengthen royal authority or expose rulers to public scrutiny?

Kevin Sharpe is completing a three-volume study of images of monarchy from Henry VIII to the accession of George I. In this lecture he will give an overview of and reflect on the project.

Kevin Sharpe is Professor and Director of the Centre for Renaissance and Early Modern Studies at Queen Mary, University of London. A former professor of History (Southampton) and English (Warwick), he now specialises on the visual culture and politics of early modern England. In 2009, he co-curated the Tate Britain Van Dyck in Britain exhibition. Kevin Sharpe has been a visiting professor at the Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, at Stanford University, the California Institute of Technology, the Australian National University and Goettingen University. A Fellow of the Royal Historical Society and The English Association, he has been awarded prizes by the Royal Historical Society, The Humboldt Foundation and The Society for the History of Authorship, Reading and Publishing. Kevin has reviewed and reviews regularly for the Sunday Times, TLS, Independent, Spectator, and other papers and he writes a regular column for the Times Higher Education.

He is well known for his pioneering interdisciplinary approaches and is the author of over 40 articles and 14 books.

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